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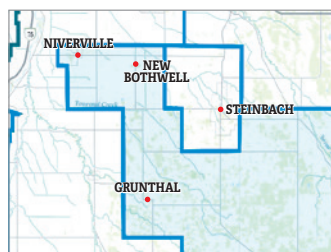
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## LOCAL NEWS

### Ste. Agathe Fire Hall Nears Completion

A new fire hall in Ste. Agathe will open in July, improving fire response times for those living in the southern parts of Ritchot.

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## LOCAL NEWS

### Niverville Caught in Big Shakeup to Provincial Riding Boundaries

The Manitoba Electoral Divisions Boundaries Commission has proposed big changes to provincial ridings in the southeast. Niverville is set to be redistricted to a sparse rural constituency.

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## SPORTS & RECREATION

### NCI Player Given Provincial Honour

Keegan Beer of Niverville Collegiate has been named the AA Male Player of the Year by Basketball Manitoba.

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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### Not Your Typical Crossword Puzzle

The Citizen presents a unique feature this month: a custom crossword packed full of clues geared toward local puzzlers.

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# Hanover Schools Partner with Afterschool Childcare Provider

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## The Citizen

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# Mayors Running for Re-Election

*Both incumbents, Myron Dyck and Chris Ewen, have thrown their hats in the ring.*



**EVAN BRAUN**  
editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Mayors Myron Dyck of Niverville and Chris Ewen of Ritchot have both filed their papers this month to run for re-election. The upcoming municipal election is scheduled for Wednesday, October 24.

Dyck has served as mayor since taking over the mayorship from Greg Fehr mid-term in 2013. Ewen has served as mayor since winning last summer's by-election following the resignation of Jackie Hunt.

At the time of this writing, no other mayoral candidates have yet thrown their hats in the ring. As for town councillors, their registration window opens on June 30. Potential candidates have until September 18 to decide whether to run for council.

## CHRIS EWEN

Ewen's tenure in the mayor's chair has been short. With the by-election having been held last July, Ewen and the rest of the newly elected council haven't had long to work together before heading back to the campaign trail.

"It has been a ten-month term so far," Ewen says. "Now that the learning curve is over and our council has passed some major decisions and achievements, I would say my time so far has been a great experience."

He adds that being mayor has been a lot of work, although he has revelled in the opportunities he's been afforded so far.

"With Ritchot part of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region, being a mayor is close to a full-time position, and it definitely has made me appreciate previous councils and the time and effort they



Ritchot Mayor Chris Ewen.

put into this position."

So what have the most important achievements been over the past term—recognizing, of course, that the term has been unusually short?

"I believe that building a strong council that listens to one another and can be respectful during difficult decision making sessions is our biggest accomplishment, especially given how I was elected into council during the by-election," he says. "My big push was to bring better communication to residents and the RM. This is a difficult topic for every municipality, and unfortunately I haven't tapped into the golden ticket of communication yet. I am continuously looking at how to make this more fluid and efficient."

As to the personal qualities that help him stand out as a leader, Ewen pegs his ability to listen.

"Each councillor, admin staff, and resident has concerns, ideas, and suggestions," Ewen says. "The more I listen, the better I understand and can help be a part of our positive growth."



Niverville Mayor Myron Dyck.

## MYRON DYCK

With five years under his belt, Dyck says that Niverville has prospered over the course of council's previous term. He cites many examples of major accomplishments: getting the business park up and running, finishing the land annexation with the RM of Hanover, building the splash pad, installing a water line down Main Street, establishing a business incentive grant, and helping to shepherd the Open Health medical clinic into existence.

A huge amount of time and energy has also been spent identifying the problem with the town's water supply and going through the laborious, and bureaucratic, process of getting it resolved. Dyck says he's excited to see all that work pay off in about a week when the new water line is expected to be turned on for the first time.

"We've spent some time these last four years trying to do a five-, ten-, and 15-year look forward," Dyck says of the work still to come for the next council. "Some [projects] are in process, and some of them are yet to be done. It's not necessarily that they're

unfinished, it's just that it wasn't their term yet."

Front and centre is the new high school that's currently underway, and the Community Resource Centre (CRC) that's anticipated to occupy the adjacent lot.

"The CRC is going to carry on to the next term," he says. "Not just on the capital side, but then also on the operational side. What kind of programming is going to go on there? What permanent staff are we going to need? What are our operational costs? How is that going to affect our budget? That's going to be a big one."

Another issue on the horizon is the state of the town's septic infrastructure. Dyck isn't sure shovels will get into the ground in the next few years, but it's time to start thinking ahead, including giving consideration to whether the community wants to partner with neighbouring municipalities.

"On the emergency services side, we're starting with the police review that was asked for as of last fall," Dyck adds. "We've now hired the consultant. We've also purchased the [former] Hydro

building and land, which we're setting aside right now for municipal building needs in the future, whether that's a town office or an emergency services building."

Dyck also would like to turn his attention to addressing the need for more diverse housing options.

"We have a growing baby boomer population, so what does that mean for senior housing? What's going to happen with that? Will we have enough? And what about entry-level? Are we going to be dealing with more density because more condos need to go up? Is it going to be on new land? What about infill? What about smaller [homes]? Not everyone wants a condo. Some people would love to have a single-family home even if it's just a smaller footprint. Where is that market headed in the next four years?"

As far as leadership ability, Dyck says that his skillset is about three things: being relational, communicating well, and envisioning the future.

"I'm a relational person," he says. "I try to be that listening ear, I try to ensure that people believe that they're heard. And I try to do my best to communicate, [including] why a decision was made. So even if someone doesn't necessarily agree with [that decision], I try to present the process by which the decision was made, to hopefully at least give them an understanding as to how or why council got there... and then I try to be the visionary, focusing on where we are headed in ten years."

He cites the importance of strengthening relationships with other levels of government, especially in terms of ensuring that the province and federal government continue to find favour with Niverville and its needs.

# Guardian

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# Medical Cannabis Support Group Well Received

*More and more people are turning to cannabis for relief from life-altering ailments.*

By Brenda Sawatzky

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There's a unique new support group in town, and on May 9 they held their first meet-up. A collection of medical cannabis users, the NV Support Group, gathered around one member's kitchen for a hands-on workshop on cannabis-infused butter—or cannabutter, as it's known in the cannabis community.

While you might be envisioning a group of tattoo-embossed rock band groupies looking for a new way to get high, the event, in reality, drew an eclectic assembly of professionals and tradespeople ranging in age from their late twenties to late fifties. Their shared interest: treating their varied medical conditions naturally with cannabis products.

Cannabis became legal for medical use in Canada in 2001 after the Canadian Court of Appeal declared its prohibition for medical purposes unconstitutional. Users must obtain a government-issued license through an application signed off by a physician.

The NV Support Group has been active on Facebook since January of this year. It originated as the Niverville Legal Cannabis Support Group, but due to changes in Facebook policy all implications of the still-stigmatized plant had to be removed.

Billie Fontaine is the original administrator of the site. Unsure of how the idea would be accepted in the area, she's encouraged by its current membership of almost 300. The majority of them, she says, are local to Niverville and the surrounding area.

Fontaine is herself a medical cannabis certificate holder with added training and experience as a cannabis educator.

"A lot of people are telling their friends or family about the group," says Fontaine. "It just gets you the information that you need."

The Facebook site is private and new members must first request acceptance from the administrators. Members must be at least 19 years of age and indicate their intent before joining. The site is not open to solicitation or sales of any kind; it merely



Billie Fontaine and Karla Boyechko.

✉ BRENDA SAWATZKY

acts as a safe space where people can ask questions and gain insight before setting out into the poorly charted waters of medical cannabis procurement and use.

The site is dedicated to helping people along their own wellness journeys and provides informational resources for obtaining a medical cannabis certificate, finding a government-certified licensed producer, and determining which products and doses are right for you.

## FONTAINE'S STORY

Fontaine, a cannabis oil user, recognized the need for this kind of support after dealing with a cancer that almost took her life four years ago. Today she is in remission, though she still suffers physical and emotional aftershocks from the cancer, chemotherapy, and pharmaceuticals.

In 2014, she was diagnosed with a very aggressive form of leukaemia. The doctors told her she had a 20 percent chance of survival. She underwent three equally aggressive rounds of chemotherapy with periods of isolation in between, intended to force

her body into remission.

"I only survived three rounds of chemo because they almost killed me with the third," recalls Fontaine. "It's called the Red Devil. They have to watch you around the clock because this stuff can actually kill you."

The reality of this it too close to home as Fontaine watched another woman, whom she'd befriended on her hospital ward, develop gastrointestinal bleeding from the same chemotherapy treatment and die.

The doctors subsequently performed a bone biopsy on Fontaine, which she describes as the most excruciating experience of her life. She was eventually released from the hospital but was required to return for regular monitoring.

When medical follow ups indicated that she was in remission, Fontaine says she felt an extraordinary sense of relief and joy, the survivor's high that comes from beating the odds. But soon the emotional high wore off and she plummeted to a place of depression, anxiety, nightmares, and daytime jitters.

She was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, a diagnosis not uncommon in cancer survivors. Her doctor prescribed lorazepam, an antidepressant with many side-effects and a drug which, Fontaine says, is highly addictive.

Pain, too, was her new daily foe. The cancer and chemotherapy had left her with damaged organs and an autoimmune condition. The doctor's best advice was high doses of morphine or fentanyl, prescription narcotics used for acute pain relief. Fontaine believed there had to be a better way. Her aunt had recently taken her own life after an unsuccessful back surgery and prolonged use of fentanyl.

Together with her open-minded doctor and oncologist, she began the path to obtaining a medical cannabis certificate and experimenting with cannabis relief.

"I'm weaning myself off of the antidepressants and I've been successful so far," Fontaine says. "I'm really happy I gave the CBD a really good go. I didn't want to be high or paranoid, so it worked for me."

## CBD VERSUS THC

CBD (cannabidiol) and THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) are two naturally occurring compounds within the cannabis flower (bud) that work with the human body's endocannabinoid system, a function which aids in regulating pain, appetite, mood, memory, immune response, sleep, and cycles of cellular life and death.

The THC component is responsible for the high that one experiences after consumption. CBD is non-psychoactive. Today's modern science has allowed producers to manipulate cannabis plants to higher or lower concentrations of THC and CBD, and to develop products where the two can be completely separated.

CBD oil has now become widely used as a daytime option for inflammation and pain relief. THC is known for its effectiveness with depression, anxiety, and sleep disorders as well as many other ailments.

To avoid the psychoactive effects, many users choose to consume THC-containing products before bedtime and simply sleep off the psychoactive effects while it does its work.

Fontaine has now developed her own regime, dosing with CBD or THC at different times of the day in order to maximize its full effect on all her symptoms. Along with a clean diet, juicing, and her cannabis regime, she is managing to rein in her symptoms, allowing her to live a pharmaceutical drug-free life.

"You hear of people's success stories and it gives you hope," Fontaine affirms. "I'm not ready to die just yet. When I became a cannabis patient myself and began walking down this road, I was on my own. I had no one to talk to. Since then I've said to myself, 'I will do anything so that people don't have to feel alone when they go down the cannabis journey.' I won't give them cannabis, but I will certainly set them on the path that they need to go. I will hook them up with the right people and that's exactly what I'm doing."

After her near-death experience, Fontaine poured through medical cannabis materials and resources, eventually landing herself a job at a Winnipeg medical cannabis clinic



called Natural Health Services (NHS). At NHS, patients are sent through several courses, reviewing their medical history with a nurse, applying for a prescription with a medical doctor, and eventually receiving guidance through an educator, all within the same facility. Fontaine's job was that of educator, and her knowledge eventually garnered her the title "bud genius" among her peers.

"I'm really hoping that eventually we can find a doctor that will prescribe out here," she adds. "It doesn't take much. You just have to have a room to see patients and an educator on staff."

Until then, Fontaine will continue to offer online education to people who are willing to give cannabis a try. She says she's already seen many success stories from people who have gotten off their pharmaceuticals altogether.

"That's what this group is about, taking control of your health," Fontaine concludes. "People weren't talking on the Facebook site at first. Now I'm so happy that people are feeling more comfortable and starting to talk on there."

The site now has four experienced administrators, all medical cannabis certificate holders. Questions are welcomed on the public forum for all members to see or can be sent privately to the administrators for reasons of discretion, if desired.

#### JOHN'S STORY

John (not his real name) joined the NV Support Group shortly after it began and enjoys the camaraderie and support he's experiencing among other medical cannabis users, not to mention the long list of resources he can access on the site. He's in his 40s and works in information technology. He describes himself as an average family man who contributes to society and does not create discord.

John suffers from diabetic neuropathy, a type of nerve damage that can occur as a result of diabetes. High blood sugar can cause injury

to nerve fibres throughout the body, but most often it damages nerves in the legs and feet.

"I went undiagnosed as a diabetic for several years, and as a result I have poor circulation associated with chronic high blood sugar," John says. His doctor recommended that he try cannabis. For the past four months, he's been medicating with CBD oil. "My preferred method of delivery is an oil tincture. Sunflower oil infused with CBD taken [under the tongue], as it is the easiest. I find it has anti-anxiety properties as well which I benefit from."

He adds that since he began the cannabis treatment, he's been able to discontinue two of his pharmaceutical prescriptions altogether and has cut the dosage of a third drug in half. Education, he says, is key to understanding the plant and its varied effects. He has spent many hours researching studies and testimonials regarding the benefits of cannabis for his specific ailments.

"A lot of people use the term gateway drug, which has a negative connotation," says John. "I have an issue with

that, as it associates the medicine with much more dangerous substances and leads people to make up their mind about it before learning more. This closes further inquiry. If you want to be a hundred percent honest [with yourself], I would say caffeine is the gateway drug, as it is often the first habit-forming drug people experience in their lifetime. I believe people primarily view it as a gateway to other drugs because it is the easiest to obtain. Let's get some facts straight. Cannabis does not make you crave other drugs. Cannabis can be psychologically addicting, [but it] is not physically addicting. It is impossible to overdose on cannabis."

In spite of the controversy associated with the plant, John says his family and employer are aware of and support his cannabis use as they've witnessed firsthand the

improvement in his quality of life.

"There is a major stigma attached to this drug, which is completely unnecessary," he says. "As with anything, it has the potential for abuse, however not to the deadly extent that many pharmaceuticals do. I hope one day people accept it for what it is: a beneficial [medicine]."

#### KARLA'S STORY

Karla Boyechko is in her mid-30s and an educator by trade. She began using cannabis just over a year ago for a variety of ailments and has witnessed remarkable results. Along with Fontaine, she is one of the administrators of the NV Support Group site.

"I am a very big advocate for the use of medical cannabis," Karla says. "It has changed my life dramatically. When I have to deal with nausea and I can't eat, or when a migraine sets

relief, I went back, had a surgery, and the issue was corrected, no longer needing the pills. But by then the damage had been done and the reports came out that the medication I was on causes kidney damage with long-term use. Now, years later, I am dealing with the aftermath of that pharmaceutical prescription."

Four years ago, Karla was diagnosed with kidney failure. Because of this, she needs to avoid pain and anti-inflammatory medications as well as many foods and supplements which would tax her limited kidney function. She also deals with constant nausea and loss of appetite, another side-effect of her kidney disease.

To add insult to injury, Karla has been battling with Type 1 diabetes since she was six years old. Now, 31 years later, doctors have labelled her a "brittle" diabetic, implying how difficult it is to manage this stage of the disease. Because of this, she has experienced retinal detachment in both eyes, requiring numerous surgeries, as well as diabetic mastopathy, painful fist-size breast lumps that cannot be removed.

Anxiety and chronic pain from athletic and workplace injury round off her long list of oppressive symptoms. Her preferred method of cannabis delivery is an electronic vaporizing device and cannabis oils when she is unable to vaporize (vape). Vaping is believed by many to be safer than smoking as the vaporizer heats up the bud without ignition, eliminating the carcinogenic effects of smoking.

She can get double-duty out of the bud, as the by-product of vaping is called decarbed bud, a product often used in edible cannabis products and cannabutter. Decarbed bud can also be made into gel caps and taken internally or into coconut oil and used as a topical pain treatment.

Karla warns, though, that medical cannabis should not be pursued for just any illness without research and

talking to other medical cannabis users who've received good results.

"I chose to use cannabis after doing months of research," Karla says. "I made sure that using this medication would not affect my kidneys in any way, or my diabetes or anxiety. I wanted relief but was not wanting to create additional issues."

Since beginning her cannabis treatment, she has been able to eliminate all of her pharmaceutical pain and anti-inflammatory medications. She has reduced her anxiety meds by ten milligrams daily. A year into its use, she has developed a tolerance for the THC component, allowing her to function normally without the psychoactive response. "Start low and go slow" is what she advises others in the support group.

"The idea that cannabis is a gateway drug is still so ridiculous to me," Karla adds. "[This] is like saying Tylenol is a gateway drug to oxycontin or morphine. There is so much research done by reputable institutions, I always suggest that you look into whether or not this course of treatment is right for you. Before I jumped into it, I made sure that I was educated to ensure that it was right for me. I made sure it was not going to affect my job, how I work, or who I was."

She openly admits that cannabis may not be right for everyone, nor will it necessarily provide the same outcome for each individual sufferer. There are, she says, many strains of cannabis, though, and time and experimentation may be necessary to determine which one is right for you.

While her family was wary in the beginning, they have since become advocates and supporters after witnessing the life-changing effects Karla has experienced.

"It has truly changed my life for the better," she concludes. "I am more functional in my everyday life. I can live again and go out and be a part of life again, instead of sitting in my home feeling ill, not being able to move. I would never go back."

*"It has truly changed my life for the better. I am more functional in my everyday life."*

**Karla Boyechko** | Medical Cannabis User

in so fast and so bad that I can't even move without pain, using cannabis instantly relieves my pain and suffering. [Before], I would have to take three extra-strength Tylenol, and wait 15 to 20 minutes for it to take effect and then only barely dull the pain. Now I take three inhales from my vape and I am in full relief and recovery."

While it's hard to understand how one plant could alleviate so many of her symptoms, Karla is just thankful for a natural option to pharmaceuticals that often come with side effects of their own.

"Years ago, I was put on an anti-inflammatory prescription medication to reduce pain in a wrist I had broken five years earlier," Karla recalls. "I was given a daily pill to reduce my inflammation and swelling. After being on the medication for five years and getting little to no

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Concept drawings of Ste. Agathe's new fire hall.

LM ARCHITECTS

## New Fire Hall to Open Soon in Ste. Agathe

By Brenda Sawatzky

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The RM of Ritchot is almost ready to cut the ribbon on a brand-new fire hall. The hall, currently under construction in Ste. Agathe, will be the municipality's third fire hall. The others are situated in Île-des-Chênes and St. Adolphe. The new hall is expected to be operational sometime in July.

Mitch Duval, Ritchot's chief administrative officer, says that the new hall will be a huge asset to residents living in the southerly region of the municipality.

"The response time from St. Adolphe to Ste. Agathe is an automatic 12 to 15 minutes for the fire truck to get there," says Duval, "never mind for the call to come and the guys to show up on site [at the St. Adolphe fire hall]. I would say [it took] a minimum of 20 minutes before. Now it should be reduced to five to ten minutes."

The new hall will be located on Highway 305, within town limits and just east of the Highway 75

on what was previously deemed crown land. The 60-by-90-square-foot building will feature two administrative offices—one for the fire chief and one for the deputy chief—bathrooms, change areas for the volunteer firefighters, mechanical and electrical rooms, a kitchen, and a 30-person classroom in the upper mezzanine area for firefighter training sessions.

"The mezzanine area will be very useful," Duval says. "They will be able to do training up there and set up a house configuration on-site."

He adds that the mezzanine will also be useful as a rappel practice site for volunteers, allowing them to improve their skills by rappelling down to the apparatus bay.

"I think we did it the right way," he adds. "We consulted engineers that have built past fire halls to see the dos and don'ts. We followed all of their dos."

A new pumper truck will also soon be added to the department. At this point it's unclear at which hall the new truck will be stored,

but once in place the Ritchot Fire Department will own three pumper trucks, one tanker truck, one rescue vehicle, and a number of auxiliary vehicles.

Approximately 18 newly trained volunteer firefighters are about to get initiated. Most of these volunteers are from the Ste. Agathe area and have already been equipped with new gear. Until the new hall is ready for action, they will be training at the municipality's other two fire halls.

"A lot of time and commitment is required to get their level one [training]," Duval says. "It is very time-consuming. It is a big ask by the RM to get these volunteers. The training is paid for and the mileage to go out to Brandon [for the training] is taken care of. You don't do it for the pay. It's a volunteer position."

As with any emergency, fire calls should be made to 911, whose operators will dispatch the nearest fire station. Depending on the size of the fire, the fire chief may decide to bring in backup from other

Ritchot fire stations. Volunteers may also, at times, find themselves fighting fires in surrounding municipalities.

The Ritchot Fire Department belongs to a mutual aid district which includes Niverville and the RM of Tache. The Mutual Aid System is a no-charge reciprocal agreement that bordering towns and municipalities can opt in to, and it can be of immense value when large-scale emergencies take place.

The complete cost of the new fire hall will come in at an approximate \$1.7 million. This includes the hiring of LM Architects for the design and Parkwest Projects Ltd. to manage and build the project.

"We hired [Parkwest] to be the construction managers, and we also hired them to do the tendering," Duval says. "Some stuff they are building and some stuff they subcontract. We had about 14 bids come in for the architectural portion and I believe three for the project manager portion."

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# Lambing Time at Apex Farms

By Brenda Sawatzky

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Dustin and Dallas Wiebe of Apex Farms believe that diversity is the key to the long-term sustainability of their small farming operation in southeast Manitoba. The brothers raise hogs on a farm near Niverville and are trying their hand at growing trout in one of their empty sheds. Recently, on a farm property south of Steinbach, the duo invested in another type of livestock: sheep.

Sheep farming isn't altogether new to the pair. They began raising sheep on their property bordering Sixth Avenue South in Niverville back in 2001. A small flock was introduced to the farm to serve as lawnmowers, helping to cut back on property maintenance while providing a little meat for the families.

In 2012, during a time when hog producers were taking a crippling industry hit, the brothers purchased a 25,000-square-foot hog barn from Harry and Lorna Warkentin of Friedensfeld. Upon consultation with Manitoba Conservation, they concluded that retrofitting it for a sheep was a good option.

"Canada imports 60 percent of its lamb right now," says Dustin. "Toronto is a big market because it's a more ethnic region."

The Wiebe brothers partnered with the Warkentins to manage the lambing operation and together they began the arduous task of researching the dynamics required to accommodate sheep production on a larger scale. In January 2018, the barn was finally ready. The Warkentins continue to provide the production management along with two employees.

Now, three months in, the flock is flourishing and already home to about 900 lambs that were birthed here. The team intends to build on



Lorna Warkentin with her grandchildren Page and Nate, and Charity Dueck.

✉ BRENDA SAWATZKY

their stock of ewes by retaining all the ewe lambs until they reach capacity.

The sheep barn is a multifaceted facility including sections for birthing, bonding, growing, and shearing. Breeding will take place outside in the summer and fall when rams are introduced to the ewes. In winter, the ewes wait out their five-month gestation period and give birth to one, two, or three lambs at a time.

The process begins in drop pens where the ewes give birth. These pens are monitored with surveillance cameras so that the Warkentins can keep watch over the new births twenty-four hours a day. There is a cot available in the barn for the nights when large amounts of ewes are lambing. This is necessary, Lorna says, so that they can be certain which lambs belong to which ewe.

"When there's a bunch of ewes lambing, there's a lot of mis-mothering that happens," says Lorna.

Ewes who are still pregnant tend to steal the affections of others' newborns, licking and bonding with them in an attempt at adoption. Other times new mothers reject their own

newborns, preventing them from getting close enough to nurse.

Immediately after birth, the mother and baby are moved to jugs which are small claiming pens just large enough for the pair. Here they stay for two to three days to allow for complete bonding. Occasionally, when the mother stubbornly resists bonding, the baby is moved to the orphanage pen where it is fed formula through a state-of-the-art machine. The orphanage pen may also become home to the third-born of the many triplets, as an ewe is only able to nurse two babies at a time.

"It takes a lot of intensive management to make sure that lambs stay alive," says Lorna. "If you don't have facilities like this, then there's a high mortality rate."

Dustin estimates that there would be an approximate 35 percent infant death rate if they didn't step in to care for the lambs that are orphaned.

"Before we had this facility we'd milk the mom, put it into a bottle, and take it home because the orphan lambs were in our bathtub to keep them warm and we fed them there,"

says Dustin, musing over his family's experiences on the Niverville farm.

He recounts times when his children bonded over the lambs coming in and out of the household, causing them to lose their appetite for the meat. After nurturing and feeding the little ones by hand, they understandably didn't want to eat them.

After bonding in the barn is complete, mother and baby are moved to new pens that house 25 sheep at a time so that they can still find each other in the flock. As the lambs grow, they are moved to a larger final pen.

On an annual basis, the sheep are sheared and the wool is sold to the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Inc. The sale of the wool doesn't even cover the cost of hiring someone to shear them, but the grooming process is necessary for the health and comfort of the animal.

Occasionally, a black sheep is born and this wool must be kept aside due to lack of demand for black wool.

A conveyor belt runs past the many sheep pens, delivering a mixture of barley, alfalfa, grass, and minerals. While sheep will eat

virtually anything, this specific diet, formulated by an animal nutritionist, ensures a quality meat product.

"The way we feed the lambs multigrains, it turns the meat into something way tastier," says Dustin. "We never used to eat lamb because it was all grass-fed and it has a wild taste to it. Now, the way we do it, it tastes way better. There are also health benefits associated with eating lamb. It is a high-quality source of protein containing Omega 3 to 6, vitamins and minerals essential for brain and heart function. In general, local grain-fed lamb have far superior taste than imported lamb, which is why many restaurants buy local."

Once the ewes reach 100 to 110 pounds, half of them will be taken to market while the rest are kept back to grow the herd. The Wiebe and Warkentin team continue to seek out the best means to market their meat. Some have already been sold at the Grunthal Auction Mart. They are also working on connections out east.

"At Grunthal, what we've noticed is if you can establish yourself as someone that always brings quality-raised animals, the buyers know that and they start to pay you more," Lorna says.

Dustin admits that there is a vast difference between raising hogs and sheep. In the hog industry, farmers work under contract to one of three primary producers and exporters. The producer provides feed to the farmer and pays them a stipend for housing and caring for the livestock.

"We're finishing hogs for six cents a pound, and here we're going to be selling lamb for \$2.30 per pound," he says. "We're thinking of converting all of our pig barns to sheep."

And Dustin believes there's still a place for the small-time farmer in a world of big agriculture. "People still have to eat. You are a part of a chain... you're just at the bottom of the chain."



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# Hanover Schools Partner with Afterschool Childcare Provider

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Starting this September, parents in the Hanover School Division will have a new childcare option. The school division is partnering with Right at School, a leading before- and afterschool programming provider, to meet the needs of working families in several of its communities. The programs will begin this fall in Niverville and Steinbach, as well as in several other towns throughout the division, as long as there is sufficient interest.

"We think we have found something that could be really awesome, particularly for [Niverville], but also for certain other communities as well," says Randy Dueck, Superintendent of the Hanover School Division. "We think Right at School could really help to meet the need."

Right at School, founded in 2011 in Evanston, Illinois, is an American company that is recently making in-roads into the Canadian market. They offered their first Canadian programs last year, in the Pembina Trails School Division in Winnipeg.

"There's a really good opportunity here, there's a need here in this community, and we believe that Right at School can help you along with that need," says Dueck.

## CHILDCARE DILEMMA

Niverville, with a growing population of young families and commuters, is not alone in its need for more childcare options.

"When I decided to move to Niverville from Winnipeg, I kept hearing that it was impossible to get any childcare in this growing community," says Claudia Jofre, a mother of two who has lived in Niverville for five years. "I called the licensed daycare to find out how long the wait list was. They said it would be a few years' wait. I couldn't wait a few years!"

At first, Jofre decided to leave both of her kids in the private school they had been attending in Winnipeg, where they had access to before- and afterschool programs in their classrooms.

"It was great," Jofre says. "It was



Kids in the Right at School program in the Pembina Trails School Division.

GRACE ANASTASIADIS

one drop-off and one pickup. We did this for four years. [But] living in Niverville while working and going to school in Winnipeg definitely took a toll on the kids and myself. Being gone for 11 hours during the week was a bit much for them. They also did not make any friends in the community."

She eventually decided to enroll her kids in the Niverville school system and look for private home daycares, but everyone she contacted was full and had long wait lists. "The desperation is so high for parents that many home daycares are unlicensed, charging double the price, and [offering] limited hours and no childcare during school in-services or school holidays. All this plus no receipts for payments given. I couldn't deduct childcare payments. But it was time to start living in this community."

Unfortunately, she never did

receive a phone call letting her know that a space had opened in Niverville's licensed daycare.

## ENTER RIGHT AT SCHOOL

Julie Lyon, Senior Director of School Partnerships for Right at School, and Grace Anastasiadis, Manitoba Area Manager, made presentations to par-

*"My thought is that this program is what the families of Niverville desperately need."*

Claudia Jofre | Niverville Parent

ents in Steinbach on Tuesday, May 22 and in Niverville on Wednesday, May 23. Although Right at School offers a range of programs, this first year they will begin in Hanover with afterschool programming, which begins at the end of the school day and lasts until 6:00 p.m.

"I'm a working mom," says Lyon.

"I have a seven-year-old and a nine-year-old and my work productivity goes down around three o'clock when I start thinking, where are my kids? Are they going home with the babysitter? Are they staying in school for afterschool programs? My work productivity starts to go down because I start to worry. We want to take that [burden] off of you if you're working families, or even if you're not working families, to say, 'It's okay to have my child at school until six o'clock. Because they're going to be engaged, they're going to be healthy, and they're going to be doing fitness.'"

Lyon says the founder of Right at School, Dr. Mark Rothchild, started the program after seeing a need in urban school districts for meaningful, enriching afterschool programs.

"He walked into an afterschool program that his child was in, saw his child eating a bag of Doritos and watching TV and said, 'You know

what? That's enough. We have to do better for our kids,'" says Lyon. "So here we are, almost eight years later. We are holding 20,000 children in before- and afterschool programs and recess programs across North America."

The company's mission is to inspire a love of learning, support schools, and give people peace of mind. Their four core values are being mission-led, innovation-driven, locally inspired, and efficiency-obsessed.

Their emphasis on local means that their programs are customizable from school to school, district to district. They hire locally, from nearby colleges and universities, and also prioritize bringing in staff who may already work in the school, such as educational aids who have preexisting connections with the children. And to ensure that kids get the attention they need, the maximum ratio of kids to staff members is 15 to one.

To accommodate the needs of working families, Right at School offers discounts for siblings and low-income families.

"That's really important to us," says Lyon. "We want every child to be able to utilize Right at School. It doesn't matter about cost. We want to say, how can we help?"

Their pricing is flexible. Parents can sign their kids up for anywhere from one day per week to five days per week, depending on the need, and they allow drop-ins, as long as there's a half-day of notice. Ten-visit punch cards are also available. There's no long-term commission, and it's all based on rolling admission that can change month to month.

Although each school's program schedule is bound to be different, Right at School's afterschool program follows a loose guideline. The key is that the children go back and forth between more sedentary activities and active activities.

"The children will come to the afterschool program, have a healthy snack with us, peanut-free, and then they're moving into town hall, which is really about a five minute get-together where we're getting

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the kids excited for the day," says Lyon of the daily schedule. "We're talking about the transition from the school day into the afterschool program and we're doing cheers, so you may see the kids singing or dancing and getting excited, where they're burning energy off from the day. We know kids have been sitting, so we have very experiential, hands-on, query-based learning."

This includes a lot of time outdoors and working on projects that involve exercise, engineering, math, and science, all in the guise of having as much fun as possible. The curriculum is written by educational experts, and Lyon calls it "multisensory, multi-intelligence, and multi-cultural." Multi-intelligence means that the programming will appeal to learners of all ages. The curriculum is also changing all the time, so it won't get stale for kids who return year after year.

Another goal is to ensure that kids are able to get their homework finished before being picked up by their parents, to maximize quality time in the evenings.

"At six o'clock, it's family time," Lyon points out. "I'm that parent. I pick my kids up at six o'clock, I want to go home, cook dinner, and have family time. Often homework time can get frustrating, and as parents we don't often know how to do homework with our children these days. So we want to make sure that your children are going home with their homework completed."

Grace Anastasiadis, who oversees all the programs in Manitoba, cites the program's success in Pembina Trails last year. In various units, kids made famous monuments out of Legos, treehouses out of pipe-cleaners, shoes out of newspapers, and dresses out of garbage bags.

"We also drove an initiative with our Cool to Be Kind challenge, and every school did something different," says Anastasiadis. "One school made bookmarks for their library and they would have



GRACE ANASTASIADIS

just different inspirational quotes that said 'You Matter,' 'You Are Amazing,' 'You're Brilliant,' and then they took those bookmarks and hid them in the library. Another one that they did is a program where they sent Christmas cards to sick children. That was just a locally inspired initiative. We did so many things."

The Pembina Trails program also included a leadership track, which involved the children writing out applications, doing an interview with staff, and then taking on leadership roles, whether that meant setting up snacks, being a line leader, setting up curriculum supplies, or an older child reading books to younger children.

#### REGISTRATION DRIVE

Registration for Right at School opened on Thursday, May 24. Parents can register at the Hanover School Division website (see below). There is no deadline for fall registration, although parents are encouraged to register their children before June 30 if possible. The school division notes that early registration will help them to determine which sites in the division are viable, since there must be a minimum daily average of 15 students in the program per

day.

"From what I understand, the Right at School program is amazing and exactly what I as a parent would want for my child," says Jofre. "Fitness activities, a daily curriculum on themes, and homework help is an added bonus!"

Jofre is strongly considering enrolling her kids, and thinks the program is a good fit for Niverville, complementing the daycare options that are already available and making them more accessible.

"My thought is that this program is what the families of Niverville desperately need," she says. "Niverville is a great community, a place where you can still see kids playing outside, get to know your neighbours, and find affordable housing. Before-and afterschool has been a struggle for many families, but we are moving in the right direction with programs like these."

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ To register for Right at School, visit: <https://hsd.ca/schools/right-at-school>

■ Pricing Schedule: <https://target.brightarrow.com/userfiles/2784-1/files/Hanover%20SD%20Afterschool%20Flyer-a.pdf>  
[www.rightatschool.com](http://www.rightatschool.com)

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## Local Farmer Expects Crops to Recover from Spring Drought

By Liz Byron

Environment Canada reports that April 2018 was the driest April in southern Manitoba for the past 30 years. It was also the fourth driest April since precipitation records started being kept in 1872.

Large swaths of Manitoba were under drought conditions, with an area including Niverville, Ste. Agathe, St. Adolphe, and Île-des-Chênes falling into the D2 drought classification, indicating "severe drought conditions."

Rain finally came in mid-May, easing many people's minds about the growing season.

One of those people was Ken Krahn, a local farmer who operates a 3,000-acre farm a few kilometres northwest of Niverville.

"We were a little concerned earlier on when we were

seeding," Krahn says.

Dry soil makes it easier to seed quickly. Despite this year's later thaw, according to Agriculture Manitoba, seeding across the province rapidly caught up with last year's dates.

Most years, even if there isn't much rain in the spring, the melting snow leaves enough moisture in the soil for crops to start growing. But while the average annual snowfall for the region is approximately 76 centimetres, this past winter saw only 54.6 centimetres.

"Rain in the Red River Valley is generally quite reliable," says Krahn, who has been farming for 30 years. "Our bigger problem is usually too much rather than too little since our heavy, clay-rich soil stores moisture really well."

Krahn's farm has four crops in the ground this year: corn,

soybeans, wheat, and canola. Like most local farmers, he doesn't run irrigation to water crops.

"We rely on timely rains, and generally in our area that does happen most years," he says. "This year we are on the lower side of normal, but generally what we hope for in a growing season is 25 to 35 centimetres of rain, and we can still get that this year. And we certainly don't want to get it all at one time."

After the mid-May rains, most crops have begun to emerge. That rainfall was particularly timely and went a long way to ensuring a solid start to the growing season.

The question now is whether the drought conditions will return, since not much rain has fallen since. Meanwhile, the windy conditions have made spraying weed-combatting herbicides

a challenge.

While regular rainfall is important, adds Krahn, the soil's capacity to store moisture and the plants' ability to send roots down deeper to seek water both mean that even new crops can go a couple of weeks between rainfalls.

So for now, Krahn says he's feeling optimistic about the growing season, particularly with rain in the forecast for early June.

"If we could get an inch of rain or so, that would be perfect. Ideally sooner rather than later, but we just need any sustained rain within the first week of June to avoid any trouble." He pauses, though, and jokes, "Of course, we can always rely on rain on the Niverville Fair weekend. So there's that."

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# PCH Residents Celebrate Their 100th Birthdays

By Brenda Sawatzky

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They say age is just a number. But for two Niverville centenarians, theirs marks a pretty significant number—100! Susana Doerksen and Mary Peters are both residents of the Heritage Life Personal Care Home in Niverville, and they are the first in the facility to reach this major milestone.

To commemorate the very special occasion, the staff threw a party, complete with live music, banners, balloons, cake, and special sashes for the women of honour. While resident birthday celebrations are nothing new here, this one meant pulling out all the stops to create a festive atmosphere in black and gold.

Family, guests, and residents crowded into the social room on May 17 to greet the birthday girls and enjoy the festivities. They tapped their feet and sang along to old-time classic hits performed by Al Andrusco, an impressive one-man band playing on the guitar, keyboard, and providing vocals.

The honourees, of course, stole the show—Mary with her birthday-red nails and tiara, Susana decorously wrapped in her special white and gold scarf. Both were among the first residents to enter the facility when it opened four years ago. Susana lives in the Crocus Lane neighbourhood of the PCH and Mary in Lilac Lane.

“Mary is all over the facility, so everybody knows her,” says Angela, full-time nurse of the Lilac Lane neighbourhood. “She walks everywhere from the time she gets up. You’ll never see her take a nap. She visits with people and is very social. She’s a people watcher. Sometimes she’s wandering from one unit to another and stopping to talk to people, then she’ll sit down and just watch.”

According to staff, Mary also



Mary Peters and Susana Doerksen.

✉ BRENDA SAWATZKY

likes to actively help outside in the gardens through the spring and summer. At 100 years of age, she still gets by with just a walker for balance.

Susana, restricted to a wheelchair, is not quite as active but loves to receive company, especially when they come bearing gifts of her traditional Mennonite foods.

“Her son comes every Wednesday and she looks forward to that,” says Melanie, nurse of the Crocus Lane neighbourhood.

Rajminder, another nurse in this wing, says that if there’s one thing Susana adores, it’s lemon wafers. She describes, with a glint in her eye, Susana’s endearingly stubborn determination in getting them.

“Even today [before her birthday party] she said, ‘If you will not bring a lemon wafer, I’m not going.’ Rajminder laughs, remarking that at Susana’s age one doesn’t argue with the demand for simple pleasures.

For Mary, this was the second celebration of her big day. Her

family threw another party on her actual birthday, May 13. Her daughter Caroline Charrette was there for both.

“She’s a pretty special person and you have to be pretty special and hardy to survive all these years,” says Caroline. “We went through hard times and good times. I think she’s a person that you strive to model your life after. She loves to laugh. She’s a generous person and caring.” As for her penchant for gardening, Caroline says that it’s in her mom’s veins. “She had a garden until she left her home when she was 97.”

Mary lived most of her years in the Morden and Altona area. For 20 years she continued to manage the homestead and gardens on her own proceeding her husband’s death. Caroline says it took about a year for her mom to make the emotional transition over moving straight from independence to a nursing home.

“For the most part she enjoys [the staff], as long as they’re friendly and happy and treat her kindly,” Caroline says. “That’s all

she asks.”

Susana, too, will have a second party hosted by family around the time of her actual birthday, June 14. The family, many living far away, will convene at the PCH for her special day.

“She told me the other day that she must have been extraordinarily good to her parents because the Bible says that honouring your parents leads to a long life,” says Susana’s son Rick. “From what I remember, Mom was often sick, [and there were] many surgeries and hospitalizations. It seems like her health improved a lot when the kids left home. We tease her about that. I think that none of the family, including herself, ever expected to see such longevity.”

Susana moved to Niverville with her five young children after losing her husband and the farm in 1956. They lived with relatives until Susana could afford to rent and eventually own a small house where she raised the children on a very meagre income.

“Mom used to joke about being both a mother and a father,” Rick says. “In that role she could be strict and stubborn when she had to. Although she had very limited education, she loved to read. She volunteered as the church librarian for many decades and read every book that went on the shelf. She also liked games, cards, and socializing when her mobility was better.”

At the ripe age of 90, Susana moved to the Niverville Credit Union Manor and transitioned eventually to the PCH. Rick says her transition was difficult for a while because all of her friends stayed behind at the Manor. He is thankful, though, for the excellent care that she receives here, adding that she is well looked after by the doting staff.

## IN BRIEF

### Niverville Chamber Names New President

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The Niverville Chamber of Commerce has installed a new president. John Magri, who has served for one term as Vice-President, was named President at a Chamber meeting in May.

“This community is on the cusp of bigger and better things, both in our business sector and our town as a whole,” says Magri. “There are a lot of new and exciting things happening, and the Chamber needs to be there to work for our members. It will also be important for us to keep the lines of communication open with our current and future town council. We look forward to continuing the progress we have made working with them.”

Magri is also the store manager of Wm. Dyck and Sons.

The other executive members of the Chamber board include Karen Albaugh of done hair skin and nails (vice-chair), Amanda Wiens of Wiens Furniture (finance chair), and Kelsey Kosman of Dollhouse Design (executive member-at-large). Four other directors include Andy Anderson of Rempel Insurance, Doug Dyck of Heritage Lane Builders, Steve Neufeld of the Niverville Heritage Centre, and Bryan Trottier of Trotco Electrical.

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## Updates from the Ritchot Chamber

## 4th Ritchot Chamber Golf Tournament | June 19, 2018 | 10:30 a.m. 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 a.m. | Tee off: 11:30 a.m.

Join over 40 golfers for business networking, team spirit, and the opportunity to win cool prizes. Everyone is welcome! We would especially like to thank our many sponsors including:

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## First Aid &amp; CPR Training (EFA-C &amp; AED) | June 14, 2018 | Full Day (8:00 a.m. start)

Join Trina Brule, CHRP, of Seine River Safety for a full day of first aid and safety training. This first-aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) course provides the skills needed to recognize and respond to cardiovascular emergencies and choking for adults, children, and infants. It will also include training in the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) as well as first aid (for example, cuts, scrapes, bleeds, bloody noses, fainting, seizures, how to use an EpiPen, etc.), among other things. The course is suitable for workplace or general interest and includes the latest CPR guidelines.

Read more and register at seineriversafety.ca  
Contact: Trina Brule (trina@seineriversafety.ca)

## Growing Strong

We welcomed Pat Trudel of Next Level Enterprise (www.nextlevelenterprise.ca), Serge Leclerc of Leclerc Courier, Inc. (https://www.leclerccourier.com), and Glue Commercialization (www.gluehq.com) to the Chamber in May 2018.

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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## Casino Fundraiser Throws a Different Kind of Whiteout

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Bell MTS Place wasn't the only whiteout going strong in southern Manitoba this spring. On Friday, May 11, residents of Niverville and the surrounding area crowded in on Whitetail Meadow for the annual Community Resource Centre fundraiser, decked out in white formal wear. The theme: Casino Blanc.

This, the second annual auction from the Community Resource Centre fundraising team, included both a silent auction and a live auction. Local businesses and individuals donated 32 prizes.

"While we are still waiting to confirm final numbers, over \$30,000 was raised at the event towards the new Community Resource Centre," says Heather Miller of the fundraising committee. "Thank you!"

The auction wasn't the only aspect of the evening to look forward to. Amazing



Ron Ashcraft, Clare Braun, Libby Hanna, and Darryl Rempel.

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Entertainment, of Winnipeg, brought in blackjack tables and roulette wheels. Music was provided by Magnum Sound, keeping people on the dance floor to the end of the night. Photographer Amber Hayward, in addition to covering photography for the entire event, set up a photo booth with plenty of fun accessories.

During the evening, Ron Ashcraft and Darryl Rempel

of the Niverville Credit Union presented the CRC committee with a donation cheque in the amount of \$10,000.

Miller notes that the owners and staff of Whitetail Meadow were a breeze to work with. She also extends thanks to Elmer Hiebert, who spent the night safely transporting attendees from the venue back to Niverville on the community bus.

"And a big thank you to the hardworking volunteer team that helped organize the event: April Nurse, Elvin Krahn, Gillian Groening, Vanessa Worrell, Kelsey Kosman, and Courtney Demers," says Miller. "Without their tireless efforts collecting prizes and planning for the evening, the event would not have taken off."

## Third Year of Summer Camps Launches in Niverville

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

For the first year in a row, the Town of Niverville is gearing up for another summer season packed with weekly children's camps.

"I'm thrilled to be back to run these camps for the third year since they first began," says camp coordinator Jane Fast. "These camps provide a great opportunity for children to be outside, work as a team, get exercise, and most of all have fun!"

Every year's camps are a bit different. This year's themes will include Animal Lovers, Royally Flushed, Wacky Wizard, Creative Arts, Survivor, Mythbusters, and Mini-Detectives. Camps will also be geared toward sports lovers, young children, and gymnasts.

"These camps are a chance for kids to be kids," Fast says. "I've seen my campers racing around town on bikes in pouring rain and it doesn't stop the fun. This summer they'll get to dress up, ride horses,

eat gross things, learn magic tricks, make art, and create explosions, just to name a few. I have a very exciting plan for each camp this year."

One feature that's new this year, and will be welcomed by many families, is before and after childcare.

"This year, we have responded to feedback from parents and guardians, so we are offering before and after childcare," Fast says. "Parents can choose to extend camp hours beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m.

For half-day camps, campers may stay over the lunch break."

Fast encourages families to get their children signed up as early as possible to ensure that room is still available in their preferred camps.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ For more information about the camp schedule, locations, and fees, visit: [www.nivervillecreation.com/page/show/1762685-summer-camps-2018](http://www.nivervillecreation.com/page/show/1762685-summer-camps-2018)

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# New Development and Zoning Plans Near Completion

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ [bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com](mailto:bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com)

Community development comprises a significant share of a town council's time and energy. Development planning is, after all, the backbone to a thriving, growing community. On April 26, Niverville's town council held a second open house to get the public in on the conversation. A formal adoption of the new development plan is set to take place at a public hearing later this fall.

The Manitoba Planning Act requires all municipalities to review and adopt new development policies regularly. Development plans give direction to community leaders, allowing them to determine the most effective use of land in the present and into the future. Zoning bylaws aid in regulating that development.

Niverville's last development plan was adopted in 2008. Since that time, the community has experienced incredible residential growth and annexed new parcels of land to encourage further population and business growth.

"Land use decisions affect the way people live, work, and play," reads a report from Sison Blackburn Consultants (SBC) Inc., hired to do an extensive analysis of Niverville in 2017. "Niverville is a rapidly growing community and is experiencing change. Many residents living here today did not live here when the plan was last reviewed. The review is an opportunity to share your ideas and concerns about how your community should evolve over the next 25 years."

Many details need to be considered when drafting a new development plan. Council must educate themselves on all current regulations, reports, and growth strategies. They must also determine the town's current conditions in terms of land drainage, water and wastewater services, transportation networks, greenspaces and trails,

and community services.

With help from professional consultants such as SBC, council can look into the future to determine population estimates, ongoing land supply and demand, as well as the community's development opportunities and constraints. Based on this information, a clearer path can be marked out for the years to come.

2016 census data proved integral to mapping the community's present and future. Compared to data derived for the province as a whole, Niverville has a large proportion of young families and children, as well as larger households on average. Between 2011 and 2016, the town grew at an annual rate of six percent, five times faster than the province's average during that period.

Should the community remain on this trajectory, not enough land will be available to sustain residential property development for the next 25 years, unless serious consideration is given to multifamily housing options which require less land per family unit. While this is always a sound investment for any community, SBC is confident that the current growth rate won't be sustained into the distant future.

From the 105 survey respondents at last fall's open house, SBC compiled data which was also crucial to council's development considerations. The top three words residents used to describe their hometown were "quiet," "growing," and "friendly."

Sixty percent of respondents said that they valued the small town feel and sense of community; 51 percent would like to see greenspace, street, and sidewalk improvements; 49 percent would like to see additional businesses and services come to town; and 36 percent were concerned that the current rapid pace of growth was overwhelming the town's existing services.

Amalgamating data from the analysis and resident responses,

council's focus will be on maintaining the small town feel by implementing growth management strategies. Special attention will also be given to Niverville's Main Street corridor, improving the look and vibrancy to create a more cohesive community meeting place.

Moving forward, council will continue to address the quality and capacity of municipal services and infrastructure. Working against urban sprawl by encouraging more compact development patterns can help reduce those costs. In turn, compact development often means multifamily housing units, addressing another key area of concern for a community wishing to provide affordable housing options to its residents.

Providing quality greenspace and recreation options are high on council's agenda. Hespeler Park and the wetlands project on the south end of town will continue to undergo improvements and change. The Community Resource Centre and new high school recreation features, coming soon to the north end of town, will provide ample opportunity for active community living. Developing a safe transportation route between these sites will go a long way toward strengthening community interconnection.

Finally, attracting employment opportunities will be key to creating a well-rounded community. Establishing a business-friendly environment is essential for reducing the need for residents to commute to work and for enhancing the local tax base. Newly annexed land is already being developed into commercial and industrial parks.

Working alongside the Chamber of Commerce, council is implementing strategies to promote the community for business development, as well as to encourage home-based and small-scale business through incentive packages.

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# Youth Job Centre Opens for the Summer

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The Manitoba Youth Job Centre (MYJC) in Niverville is back in business. The office, which provides assistance to young people looking for work, opened for the season on May 14 and will remain open until August 17.

Holly Smith, the centre's Youth Engagement Leader, says that the centre has a lot to offer, including the odd job squad, one-one-one coaching, and a referral system to connect young people with local jobs.

"The odd job squad will be giving [young people] really valuable first job skills," says Smith. "Things like strawberry picking, door-to-door sales, and maybe some yard work. Things that will give them experience with food-handling, money-handling,

working with people, and building some personal connections."

According to Smith, many people associate the MYJC entirely with the odd job squad, but she points out that there's a lot more to the centre than that.

In addition to hosting information sessions at local schools and setting up booths where interested students can talk to her, Smith says the biggest benefit of the program is that young people can stop by the office for one-on-one coaching sessions. In these sessions, Smith can tailor the service to the individual and focus alternately on resume-building, improving job interview skills, and identifying references. She can also do on-the-spot job searching.

"We have a referral system, which I'm hoping will be pretty successful this year, where

employers can come to us if they have open positions that they'd like to have filled, and then I can refer an individual that would be a good fit and has the qualifications for that," says Smith.

Another opportunity, which has never taken place at the Niverville branch before, is the First Job Training Program. Smith describes this program as a nearly full-day training session that can help young people get their foot in the door.

"That's an option we have where young people in the community, if they don't have terribly much experience, can come down for a training session," Smith says. "It involves us going through [a curriculum], including how do you relate to customers, and how do we do budgeting, things like that."

At the end of the training, each

participant receives a certificate to help them land their first job.

"The First Jobs Training Program would be an opportunity for young people to learn more about employment standards, customer service skills, money management, and leadership skills," she adds. "If enough interest was shown, I would be happy to run this free program, because I would love to help young people gather skills for the workplace."

Smith's office is located at 86 Main Street and is open every business day from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. An informational open house has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 5, which would be a perfect opportunity for people to drop in and start their job-hunting journey.

# Summer Farmers' Market Coming to Niverville

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Save yourself a trip to the city, residents of Niverville and surrounding area. The farmers' market is coming to you this summer.

June 15 marks the opening date of the first annual Niverville Farmers' Market, held in the Heritage Centre parking lot. It will run every Friday from June to October.

"Niverville has never had a farmers' market before and community members have had to drive to St. Norbert or elsewhere to support local, ethical, sustainable vendors," says Noella Andres, staff member of the Heritage Centre. "Being able to bring this right to our community is something I, as a resident, have always wanted to see. To be able to walk down with the kids and have them each pick out a tasty treat or handmade

item from a person they can get to know will always be something special, and I'm hoping that the rest of the community embraces it and makes it a weekly tradition."

The market will open every Friday from 3:00–7:00 p.m., and like any great market it will feature local food producers and crafters. Fresh garden vegetables, meats, perogies, homemade chocolate, kombucha, honey, and syrups are some of the treats Andres says you can expect to find there. As well, artisans will be onsite selling jewellery, artwork, and handmade baby items.

"We have a good handful of committed vendors who will be at the market consistently and a variety of vendors who have committed for certain dates," Andres says. "We are so excited for the relationship these vendors will build with the community. We understand that certain

times of the season yield better results for some vendors, so we are accepting new vendors as they come and hope to still have [more] vendors sign up over the next couple of weeks."

While the vendors are all local, Andres says this means local to the region. There is, after all, a vast array of homespun producers and small businesses in the greater area who can provide a wide selection of products. Andres has already accepted vendors from New Bothwell, Rosenort, and other regional communities.

The goal of the farmers' market is to become an extension of the Heritage Centre's mandate to provide a community meeting place where people can rub shoulders with their neighbours and newcomers can get to know their community in a lively outdoor setting. With the Heritage

Centre's other amenities close by, families can make an event out of it, taking time to stroll through the Heritage Gardens, have a picnic, or enjoy dinner at Hespeler's Cookhouse and Tavern when their shopping is done.

"The Niverville Heritage Centre is a wonderful location for this because it is such a pivotal part of the community, [and it already] hosts so many local events," Andres says. "[The market will] also provide an opportunity for the campus residents to get outdoors and engage with local makers, perhaps inviting them to share stories and reminisce about when they used to farm and garden or take part in their own markets when they were younger."

## IN BRIEF

### HUB Insurance Hosts Open House Barbecue in Niverville

The new HUB Insurance office on Main Street Niverville hosted an open house on Thursday, May 24 to celebrate its official grand opening.

More than 250 people attended the event on a warm sunny afternoon. Approximately 200 hamburgers and 100 hot dogs were served for lunch, and coffee was available all day.

There were several prizes and giveaways. Janice Schroeder won a free Google Home, a smart speaker and virtual home assistant.

HUB would like to thank all the local residents and businesses who have joined the HUB family since the Niverville location opened earlier this year.

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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.

**54%**

**NO.** Commercial property is at a premium, and all currently zoned commercial land needs to be carefully protected.

**42%**

**UNSURE?** Let us know what you think.

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Are there not many empty lots in the new commercial subdivision? If they are not full then why would we need more?

I think that St. Adolphe definitely has enough land zoned for commercial use, especially with the addition of the Tourond Creek development - **RL**

Sadly the majority of Niverville doesn't support the local businesses and would much rather drive to Winnipeg to buy stuff from big box stores or receive service in the city.

At the size of town Niverville is, it's depressing how much we lack in terms of commercial/retail. And the way Main Street is laid out (i.e. golf course, elementary school, cemetery, industrial entering the town on 311) where would we put commercial businesses? They'd have to be off the Main Street.

# Niverville Caught in Big Shakeup to Provincial Riding Boundaries

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The Manitoba Electoral Divisions Boundaries Commission issued a report on Friday, May 18 outlining a series of proposed changes to provincial riding boundaries in advance of the next Manitoba general election, tentatively scheduled for October 2020. In particular, Niverville's place in the region is set to undergo a major shift, which could be of concern to residents of the fastest growing community in the province.

Among the key changes are one less riding in rural Manitoba and one more in Winnipeg, necessitated by recent shifts in population. The Legislature will still have 57 seats total, with 32 Winnipeg seats and 25 rural seats.

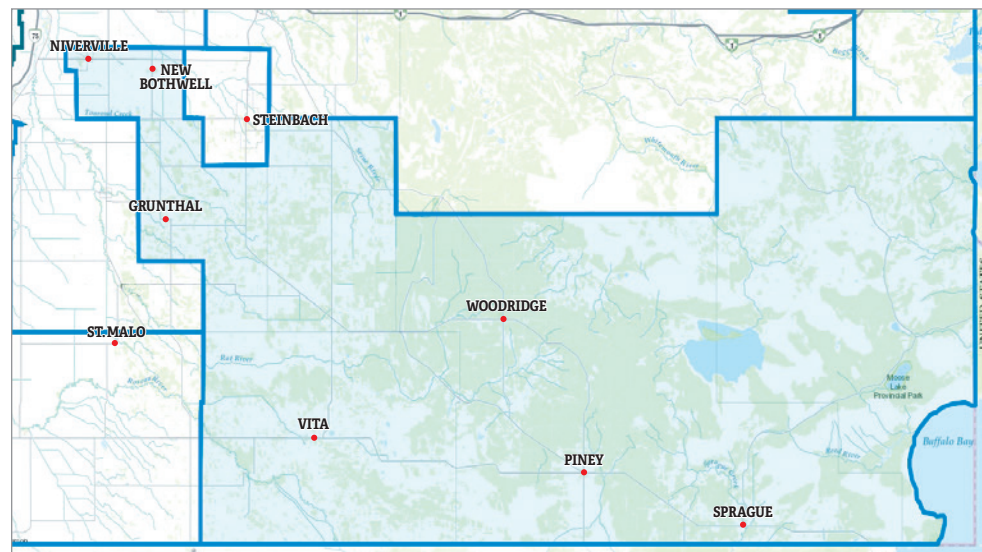
The report proposes to eliminate the Dawson Trail electoral division, although most of its communities will remain together under a new name—Carillon. Carillon is actually an old name for the electoral division in that area, last used in 1969.

"Boundaries have been adjusted to ensure population balance and, to the extent possible, respect the designated bilingual areas," reads the report. "Accordingly, the rural municipalities of Ritchot, Taché, and De Salaberry have been grouped together and an old electoral division name has been revived."

### WHAT HAPPENS TO NIVERVILLE

Niverville has shifted between several constituencies over the years. Prior to 2008, Niverville had been located in the La Verendrye riding. When the boundaries were redrawn in 2008, the town was redistricted into Morris, a riding that primarily comprised communities on the west side of the Red River and as far north as St. Francois Xavier and Poplar Point, to the northwest of Winnipeg.

It has now been proposed that Niverville shift into a new electoral division: Sandilands, which occupies a broad and sparsely populated region stretching to the southeast corner of the province. Niverville, at the extreme northwest



Map of the new Sandilands electoral district, which includes Niverville and New Bothwell. **MANITOBA ELECTORAL DIVISIONS BOUNDARIES COMMISSION**

corner of this new riding, would be its largest population center by a wide margin. Other communities would include Kleefeld, Grunthal, Vita, and Buffalo Point. New Bothwell, previously in the Steinbach riding, is also set to be included in the new Sandilands district.

A key line in the report says that the Commission, as described by The Electoral Divisions Act, "has striven to respect municipal boundaries and communities of interest in the same electoral division."

It may be difficult to understand how separating Niverville from its nearest neighbours in the Winnipeg capital region meets that directive.

Niverville Mayor Myron Dyck says that he found out about the proposed boundary the same day that the report was released and immediately began the process of finding out more information about what it means. He spoke with our current MLA, Shannon Martin, and asked for two things: a detailed map of the proposed boundaries along with specifics about how the town might go about questioning, or even appealing, the decision.

"At first glance, my reaction would be, we don't really have anything to do with the rest of that constituency," he says. "My initial thought is, well, we're just going to be lumped in with rural—and we are urban, we're not rural."

On the other hand, he has considered that there may

be some advantages when it comes to competing for government funds. There are certain things that a primarily rural constituency would have little use for, such as daycare spots, which Niverville does require. Currently Niverville has to compete for government resources with other growing communities in the Morris riding, such as La Salle, Oak Bluff, and Headingly. In Sandilands, Niverville might not have to compete as fiercely to gain the resources it needs.

"Niverville has been fortunate so far, in that whether it was NDP or PC [in government], we have been able to find favour," says Dyck. "But one thing, at first glance, would be the fear that we are now kind of off the radar, if you will."

Right now, Niverville is a going concern, an active member of the Winnipeg capital region. The worst case scenario might that, politically, the province starts to consider Niverville to be, in Dyck's words, "in the back corner of nowhere."

### CONSULTATION PROCESS

The town has since learned about the consultation process and how they can participate in it. On September 18, delegations will be allowed to make ten-minute presentations to the Commission at the Mennonite Heritage Museum in Steinbach.

"The town of Niverville has decided to register, so on September 18 we'll have

the opportunity to present our rationale for what we believe should occur," Dyck says. "So we're still gathering information."

Dyck adds that members of the public who would like to weigh in on what they think should or shouldn't happen are invited to reach out to the town office in the coming days and weeks. In the town's presentation, they need to provide potential solutions for how the boundaries could be shifted in order to still respect the population balances that go into these decisions.

"Right now we're leaning towards perhaps not staying in this riding, and moving," Dyck adds. "Nothing's formalized yet. As I said, we're just gathering information."

The Manitoba Electoral Divisions Boundaries Commission, an independent and non-partisan body, convenes every ten years for a regular review. The boundaries last shifted in 2008.

The five-member commission is comprised of Richard Chartier, Chief Justice of Manitoba; David Barnard, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manitoba; Steven Robinson, Interim President and Vice-Chancellor of Brandon University; Harvey Briggs, Dean of Arts, Business, and Science at University College of the North; and Shipra Verma, Chief Electoral Officer of Manitoba.



# Commentary

# Anyone Got the Time?

By Greg Fehr

It's no secret that our time is precious and always has been. Previous generations would speak of our collective time on this earth, and that time was precious because of their lower life expectancy.

But time is now a commodity, and we measure it in hours and minutes as opposed to years. Heck, the multitude of tech companies today even measure it in seconds and microseconds, fighting for every last moment of time—and they translate it into hard currency.

In the name of producing a better quality of life, we have made time management our ultimate priority. We scrutinize our time usage constantly, from balancing working hours with daycare costs to calculating whether it's worth hiring others to do tasks we could otherwise complete ourselves.

We plot, strategize, and value our time at a level not seen before.

This heightened valuation of time has many positive impacts. It could, in fact, be argued that previous generations missed opportunities by failing to calculate the costs of their time.

Yet like so many things, there are also unintended consequences to our obsession.

One consequence is that valuation is simply a measure of investment and return. In other words, what do I get from what I put in? Through this focus, we naturally move to think of the direct benefits of how we spend our time, the rewards to us as individuals. Yet by looking at time this way, we can miss the collective benefits.

Many of our systems and organizations have been built around a volunteer model. Volunteer hours are often a fundamental component that allow them to function. From condo boards to church committees, sports



KAYLA HOSKINS

to summer fairs, many organizations and events can only operate because the labour comes at low cost, or even no cost.

For example, when you sit on a condo board your time is seldom rewarded relative to your contribution. As a member of the collective group of owners, you receive your portion of the reward, but the pure mathematical perspective would call this a losing endeavour. Ask any condo board member and they will

surely agree. And if you can't find a board member, don't be surprised. Condo corporations continually struggle to fill board positions for this reason.

By introducing a payment system, some organizations have modified their model to combat the overall decline in volunteerism. This way, you can essentially buy your way out of giving your time, and those funds can be used to pay for staffing. Concession stands at sports venue now

have paid attendants, for example, and it can work well.

But this option may not be feasible, or even palatable, in all cases.

Our own Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair continues to struggle to fill the volunteer positions required to keep itself running. Without the efforts of the hundreds of people willing to step up and assist, an event of this size simply cannot be pulled off—or at minimum, it cannot be pulled off effectively or to the level

we have come to expect.

Let's be real: for those who volunteer at the fair, the individual reward is seldom a great payback for the effort invested. In fact, some of the tasks a volunteer has to do may actually keep them from enjoying some aspects of the fair.

So does the fair's volunteer model need to change, giving people the ability to buy their way out of having to assist? While this may work for sports venue concessions, which is an ongoing proposition, hiring staff for a single fair weekend may not be practical. Not to mention, fairgoers tend to push back whenever ticket prices go up.

The rising cost of attending organized sports events has meant that households on tight budgets simply can't get involved. There would be people in our community who get left out if that route were taken.

Ultimately, the solution must come in the form of a paradigm shift. In concept, most of us realize that when other people volunteer, we all benefit. In other words, we are rewarded for that which we do not earn.

Are we able to see the inverse of this equation? We must therefore earn our reward through a similar volunteer effort. Some people do, such as the parents with grown children who continue to volunteer at school functions even though those events no longer directly benefit their own families. Or consider the expats of our community who come back to help with the fair solely out of a sense of pride and nostalgia.

Volunteer service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth... or in this community. I thank, and we all should thank, the volunteers who step up in all facets of our lives. And true and meaningful gratitude may be best expressed through following their example.



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# Sports & Recreation



Colwyn Abgrall displays his trophy from the Golf Channel AM Tour event at Ak-Chin Southern Dunes in Arizona.

■ DENNIS ABGRALL & CHRISTI BLOCKER

## Local Golfer Returns Home for Ambitious Summer

By Liz Byron

Colwyn Abgrall has some ambitious plans for the summer. The 21-year-old from Niverville hopes to compete in at least five major golf competitions on both the local and national level.

Last summer, Abgrall won the Manitoba Match Play in Winnipeg, beating out opponent Jay Doyle four-and-two in the 36-hole final. This year, he's looking forward to the chance to defend his title in early June.

After that, Abgrall will be competing in the Manitoba Men's Amateur tournament in mid-June. A win would be fantastic, of course, but his main concern is making it into the top ten.

"A top-ten finish in the provincial amateur would secure me

a spot in the national amateur, so that's one of my big goals," Abgrall says.

This year, the Canadian Amateur will be held in Qualicum Beach, British Columbia in early August.

"Another goal this summer is to try to play in the Players Cup," Abgrall adds. "That's the Mackenzie Tour, the PGA Tour Canada, in Winnipeg this summer."

The Players Cup will be held at the Southwood Golf and Country Club, which may offer Abgrall a home field advantage, since that's where he's a member this summer.

"I'll also be playing in the Elmhurst Invitational on June 23-24, I hope," he says. "I just sent my application in for that. I played in that last year, so I think I should have a pretty good chance of being

accepted. I hope so!"

After rattling off this long list, he pauses and adds that he might also travel down to the U.S. to play a qualifying round to get into the U.S. Amateur—if scheduling allows it.

"Oh, and I'll be working at the golf course in Niverville again this summer," he adds. "Although I haven't started yet. I just got back to town a couple of days ago."

From February through late May he was in Phoenix, Arizona where he attended Scottsdale Community College until he graduated in December 2017. He spent the last four months there playing in amateur tour events. After the summer and fall in Manitoba, he plans to return to Arizona, a popular destination for serious golfers who want to continue

playing competitively throughout the winter.

"In Arizona this year I played in about ten events, and I won five of them," he says, while noting that there is always room for improvement. "Right now I'm putting a lot of time and effort into fine-tuning my short game. Your short game can never be good enough."

Abgrall certainly isn't afraid of hard work, as evidenced by his ambitions for the summer. On average, he says he spends two to five hours a day practicing his golf.

"I feel I have a lot more potential in the tank," he concludes. "But that will come down to work ethic, repetition, practice, and putting in the hours to get to that very high level of golf. I'm so excited to see how this summer goes!"

### IN BRIEF

## Niverville Youth Baseball Off to Strong Start

The Niverville Youth Baseball Association is well into another baseball season and its programs continue to grow. As the programs have expanded, the diamonds at Hespeler Park have gotten busier and busier, both during the week and the weekend.

"It's great to watch all of these athletes develop and to see their excitement for the game of baseball," says Ken Kwiatkowski of the Niverville Youth Baseball Association. "In addition to our many league teams, several players have pursued and solidified positions on [the region's] high-performance teams and we wish all of these players good luck as they pursue their passion for the game."

Several improvements have been made to the diamonds over the past couple of years, and this spring was no different. Last year, the infield material on three out of the four Hespeler Park diamonds was replaced by the Town of Niverville, improving the playing surface from both a quality and safety perspective.

Another notable project this spring included adding infrastructure for two new batting cages, installed by DACO Piling. To date, one net has been purchased and installed, with a second on order.

Other improvements include the purchase of pitching screens and in-ground base pad supports, and in the summer the town will also add covered dugouts to all the diamonds, allowing Niverville to host provincial tournaments in the future.

"We would like to thank everyone for the many donations received to see this through to completion," says Kwiatkowski. "Major donations were received from BSI Insurance, Adult Slo-Pitch league, Von Ast Construction, and the Niverville Curling Club. Many individual donations were received as well. Without these types of gracious donations, these improvements would not be possible and the Niverville Youth Baseball Association would like to take the time to thank all of our sponsors, large and small, for all of their support."

In particular, the Niverville Youth Baseball Association is grateful to the Niverville Credit Union, for once again sponsoring a full complement of new jerseys. Kwiatkowski says the jerseys look great and the players are really enjoying them.

Niverville will be hosting two tournaments this year. A U11 tournament with 16 teams will be played Friday, June 1 and Saturday, June 2. A U13 tournament with 12 teams will be played Friday, June 8 and Saturday, June 9.





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**Saturday, July 21 - Ice Cream Party** - Come join us at the Discovery Centre and make some homemade ice cream, a cold treat to enjoy on a hot summer's day!

**Saturday, July 28 - Breakfast on the Farm** - Enjoy a pancake and sausage breakfast on the farm, explore the Discovery Centre and take a farm tour. (pre-registration required)

**Thursday, August 2 - Dairy Day** - Explore the dairy barn and learn about how we get milk to make cheese and yogurt. Finish by helping to make some fresh ice cream! (pre-registration required)

**Saturday, August 11 - Pigs, Pork and Pulses** - Gaze through windows into our hog barn to see brand new piglets, learn about pork production, try tasty pork and pulses food samples and grab a swag bag on the way out! (**FREE DAY** but pre-registration required)



**Saturday, August 18 - Virtual Farm Day** - Come check out our new 360° Virtual Reality System to explore beef cattle, sheep and other farms. Try out our farming simulator gaming station and sit in a 2018 MacDon Swather cab.

**Sunday, August 25 - Pizza Party** - Mix, knead and roll out your own pizza dough before topping it with some delicious local ingredients. (pre-registration required)

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Former Blue Jay Roberto Alomar working with young players at the 2016 baseball camp.

SHeldon DUBOIS

## Jays Super Camp to Return to IDC

By Evan Braun

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Summer may not yet have officially arrived, but summer temperatures certainly have and baseball diamonds throughout the region are already filling up. Of course, this means Seine River Minor Ball (SRMB) action is about to get underway.

Several tournaments are already in the books for the 2018 season, including the Pee wee A Provincials in Île-des-Chênes on the weekend of July 6-8. Île-des-Chênes will also host SRMB's annual slo-pitch tournament from

September 14-16.

A major highlight of the year will be the Blue Jays Super Camp, taking place in Île-des-Chênes from July 11-12. Several Major Leaguers, including Roberto Alomar, Pete Moseby, and Homer Bush, will be on hand to coach local kids between the ages of nine and 16. A fourth Jays player is still to be determined.

The camp is already sold out, with close to 200 kids on the roster.

The Blue Jays Baseball Academy started the summer camp eight years ago in partnership with Baseball Canada

and Little League Canada. Their goal is to increase and promote youth participation in baseball. Ever since, communities have been bringing in all-star players to teach young players important skills.

The two-day camps are held in communities all cross Canada, from coast to coast. Île-des-Chênes last hosted a Super Camp in 2016.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ [www.mlb.com/bluejays/community/baseball-academy/honda-super-camps](http://www.mlb.com/bluejays/community/baseball-academy/honda-super-camps)

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# Top Jets Prospects Ready for Takeoff

By Nicholas Anderson

Though their most exciting season of NHL hockey may have come to a disappointing end, Jets fans still have many things to look forward to. Although many people viewed this team as playoff-bound entering the season, 52 wins and a conference finals appearance later and the Winnipeg Jets are now viewed as one of the league's juggernauts.

With an average age of 26.8 years old, the Jets boasted the tenth youngest team in the NHL this season. Of the 18 players who suited up for that heart-wrenching Game 5 loss to the Golden Knights, ten were drafted by the organization. While General Manager Kevin Cheveldayoff's draft and develop formula has been well documented, it has been his ability to build around the core that already existed when the team arrived from Atlanta that has been most impressive.

Veterans like Dustin Byfuglien and Blake Wheeler now have the luxury of playing with six young stars under the age of 26: Mark Scheifele, Patrik Laine, Nikolaj Ehlers, Jacob Trouba, Josh Morrissey, and Kyle Connor. Now Cheveldayoff will face the task of drafting complementary pieces around these stars, to assure that the team has depth players to turn to when the salary cap forces them to let some of those pieces go.

The following list contains those whom I believe to be the Jets' top five prospects—and before anyone asks, Jack Roslovic is not on it. While he'll still be a rookie heading into next season, the 22-year-old has already established himself as a solid NHL player and has, in my opinion, graduated from the prospect label.

5. Tucker Poolman. Likely the most recognizable name on this list, the 24-year-old suited up 24 times for the Jets this season, scoring a goal and adding an assist. A University of North Dakota product, he amassed 30 points in 38 games in his final year in college, though his numbers may have been inflated from playing with Brock Boeser and Tyson Jost. He challenged for a spot on the Jets' defensive core this season, but ultimately he spent most of his time in the press box. This may have been a good thing for the young defenseman, who was entering the season off a shoulder surgery. Expect the Jets to re-sign him. As a right-hander, he could be a viable option on the third pairing next season, should the Jets be forced to let someone go this offseason.

4. Mason Appleton. He led the Manitoba Moose in scoring this season and was far and away their best player. In his first pro-season, the 22-year-old Michigan State product put up 66 points in 76 games, being named to the All-AHL first team. He was also the AHL rookie of the year and led all rookies in points. He possesses great skill and uses his speed and vision to his advantage. A sixth-round pick in 2015, Appleton has all the skills necessary to succeed at the NHL level.

3. Sami Niku. Much like his Moose teammate Appleton, Niku had himself an incredible rookie season on North American ice. The 21-year-old scored 54 points in 76 games, receiving the Eddie Shore Award (awarded to the league's best defenseman) while also being named to the All-AHL first team. Whether he challenges for a spot in the big club next season remains to be seen,

but his offensive ability and great breakout pass could be a perfect replacement for Toby Enstrom. A seventh-round pick, the Finnish product may also prove to be a steal when it's all said and done. He scored in his only game with the Jets this season.

2. Brendan Lemieux. The only player not drafted by the Jets on this list, Brendan is the son of former agitator and Stanley Cup winner Claude Lemieux—and he reminds many people of his father. The 22-year-old agitator scored 19 times for the Moose this season, amassing 43 points in 51 games. He also had a total of 170 penalty minutes. A quick skater with a nose for the net, Lemieux could grab a spot on the third or fourth line next season, should the Jets decide to let players such as Matt Hendricks and Shawn Matthias walk. He was acquired as part of the deal that saw the infamous Evander Kane leave for Buffalo.

1. Kristian Vesalainen. The Jets' first round pick last year took a humongous step forward in Finland this season as he scored 43 points in 49 games and eventually helped lead the Oulun Karpat to a championship, scoring nine points in 18 games as a rookie in the Finnish men's league. The twenty-fourth overall pick could find himself playing for the Moose next season, but seeing as he's only 18, the Jets should be in no rush to bring Vesalainen to North America. But an adjustment to the North American game may be necessary before the phenom makes his way to the big club.

No matter how you slice it, Winnipeg's got some big talent waiting in the wings.

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# GORP WORLD ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



## Jaden Giesbrecht

Jaden's love for soccer started as soon as he could walk, and at age four he joined the Niverville Timbits. In addition to playing indoor soccer, at age nine he tried out for the Winnipeg South End United Soccer Club and advanced quickly. He now plays on the U15 team as 13-year-old. He was also selected to play on the U15 high-performance team last winter. Two years ago, Jaden was invited to train with the Whitecaps Soccer League pre-prospects, which takes up four or five mornings per week beginning in September.

Although soccer takes up much of his time, he also makes time for friends and family. He feels blessed and is very thankful for his ability to play. He is also grateful for his willing "taxi" drivers!

# Keegan Beer Named AA Basketball Player of the Year

By Liz Byron

It's been an exciting spring for Keegan Beer.

The 18-year-old has been playing basketball with the Niverville Panthers for years, and after two years of near misses the team finally made it to provincials and won the Boys AA championship. The Panthers went in as the number one seeded team and defeated the defending champions, the Carman Cougars, 76-40 to capture Niverville Collegiate's first Varsity Boys banner for basketball in 40 years.

But the championship was just the start for Beer. He was then named Male Player of the Year in the AA division by Basketball Manitoba.

"It was pretty cool," says the student athlete. "They invite us all to a banquet in Winnipeg after the All-Star games for all the divisions, and then I got picked for AA. I didn't know in advance I was getting it, so it was a cool surprise."

He wasn't the only one who had a surprise that evening. His coach, Richard Toews, was expected to give a speech—a fact Toews hadn't known ahead of time.

"My coach didn't know he had to do this speech, so he had to do it



Ross Wedlake of Basketball Manitoba presents the award to Keegan Beer.

JJ ALI PHOTOGRAPHY

on the fly," Beer adds. "It was pretty funny."

The Grade 12 student is quick to share the glory with his teammates, noting the importance of working together.

"It's a team sport, so while I

did win an individual award, the whole team is part of it as well, you know. The best part of it was playing with your teammates. I would say we really worked well together. We knew where each other were on the court, and we

have really good team chemistry and communication."

The 6'1" guard also credits his coaches with helping the entire team to grow in different areas of their game, and he underlines the importance of practicing.

"If you want to get better, definitely put the time in," Beer says. "Natural talent is great, but you always have to work hard, because the results are a matter of how much time you are putting into practicing."

Overall it has been a banner year for the Panthers. In addition to the provincial title and Beer's award, fellow player Parker Davis was named to the All-Star team, and coach Richard Toews was awarded the title of AA Boys Coach of the Year.

As for Beer, he plans to maintain a focus on sports. After graduating from NCI this June, he's heading to the Canadian Mennonite University in the fall, where he plans to study physical education and eventually become a gym teacher.

"I love sports and the benefits they provide, and I would enjoy teaching little kids a love for sports," he says, before adding, "Plus, wearing shorts to work is a thing I've always wanted to do."

# Exercise for Green Thumbs

fitville

By Amber Mamchuk

There's something therapeutic about sinking your hands into the cool, fresh earth. Gardening is one of those magical activities that provides you with a host of health benefits. From physical activity to eating fresh produce, what's not to love about gardening?

Gardening appeals to all ages and abilities. For children, the opportunity to learn about where their food comes from is an important step in instilling healthy eating habits. As adults, our schedules are increasingly busy, and being able to step outside your door to pick vegetables for dinner instead of driving to the grocery

store can be a real timesaver.

And we can't forget about the benefits to seniors. Gardening is a great way for seniors to be physically active, helping to lower their risk for heart disease and stroke.

Last Wednesday, I had the opportunity to plant two garden beds at the Île-des-Chênes Community Gardens with experienced gardeners Gill Baggeley and Maggie Gheeraert. One of my favourite things about community gardening is the sharing of valuable tips and tricks. As a newbie gardener, I'm grateful for any time I can spend with gardening experts who are willing to pass down their knowledge.

Here are a few tried and tested

tips I learned.

First off, transplant your seedlings after the full moon in June to avoid losing crops to frost. Also, note that broken hockey sticks and laces make great supports for tomato plants.

Speaking of tomatoes, don't be afraid to pluck the lower branches and plant the stem deep into the soil to ensure that your stems grow strong.

Corn and pole beans are a match made in heaven! Corn requires a lot of nitrogen and pole beans replaces the nitrogen in the soil. The beans will climb your corn stalks, so there's no need for a trellis. Also remember that corn is wind-pollinated, so be sure to

plant it in rows.

Finally, when transplanting plants, break up the roots to allow them to establish more quickly.

While not everyone has access to a backyard garden, there are opportunities to garden in both the RM of Ritchot and the Town of Niverville at community gardens.

In addition to renting garden beds, there's also a garden club for all ages at the St. Adolphe Community Gardens. They meet on Mondays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. In the fall, the garden club will be incorporating the produce from their gardens in cooking classes, so stay tuned for more details.

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The complete Scorpions Elite Cheer roster.

NATALIE BATKIS

## Scorpions Elite Cheer Wins Sixth Provincial Title

By Natalie Batkis

Scorpions Elite Cheer (SEC) had another successful season, taking home the provincial championship title on May 5 in Portage la Prairie.

The provincial championship, hosted by the Manitoba Cheer Federation (MCF), included 75 routines from 15 cheer programs from across Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. The event included individual and duo tumbling routines, stunt group routines, and cheer routines.

Scorpions Elite Cheer performed one individual tumbling routine, four competitive routines, and three non-competitive routines. All the competitive teams "hit zero," meaning that they had no deductions in their performances. The non-competitive teams performing included the

Tiny Pinchers (ages three to five) and two recreational teams.

Zoe Batkis performed a Youth Level 2 individual tumbling routine and placed first out of seven athletes. The Mini Stingers (ages six to eight) placed first in the Mini Level 1 Division. The Junior Team, Black Venom (ages nine to 13), had the second highest score of the entire competition and ended the season in second place in the Junior Level 1 Division. The Open Co-Ed Level 5 team, Emperors (ages 17-plus), won first place in their division and had their best performance of the season.

And for the sixth time, SEC's Senior Level 4.2 team, Immortals (ages 11 to 18), won the title of provincial champions and overall grand champs of the day with a score of 96.9 percent.

"This season has had many challenging moments for our

athletes, but they kept training and pushing themselves and it showed in their amazing performances at Provincials and throughout the year," says Tiffany Reckseidler, SEC owner and coach. "We couldn't be more proud of our athletes, coaches, and the supportive family members that make all of this possible each and every season."

With one competitive season over, another begins in just a few short months and 2018-2019 is looking bright for this exciting cheer program based in Steinbach. The Junior Level 1 team, Black Venom, won a bid to Canadian Finals at The Best of the West competition which was held in Regina, Saskatchewan in March. The team will be competing for the title of Canadian Champs in Niagara Falls in April 2019.

SEC is holding a number of camps over the summer for athletes ages five and up. No previous cheer experience is necessary. There will be both cheer and tumbling camps in both July and August. It's a great way to try out this quickly growing sport before the competitive season begins.

SEC just completed its eighth competitive season and has almost 100 athletes ranging in age from three years old to more than 30 years old. This elite team has held the title of provincial champs six times and also holds national titles. SEC believes in offering an elite program while focusing on safety, fitness, and love of the sport.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

■ [www.scorpionscheer.com](http://www.scorpionscheer.com)

### IN BRIEF

#### Prairie Soul Marks Season's End

On Friday, May 25, Prairie Soul Dance Company hosted their year-end recital at the Pantages Playhouse Theatre in Winnipeg. The evening featured 40 performances by both recreational and competitive students, ranging in age from two years old to adult.

This season, Prairie Soul's competitive dancers have racked some impressive accomplishments and earned awards.

Prairie Soul competitors were recognized in four categories at the Southeastern Manitoba Festival: High Mark Junior Ballet, High Mark Junior Jazz, Adjudicator's Choice, and Novice High Mark.

Dancers also placed well at the Canadian National Dance Championship. Grace Ducharme took third place in the Junior Solo Pre-Competitive category, and Emilie Vachon placed third in Senior Solo Pre-Competitive. Prairie Soul groups took second and third in Senior Small Group Pre-Competitive, and second in Intermediate Line Group Pre-Competitive.

Grace Ducharme was also selected for a Junior Ballet Scholarship at the Manitoba Provincial Dance Festival.

Registration for the 2018-19 season will take place every Tuesday and Wednesday throughout June, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the studio (10 Cedar Drive). Those who register in June will be entered to win \$100 off next year's tuition.

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# Arts & Entertainment



Elsaida Alerta, Nick Rempel, Will Neufeld, Justin Kroeker, Matt Klippenstein, and James Neufeld.

by MATT KLIPPENSTEIN

## Last Call Gets the Crowd Bumpin'

By Liz Byron

Although this year will be the first performance at the Niverville Fair for local band Last Call, most of the band's members have played at the fair before. In fact, most of them have been attending the fair for 20 years now.

"I've been going to the fair since its modest beginnings," recalls keyboardist Will Neufeld. "We've all had the privilege of playing at the fair throughout the years with a variety of bands, including cover acts, country/blues bands, and so on."

This year, Last Call will be taking the stage at 11:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 9 to play what Neufeld describes as "a really fun batch of songs, old and new, rockin' and funky."

Formed in early 2017, the band is comprised of five Nivervillers and one Winnipegger. Nick Rempel and Matt Klippenstein play guitars, James Neufeld is on drums, Justin Kroeker

handles bass, and Will Neufeld mans the keyboard. The one Winnipegger, Elsaida Alerta, is the lead vocalist. The band focuses entirely on cover songs—and they cover a wide variety of styles and genres, from oldies to recent hits.

"The band excels at classic rock, like the Eagles, the Beatles, Led Zepelin, etc.," Neufeld says. "But we've also had a lot of fun putting unique twists on songs by modern artists such as Bruno Mars, The Weeknd, Daft Punk, and more."

As long as they're filling up the dance floor, the musicians are happy.

In fact, the six members of Last Call had the chance to fill up a Niverville dance floor earlier this year. On February 24, they hosted an evening of live music and dancing at White-tail Meadow, the event venue at the corner of Highways 311 and 200.

"It was a huge success," says

Neufeld. "Attendance was great, the drinks were flowing, the music was pumping, and there were dozens of people on the dance floor all evening long."

It was such a success that the band plans to host another such event in the fall.

So what is it about covers that

*"That's the whole point of what we do—to make people happy!"*

**Will Neufeld** | Last Call keyboardist

appeals to six talented musicians, all of whom have experience writing and playing original material?

"As rewarding as the creative process is, performing songs people already love is so satisfying," Neufeld explains. "It's a great challenge to do justice to the original by putting our

own spin on a tune. We take pride and joy in playing what people want to hear, whether it's a sentimental classic or a funky number with a great beat. We're eager to play and get people out on the dance floor!"

Singing songs written by other people is nothing new to vocalist Elsaida Alerta, at least. Alerta has been singing karaoke for years, but on a different level than most people: in 2015, she won the Karaoke World Championships in Singapore.

When Alerta's partner, Peter Dueck, happened to casually mention this fact to some of his musician friends, their ears perked up. Neufeld was one of them, and he had already been trying to assemble a new cover band. He invited her to join the group for a rehearsal session.

"Elsaida came down to our rehearsal space in Winnipeg, and

it was definitely love at first jam," Neufeld remembers. The band played their first gig in October 2017, at a wedding in Niverville, and they haven't looked back since.

For now, the band is putting a lot of work into perfecting their set for Saturday night at the fair. After that? Neufeld has big dreams.

"We hope Last Call will be a household name for anybody that wants to put on an unforgettable event in friendly Manitoba," he says. He believes that the group's dedication to audience satisfaction is their key to success. "When the dance floor is bumpin', we feed off that vibe and get a huge boost from the positivity of the crowd! That's the whole point of what we do—to make people happy!"

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

lastcallwinnipeg@gmail.com

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The Blackout Fireworks on Main Street Niverville.

THE NIVERVILLE OLDE TYME COUNTRY FAIR

## Fireworks Confirmed for Niverville Fair, More Volunteers Still Needed

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

After a bit of uncertainty this winter and spring, fireworks are a go for the 2018 edition of the Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair. This will come as especially good news to the many local residents who came forward in recent months to praise the annual fireworks display, citing it as the one of the biggest highlights of the fair.

"We received an attractive proposal from CanFire Pyrotechnics, and they have really helped us make sure we can make it happen again," says fair organizer Dustin Krahn. This is a change from previous years, when the fireworks came courtesy of Archangel Fireworks. "It's been a ton of work and a delicate balancing act. It was never a question of whether we wanted fireworks. We absolutely agree that the fair just wouldn't be the same without them."

Krahn notes that the committee has spent a lot of time this year trimming the budget to make sure the event can be both successful and sustainable. Ensuring that the fireworks can return to the lineup this year has been a priority.

"This is in no small part due to a lot of our long-time partners and entertainers pitching in and helping out,

trimming their costs where they can, and ensuring that we continue to have successful events," Krahn says. "In the long run, it's win-win for everyone to work together. Some of them absolutely stepped up to the plate this year, and we simply cannot emphasize how appreciative we are. It truly does show the value in the partnerships we have made over the years."

### CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Massaging the budget isn't the only critical aspect of ensuring that the Olde Tyme Country Fair continues for years to come. Money is obviously an important ingredient, as are sponsors, municipal support, and a large amount of internal organization.

So what's still missing? Krahn notes that the fair committee has noted a decline in this year's volunteer force.

"A lot of our veteran volunteers who helped start the fair and who have worked with us the last 23 years are now starting to take well-deserved retirement, in hopes of enjoying the weekend with their families," Krahn says. "The people power required to transform Main Street into a festival in less than a day is absolutely tremendous. If there is no volunteer force, things simply won't happen."

Although Niverville's

population has nearly quadrupled since the fair began, there are fewer volunteers to carry the workload.

"In many ways, our volunteer lists are still 20 years old. And unfortunately one of the only ways we can get new volunteers is for people to reach out to us when we put the call out," says Krahn. "I would encourage new residents to jump in and get involved. It is actually a lot of fun, and it's a great way to get out and meet new people in town, all while helping to make the fair a great time for everyone."

As of this writing, volunteers are still needed to help staff Saturday night, both in the concert area and at the entrance gates.

"We hope that we can attract some new faces out to pitch in and make sure the event goes off without a hitch. The last thing we want to see is the closure of ticket booths or having to close lineups at the beer gardens. Nobody likes lineups, so that is a real concern for us."

Krahn says that the committee is primarily looking for people to take two-hour shifts at the ticket booths or beer gardens.

"And hopefully when your shift is over, there is a nice short lineup for you to grab a beer!"



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# Not Your Typical Crossword Puzzle

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

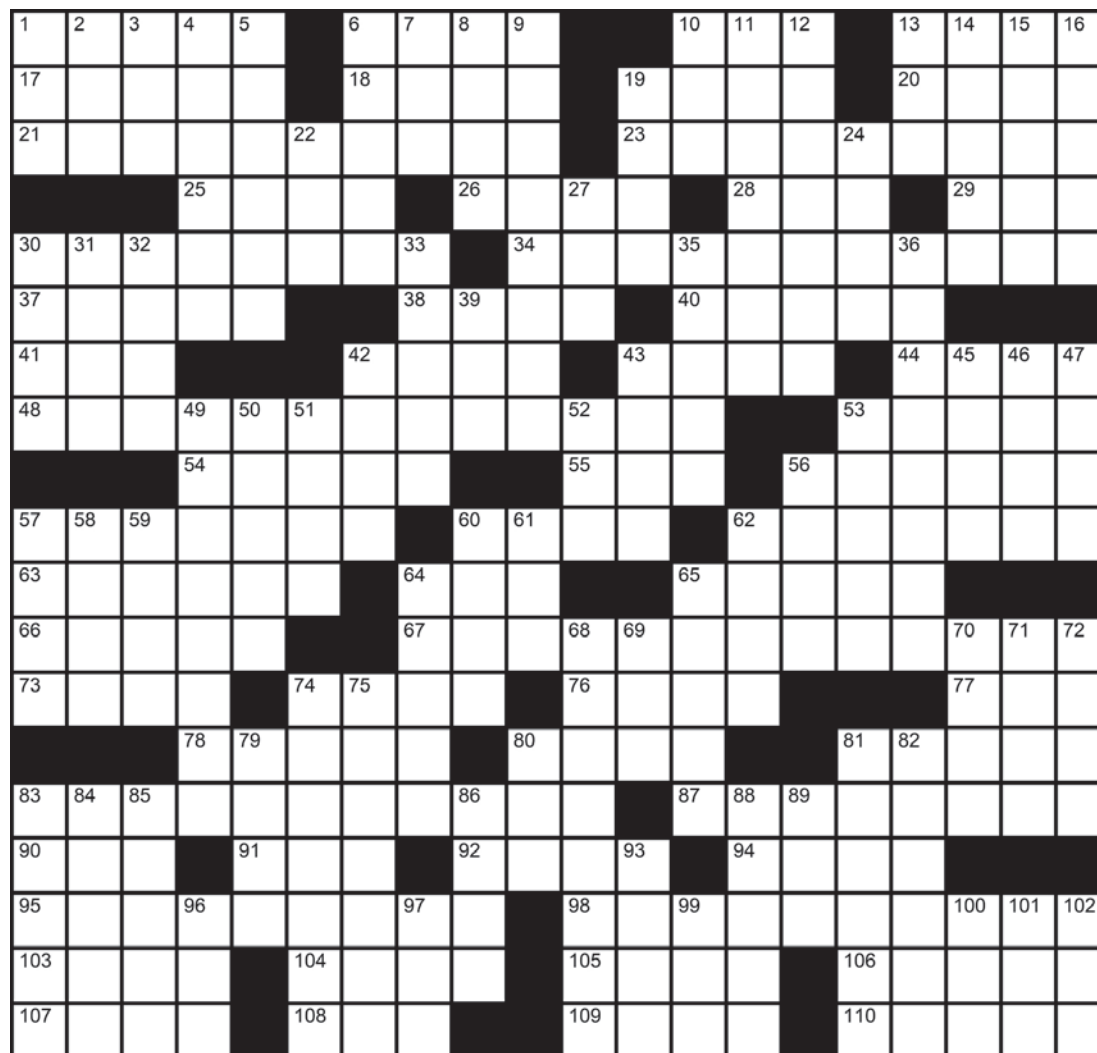
In partnership with a local crossword puzzle designer, *The Citizen* presents the first of hopefully many locally themed puzzles. By browsing through this month's clues, you'll note references to a number of local people, places, and things. This crossword has been specially designed with you, the reader, firmly in mind.

The puzzle was designed by Derek Bowman, a Winnipegger who specializes in writing custom puzzles. He made his first professional puzzle sale to *The Manitoban*, the University of Manitoba student newspaper, in 1999. Ten years later, following years of submissions and working at his craft, Bowman finally sold a puzzle to the most prestigious market of them all, *The New York Times*, with syndicates its puzzles to more than 300 publications around the world. In the years since, he's had eight puzzles published by *The New York Times* and seven by *The Los Angeles Times*. He says there's no end in sight, and he hopes to become an even more frequent contributor as time goes on.

A surprisingly lucrative sideline venture has turned out to be creating custom-made puzzles for everyday people looking to give them as unique gifts, such as for birthdays, anniversaries, or even engagements. All it takes is an interested party, a one-on-one meeting, and a bit of time. The result? A world-class puzzle with a theme so specific to an individual, so packed full of in-jokes, that an outsider might never be able to solve it.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Interested in commissioning a custom-made crossword puzzle? You can reach Derek Bowman by email: derekxword@gmail.com



## ACROSS

1. Sweeping stories
6. Energy bar company important to 98-Across
10. Deep blue
13. Anthony of "Star Trek: Discovery"
17. 1980s-'90s NBC legal drama
18. "\_\_\_ from Muskogee" (Merle Haggard hit)
19. Pillow covering
20. Largest continent
21. She organized a women's institute in 98-Across in 1949
23. Mayor of Ritchot
25. Jets forward Lowry
26. "\_\_\_ let it get to your head"
28. Racetrack circuit
29. Here, to Henri
30. He erected the first grain elevator in Western Canada in 98-Across
34. "The Time in Between" author who grew up in 98-Across
37. Needs a massage
38. Restaurant chain famous for its stacks
40. "La \_\_\_ Vita" (1960 Fellini film)
41. Elton John's john
42. Finished
43. Play charades

44. Volcano part
48. Golf course in 98-Across
53. 1950 or 1997 occurrence affecting 98-Across
54. Check from Canada Revenue
55. Ginormous
56. Confiscated
57. Attempted an ascent
60. Olde Tyme Country \_\_\_ (annual event in 98-Across)
62. In a foolish way
63. Canine tooth
64. "The Hurt Locker" bomb, for short
65. Green piece, in Monopoly
66. Tourond \_\_\_ (St. Adolphe neighbourhood)
67. Route that connects Emerson to Winnipeg
73. End of a hammer
74. Neighbour of Saudi Arabia
76. Personal goals
77. 4G \_\_\_ (Bell MTS offering)
78. "I'll Be" singer McCain
80. Pasta that looks like rice
81. Old Mercury model
83. "In My Lifetime" singer from 98-Across
87. Mennonite stand-up comedian from 98-Across

90. "That's it!"
91. Dewy
92. "Woe is me!"
94. "Cinderella Man" boxer
95. Mayor of 98-Across
98. Where you belong
103. Descendant of Dutch colonists in South Africa
104. "\_\_\_-daisy!"
105. Running gait
106. Strand, as during a blizzard
107. "Absolutely"
108. Summerside's province: Abbr.
109. Works on a quilt
110. Became less stressful

## DOWN

1. Quarterback Manning
2. Do better than a bogey
3. \_\_\_-des-Chênes, MB
4. Hors d'oeuvre
5. Stockholm residents
6. "Blame It on the Bossa Nova" singer Eydie
7. Semi-soft Canadian cheese
8. Coating for 7-Down
9. Febreze targets, in the States
10. "Be quiet!"
11. Noble domain

12. Friendly
13. Singer Carly \_\_\_ Jepsen
14. Took \_\_\_ (tossed back)
15. Jigsaw puzzle part
16. Shoot a close-up
19. Where many "SNL" cast members got their start
22. Hoedown participant
24. On \_\_\_ (without a contractual commitment)
27. Drop off for a bit
30. Gold chenille stems, for an angel costume
31. Green science: Abbr.
32. Fitted with footwear
33. Metal fastener found in aircraft construction
35. Picking out of a lineup
36. La-Z-Boy product
39. "\_\_\_ Majesty" (last song on "Abbey Road")
42. "Metamorphoses" poet
43. "The Ghost and Mrs. \_\_\_" (1947 film)
45. Exude, as confidence
46. "Joyeux \_\_\_!"
47. Whirlpool
49. Got dewy
50. Cubic puzzle inventor
51. Took to excess, with "on"
52. Diamond stat
53. Large spread
56. Quite comfy
57. Letters on some Soviet Olympic jerseys
58. Enticement
59. "Gotcha"
60. Plant with fronds
61. Kerfuffle
62. Charged particles
64. "It's out of the question"
65. Sign seen at televised games
68. Justifies
69. Phenom
70. Jessica of "Fantastic Four"
71. "\_\_\_ be all right"
72. Soup veggie
74. Admitted (to)
75. Key in incorrectly
79. Daybreak
80. Castor or Olive, of comics
81. Blues rock guitarist \_\_\_ Ray Vaughan
82. Second-largest continent
83. Doorway sides
84. "Such a joker!"
85. Less available
86. Clumpy, like makeup
88. Assists in a crime
89. Work on the road
93. Colt's father
96. Mining find
97. CBS series dealing with forensics
99. Wedding words
100. "\_\_\_ Misérables"
101. Ball position, on a fairway
102. Finish off

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*If you are new to Niverville  
or have been here a while...*

In 2016, 338 acres was annexed from the RM of Hanover, of which 180 acres was for the new business park. To date, 17 lots in Phase One have been spoken for, and Phase Two planning has begun. Business growth means more local jobs for residents.

In 2017 an economic development strategy was established to focus on bringing business to Niverville.

In 2017 the Business Incentive Grant or "B.I.G." was established to assist new businesses and existing businesses who are expanding with tax relief. This is part of council's strategy for attracting new business to Niverville.

In 2017 and 2018 Main Street has experienced a good deal of construction as existing businesses have expanded and an office building has been built. This economic growth has provided more services and jobs for residents of Niverville and is making Niverville more of an economic centre.

This month, the Town of Niverville is a gold sponsor for the Lean Manufacturing Conference in Winnipeg. Members of Council and the business community have spent time working together creating the Town of Niverville booth to promote our Town to potential manufacturers.

### QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

Your Council is available to answer your questions and hear your comments. To reach specific Council members please find our emails here:  
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12:30pm to 2:00pm | Funds will be allocated to the purchase of extraction hand tools



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& SONS (1993)**



**STORE HOURS:**  
MON, TUES & FRI: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
WEDS & THURS: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
SAT: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. **NEW EXTENDED HOURS**

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