

The Citizen

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NOVEMBER 2019

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LOCAL NEWS

Liberals Return to Ottawa with a Minority Government

■ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has won a second term, this time with a minority government. Locally, Conservative Ted Falk won a landslide victory in Provencher.

Details on Pages 3-4

LOCAL NEWS

Chicken Chef Under New Ownership

■ Niverville's Chicken Chef has new owners—and they are bringing some fresh new ideas to the table.

Details on Page 14

SPORTS & REC

Panthers Earn Soccer Consolation Trophy

■ The Niverville High School soccer team came home from provincials this month with the school's very first sports trophy.

Details on Page 20

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Local Farmer Featured in New Documentary

■ In spring, Colleen Dyck of Niverville travelled to Kenya to take part in a documentary by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

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The Retail Cannabis Debate

»» DETAILS ON PAGE 17

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NOTICE OF PLEBISCITE ON THE LOCAL RETAIL SALE OF CANNABIS

Notice is hereby given that a vote of the Town of Niverville will be taken to determine whether the retail sale of cannabis will be permitted within the municipality. Voters will be asked the following question:

Should licensed retail cannabis stores be allowed in Niverville?

- ☐ Yes, they should be allowed.
☐ No, they should not be allowed.

* Non-resident property owners are not entitled to vote in the plebiscite.

VOTING PLACE

Location for voting will be at the Town Administration Office, 329 Bronstone Drive, Niverville, North East Entrance on **Tuesday, November 26, 2019** between **8:00 a.m.** and **8:00 p.m.**

IDENTIFICATION MAY BE REQUIRED BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO VOTE.

A person may be required to produce one piece of government issued photo identification (for example - driver's license or passport) or at least two other documents that provide proof of identity.

ADVANCE VOTING

For the purpose of accommodating persons who are qualified to vote, but who have reason to believe that they may be absent or otherwise unable to attend their proper voting place on plebiscite voting day, an advance voting opportunity will be located at the Town

Administration Office, 329 Bronstone Drive, Niverville, North East Entrance, and will be open on **Monday, November 18, 2019** between **8:00 a.m.** and **8:00 p.m.**

MOBILE VOTING

For the purpose of accommodating persons who are qualified to vote, but reside either in a personal care home or senior facility, a mobile voting station will be set up at the following locations on **Wednesday, November 20, 2019.**

1. Niverville Heritage Personal Care Home | **9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**
2. Niverville Credit Union Manor (lobby) | **1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

APPLICATION TO VOTE BY SEALED ENVELOPE

A voter who is unable to go in person to the voting place or vote in advance, may apply in person or in writing to the Senior Election Official at the Town Administration Office, 329 Bronstone Drive, Box 267, Niverville, Manitoba R0A 1E0 or by fax at (204) 388-6110.

If applying in person, a voter may apply between **October 29, 2019** and **November 23, 2019**. A voter applying in person may pick up a sealed envelope ballot package at the time of application.

If applying by mail or fax, a voter may apply between **October 12, 2019** and **November 23, 2019**. A voter applying by mail or fax will receive a sealed envelope ballot package by regular post, or by making alternate arrangements with the Senior Election Official.

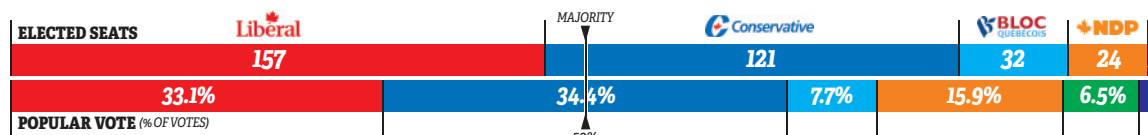
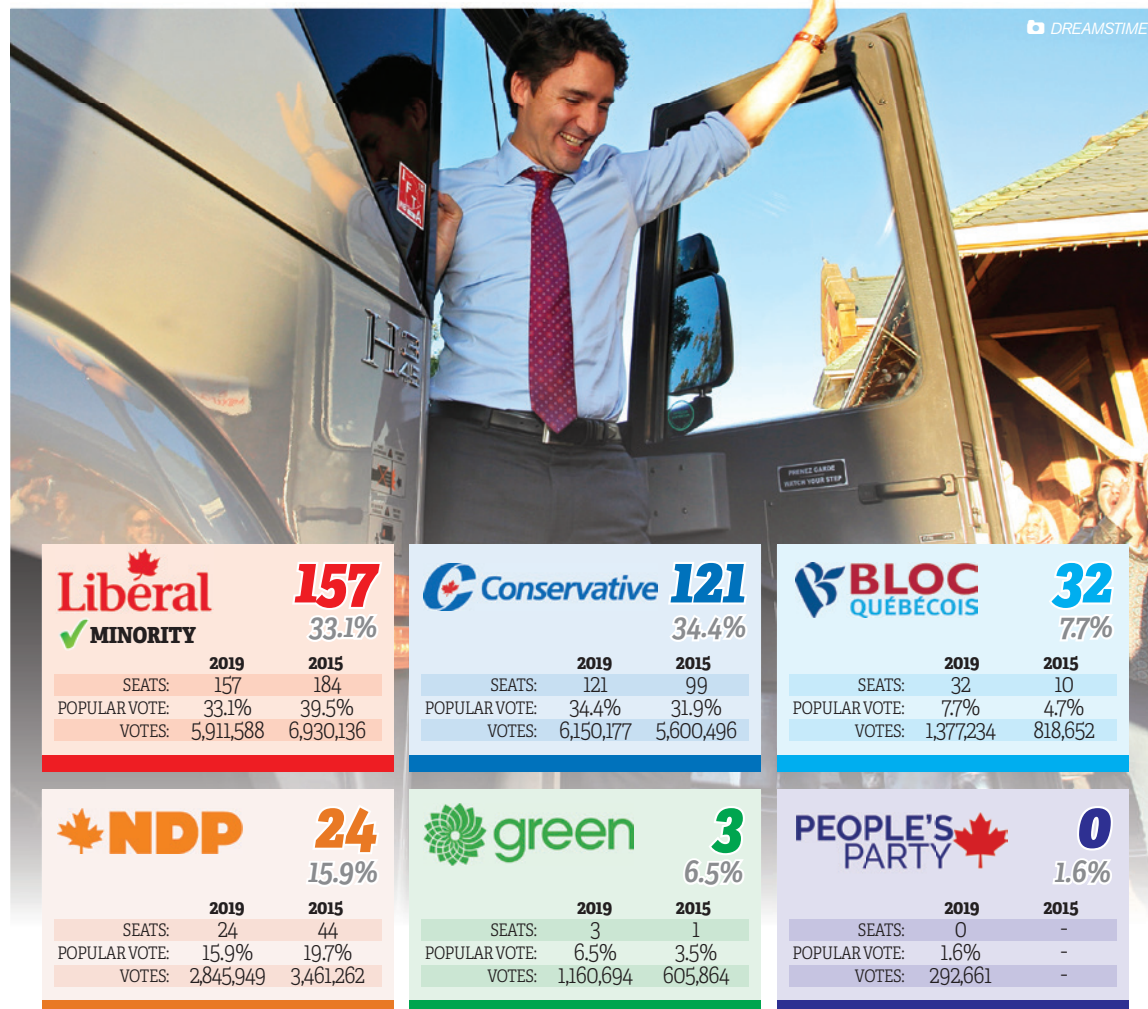
Audrey Neufeld

Senior Election Official | Town of Niverville

Audrey.Neufeld@whereyoubelong.ca | 204-388-4600 ext. 102

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Liberals to Form Minority Federal Government



EVAN
BRAUN

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Canada has elected a new federal government. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will return to Ottawa for a second term, this time leading a minority government.

The final seat tally has the Liberals with 157 seats, the Conservatives in second place with 121, the Bloc Quebecois with 32 seats, the NDP with 24 seats, and the Greens with 3 seats. Former Liberal cabinet minister Jody Wilson-Raybould beat the odds to win her B.C. riding as an Independent, a rare feat in Canadian politics.

To form a majority government, one of the parties would have needed to earn at least 170 seats.

The nascent People's Party was shut out of the seat count, leaving the future of that party uncertain.

Its leader, Maxine Bernier, a former Conservative cabinet minister who had previously lost to Andrew Scheer in the Conservative leadership race, lost his Quebec seat by more than 6,000 votes.

Locally, the result in Provencher favoured the Conservatives. Ted Falk has been elected for a third term with 31,588 votes, which accounts for 65.8 percent of the vote. He was trailed by Trevor Kirczenow of the Liberals (6,254 votes, 13 percent), Erin McGee of the NDP (6,093 votes, 12.7 percent), Janine Gibson of the Greens (2,930 votes, 6.1 percent), and Wayne Sturby of the People's Party (1,158 votes, 2.4 percent).

The local voter turnout was 69.6 percent, somewhat higher than the national turnout of 66 percent.

An interesting and perhaps controversial artefact of Canada's first-past-the-post electoral system is that although the Liberals won

the most seats, the Conservatives came out ahead in the popular vote nationwide by approximately 250,000 votes, largely on the strength of their vote share in the western provinces, where they ran up huge margins of victory.

This is far from the first time in history that the party forming government is not the same party who won the popular vote, although it hasn't happened in 40 years. This is the fourth Canadian election where that occurred, most recently in 1979 when Joe Clark of the Progressive Conservatives became Prime Minister despite losing the popular vote. The same scenario played out in 1957 and 1926.

Looking at the electoral map more broadly, the results of the election has been said to amplify some sharp regional differences across the country.

(continued on page 4)

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The Citizen

Box 266, Niverville, MB R0A 1E0
www.nivervillecitizen.com

Managing Editor:
Evan Braun

Sales Manager:
Ray Dowse

Operations Manager:
Cara Dowse

Design/Production Manager:
Dustin Krahn

Contributors:
Evan Braun, Brenda Sawatzky, Greg Fehr,
Gabrielle Taylor, Crystal Isaak,
Roger Armbruster, Dan Hoepfner,
Mattea Jones

CONTACT US

Letters to the Editor:
editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Advertising Sales:
sales@nivervillecitizen.com

Classifieds/General Information:
info@nivervillecitizen.com

Artwork/Ad Proofs/Graphics:
ads@nivervillecitizen.com

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IN BRIEF

Helping Hands Getting Ready for Christmas Hampers

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

As part of their effort to distribute Christmas hampers, Niverville Helping Hands is collecting children's toys for the holiday season.

The toy drive will begin on November 12 and continue until December 1. Donation boxes will be set up at the Niverville Credit Union, Wm. Dyck's, Chicken Chef, and the Great Canadian Dollar Store. In New Bothwell, donations can be dropped off at Bothwell Christian Fellowship and New B's Cafe. Families needing a hamper can make a request by visiting the website.

"The Christmas season may be filled with friends and family, joy and celebrations," says Sandra Trinkies, Helping Hands' Christmas Coordinator. "Often that includes lavish meals and gifts. There are families in our community who want to celebrate this way, but financially they do not have the means for gifts and turkey or ham dinners. Through the generosity of our community, Niverville Helping Hands has an opportunity to share these blessings with those in need, and can help us as volunteers feel the Christmas Spirit in the process."

Trinkies says that Helping Hands distributed hampers to 59 families in the local area last year.

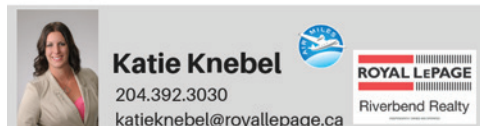
FOR MORE INFORMATION

- www.nivervillehelpinghands.org
- For those wishing to sponsor a hamper, contact sandra@nivervillehelpinghands.org.

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Katie Knebel

204.392.3030

katieknebel@royallepage.ca



ROYAL LEPAGE
Riverbend Realty

(continued from page 3)

Notably, the Liberals will no longer have any representation in either Alberta or Saskatchewan when they return to the House of Commons. Also, the resurgence of the Bloc Quebecois in Quebec resulted in the decimation of the NDP there and greatly cut into Conservative support in that province.

With a minority government, time will tell how the Liberals intend to govern. It is certain that the Liberals will find themselves partnering with other parties in order to pass legislation, although in the days after the election Trudeau has said there are no plans at this time for a formal coalition with opposition parties such as the NDP or the Bloc.

TED FALK WINS LANDSLIDE

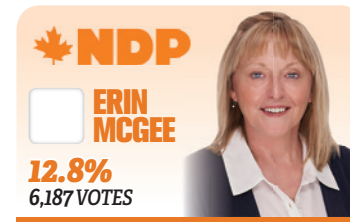
Not only did Ted Falk win re-election in a landslide, but he increased his vote share this election by about 10 percent.

"I was very pleased with our campaign," says Falk. "We had a clear and consistent message about affordability that clearly resonated with Provencher voters. I have a great staff team and our volunteers are second to none. Everybody worked so hard for this victory... I still think Andrew Scheer would make a great Prime Minister. We'll see what happens with the party and leadership moving forward."

Falk adds that it's disappointing the Conservatives won't form government, despite winning the popular vote and picking up of 22 seats.

"We'll continue to work hard to hold the Liberals to account," he adds. "I have always thought that an NDP government would be worse than a Liberal one, and I think now, in this minority situation, we're going to see some sort of coalition between the two to pass legislation. We're going to do everything in our power to block the kind of irresponsible legislation that I expect we'll see from that sort of arrangement. We'll keep working hard to help Canadians keep more money in their pocket and help Canadians to get ahead."

Falk is pessimistic about the



prospects of being able to work with the Liberals on big-picture projects like pipelines and fixing Canada's trade relationship with China.

"With the NDP holding the balance of power, I wouldn't hold your breath," he says. "That said, I think we've shown in the past four years that, despite our differences, we can still get things done for our constituents. I've worked with the government on a variety of issues to help constituents here in Provencher. For example, I worked with former Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale to help keep border crossings open for our border communities. We also continue to work with the government and telecom providers to bring in infrastructure dollars, particularly for rural broadband and cell service."

LIBERAL CANDIDATE REFLECTS ON CAMPAIGN

In Provencher, Falk was opposed by Liberal candidate Trevor Kirczenow, who came in second place, narrowly edging out the NDP's Erin McGee.

"It was my first time running, and I learned a lot," Kirczenow

says of the experience, noting that it was a great opportunity to connect with so many constituents. "Of course, any person who puts their name on the ballot hopes to win, and I did not achieve that, but I had other important goals as well. I engaged in meaningful political conversations in Provencher, and I gave progressive voters a serious choice."

In particular, Kirczenow doesn't believe that so-called "safe seats" like Provencher, which has reliably elected Conservative Members of Parliament for decades, are healthy for Canadian democracy.

"There needs to be lively debate, and I know I contributed to that!" he adds. "There were many voters from diverse backgrounds who reached out to me to say that they appreciated my visibility as the Liberal Party's first-ever openly transgender candidate, running against an incumbent who refuses to stand with our LGBTQ2S community."

Kirczenow points out that while the Conservatives won the local vote, a majority of Canadians voted for progressive candidates. Because of that, he

anticipates that despite the Liberals presiding over a minority government, his party will have plenty of allies.

"Most Canadians voted for a progressive choice—Liberal, NDP, and Green. Most Canadians voted for a party that prioritizes protecting our environment. There are enough similarities in those platforms that I believe the Liberal Party will be able to get some great work done."

WESTERN ANXIETIES

Both Falk and Kirczenow express concern about the gap in representation that has resulted from the Liberals winning so few seats in western Canada, and no seats at all in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

"Conservative leader Andrew Scheer has already stated that he aims to take down the minority government, which I fear could exacerbate the divide between the rural prairies and other parts of the country," Kirczenow says. "I think it would be good to try first and see what can be accomplished together, rather than opposing the new government simply for the sake of opposing it. Prime Minister Trudeau... will need to listen to and communicate with constituents in these areas despite not having any Liberal or NDP MPs here, which will be a challenge."

In the days following the election, there have already been renewed rumblings of western separation from grassroots Conservative voters in western Canada who feel their voices are consistently not being heard by Ottawa.

"I certainly understand and share the frustration of many western voters," says Falk. "That said, threatening to walk out is not the right way to fix a broken relationship. We need both sides to be willing to talk and work together to move Canada forward in unity. I do hope that the overwhelming rejection of Justin Trudeau and the Liberals by western voters will make them sit up and take notice. Again, I'm not holding my breath with this Prime Minister, but I know the Conservative Party will work hard to make sure western views and values are given a voice in Parliament."



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CITIZEN POLL

In the aftermath of the federal election, do you sympathize for renewed calls for Canada's west to consider separating from the east?

- ☐ Yes. The rest of Canada doesn't seem to care about or respond to the concerns of western voters.
- ☐ No. Despite this country's great diversity, a unified Canada will be better equipped in the long run to respond to shared challenges.
- ☐ Have another opinion? Share your thoughts in a comment online.



CLOSER LOOK: For more analysis of this subject, read "The Stability (and Instability) of Confederation" on page 16.

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LAST MONTH'S RESULTS:

Are you concerned about Provencher's lack of political competitiveness?

Yes.	No.
62%	38%

YOUR COMMENTS:

No, I am not in the least bit concerned about this. There is a definite right and wrong answer in politics. This electorate knows that and it has made the right choice many times. It hasn't been led astray or bought off like many other ones across Canada.

-Gordon Löwenberger

I do not care if the riding is "competitive" or not. Frankly, it is, and the Party that wins is the party that best represents the views of the people. Thankfully, when voting time comes around, most people in Western Canada make the right decision. By trying to interfere in the democratic process of an election, an unfair advantage is being giving, all for furthering the political views of a minority. This is not acceptable, and it is ridiculous that the subject could even arise. Mr. Falk, you have my vote!

-A.Q. Rogulzinski

A competitive spirit only creates division, and an "us" vs. "them" paradigm where we do not respect other people as fellow human beings if they believe differently from us. The important thing is that every individual citizen who is 18 years and older be given one vote and one voice, and if the overwhelming majority of the citizenship in a given riding favor one particular candidate, why would we have a problem with that if we truly respect the freedom of every citizen to choose their beliefs?

I am more troubled by the fact that even though outstanding Members of Parliament like our present MP will respect the law of the land regarding abortion, that there are sinister forces at work which would want to deny him the right to his personal conscientious beliefs on abortion, even though the vast majority of Provencher residents agree with him. For the state to dictate private and personal belief is a concerning trend that was characteristic of the great dictatorships, and not the great democracies.

Belief, at any level, is what one holds precious in their interior world, and no state government has the moral right to dictate one's beliefs, even our elected Members of Parliament.

People in Canada are tired of politicians who do not represent the majority views of their constituents and their personal conscience, on the one hand, and they are opposed to the partisan party system which whips the vote on how our elected representatives vote, on the one hand, so why, in the interests of integrity and honesty, would we not vote for the candidate that best represents our values and beliefs.

I stay really well informed regarding news and politics, and it is frustrating that no matter how I vote, my vote won't really matter. I'd like to see at least one other party put some effort in.

I am deeply concerned about this. I believe that many in Niverville are voting "as we always have". That prevents progress and does not give the winning candidate much incentive to improve.

I think Steinbach should be their own riding. I believe they sway the vote their direction with their large population. Provencher is a really big area with different communities.

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The new underground waste receptacles along Old Drovers Run in Niverville.

CARA DOWSE

Underground Garbage Bins a Better Waste Solution

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

A local developer, Ray Dowse of Westside Properties Inc., has collaborated with a local company, Bristol Hauling, to bring an innovative new waste collection method to Niverville: underground waste receptacles.

Dowse says that he takes great pride in the aesthetic appearance of his commercial properties, so much so that even waste collection isn't something to be taken for granted. The new receptacles have been installed along Drovers Run on the west end of Niverville.

"We wanted a solution that would be appealing for the long term," says Dowse. "Many times, the typical steel bins seen at residential or commercial developments become beaten up or they don't have sufficient capacity and tenants begin to pile garbage or recycling on the outside of bins. Many development owners using typical steel bins will build an enclosure around them for aesthetics. However, over time the enclosures begin to look worn as well."

He says that the ownership group behind Westside Properties Inc. prides itself on developing properties that are both functional and have aesthetic appeal—and the

businesses that set up shop on their land appreciate the same attention to detail.

The new Durabac underground bins are great options for reasons beyond just curb appeal, though. Their increased capacity means it takes longer to fill them, saving developers money in terms of the frequency of waste pickup. While a regular dumpster typically holds six cubic yards of waste, these underground bins hold up to eight cubic yards.

As well, odours are kept at bay because temperatures beneath the ground are lower, causing slower bacterial growth.

Another big benefit for Dowse was that the underground bins allow for more parking spaces.

"All developments, residential and commercial, require a certain number of parking stalls in their site plan," Dowse says. "We take up less parking stalls in the development by using these units compared to having more of the standard bins at the site."

Emanuel Toews of Bristol Hauling is equally excited to try out these new bins for the first time in his waste pickup area. An added bonus for his company is that Bristol's garbage trucks don't need to be retrofitted to make use of them.

"This is an idea we found," says Toews. "We just want to create more options for our customers, so this is one way that we're expanding our service offerings."

Toews says the bins can be used for both landfill waste and recyclable materials. The upper lid lifts for easy dumping by Bristol Hauling. The attractively designed aboveground portion of the bin provides side-door access to users which can be locked after hours.

The bin, though, comes with a steeper price tag than your typical dumpster, since it requires a hole to be dug and a concrete sleeve inserted to prevent toxins from seeping into the ground.

Still, Toews says, these types of bins are gaining in popularity with developers in Winnipeg and Steinbach.

"We try and be ahead of the game, especially for a small company," Toews says. "We want to make [these bins] a common sight around here even though we're smaller than places like Winnipeg."

Dowse, too, would be glad to see the bins catch on all over the region.

"I'm excited to see how these perform in the years to come," Dowse says. "If this system works the way I anticipate, I will look to use them in other developments as well."



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Locals Join Strike for Climate Action

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

On Friday, September 27, thousands of young activists gathered at the steps of the Manitoba Legislature to strike for climate action. From the end of September through October, millions of people around the world, representing 185 different countries, have skipped school and work and taken to the streets.

Some Niverville residents joined in on the strike action in Winnipeg, hoping to sway political leaders to take action.

Jeffrey Bergen attended with four fellow students and his teacher, Miss Marion, of the Global Issues class at Niverville High School.

"It was one of the greatest experiences and feelings I've ever had," says Bergen. "I can't describe in words how joyful it made me to see that many people stand up for theirs and their children's future."

Learning about climate change and the potential

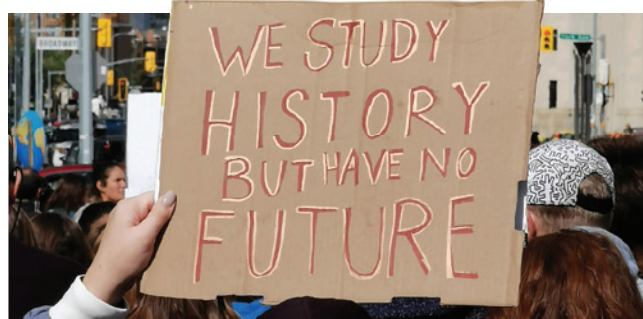
outcomes it could have on mankind's future has given him a profound desire to make a difference in his world.

"I love this planet," Bergen says. "I don't believe it's ours. I believe we are simply here to take care of it and to learn from it, and that's what... the climate [movement] is all about—to take care of this planet, respect it, love it, and don't kill it."

But there's another reason Bergen felt compelled to exercise his right to strike that day. The very next day, on September 28, Bergen took his oath of Canadian citizenship.

"[It] encouraged me to show the true Canadian within me by participating in something that I felt every Canadian should be a part of," Bergen says. "Having the privilege of living in such a beautiful and free country deserves involvement and participation from fellow Canadians."

Bryanne Koehn works in Winnipeg and decided to



Students march at the Legislature.

JEFFREY BERGEN

show her support at the strike that afternoon, too. Someday, she says, she wants to look back and know she was on the right side of history.

"I have a tremendous amount of hope in the youth of today," Koehn says. "They play an imperative role because they are young enough to be passionate, they commit wholeheartedly, and just give a damn while still being mature enough to be aware of what's going on globally."

As well, she says, they aren't constricted by bills, debt, or responsibilities, leaving them free to follow their

minds and hearts.

As a mother of two, Koehn worries for her children's future and admits she has friends who have chosen not to become parents because of the uncertainty that lies ahead in the face of a climate crisis.

While apathy towards the climate crisis may be a large part of the issue, Koehn says the energy and passion she witnessed at the student strike was astounding. People of all ages and walks of life were there to support the cause.

Many carried signs to drive their point home. They said, *If you were smarter, we'd be in*

school. Another sign bore pictures of obituaries and read, *They died of old age, I will die of climate change.*

For many, climate action isn't about passion so much as logic and reason.

"The science and the facts are there," Koehn says. "Climate change doesn't give a crap about your opinion about it. It's happening. And one day our kids and our grandkids will ask us what we did to protect the only home we have."

Corporate greed and ignorance, she says, are what stand in the way of action.

"Frankly, the planet will be fine," she adds. "The earth has experienced global cooling and warming before, and it will recover. But we won't. Not because we are technologically incapable, but because the people with the most power and sway are driven by greed and ego, and prone to self-destruction. If we took all of the tools and knowledge we have today and made choices

based on scientific understanding and resources, we could do a complete 180 and heal the planet and care for everything on it."

In her own way, Koehn's been trying to practice an environmentally sustainable lifestyle. She gardens, protects pollinating insects, composts and recycles waste, finds low-emission ways to travel, conserves water, and encourages her family to do the same.

The climate strike, she says, has only buoyed her determination and reminded her of the importance of being more outspoken on the subject.

"It's easy to hide behind a keyboard or surround yourself with an echo chamber," Koehn says. "It's a lot harder to stand up for what is right in [public]. We're not your enemy. These young kids aren't your enemy. We just want to live on a healthy planet. I don't understand why some people make it their mission to fight against hope and idealism."



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IN BRIEF

Gift-Giving Program to Help Seniors Celebrate Holidays

By Gabrielle Taylor

As the 2019 holiday season approaches, the Niverville United Church pastoral care team, in partnership with Home Instead Senior Care (HISC), a senior home care service, is starting up a new program in town: Be a Santa to a Senior.

"Last year we delivered over 1000 gifts to seniors," says Julie Donaldson of HISC, adding that the program is an important one because so many seniors in our communities are becoming isolated.

Since 2013, HISC has been providing the Be a Santa to a Senior program, which creates a way for members of a community to purchase gifts for local seniors. They have delivered more than 25,000 gifts in Manitoba and look forward to sharing the tradition with Niverville.

Through the program, seniors are able to connect with younger members of their community, who in turn are given the opportunity to help care for the very people who built the towns and villages in which they live.

The program will collect

names of people who live in local senior facilities, along with a requested gift. Residents of Niverville will then be asked to collect a name and bring their gift to the Niverville United Church from December 8–10.

Cathy Neyedley of the United Church says church members will then deliver the gifts.

They encourage the local Santas to include cards and letters with the gifts, along with a description of themselves, in order to help seniors feel more included in the holidays.

"We need to remember the people who helped build our communities," says Donaldson. "It is important that we care for them."

For those wishing to take part, you can stop by Hespeler's Cookhouse & Tavern on the evenings of November 21–22 from 5:00–9:00 p.m., or at Niverville Bigway on November 23 from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., to pick a name. The value of the gift will be \$25.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email Cathy Neyedley: cneyedley@icloud.com

A Time to Remember

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Remembrance Day 2019 in Niverville will be commemorated with a ceremony at the Heritage Centre, beginning promptly at 10:00 a.m. As in previous years, the ceremony will be followed by a light lunch open to all those in attendance.

This year's ceremony pays particular attention to the seventh-fifth anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy.

In addition to serving as Master of Ceremonies, Abe Klassen will recount his recent trip to Vimy Ridge and other memorial sites in France and Belgium. He will share how

powerful it was to see these places in person and the tremendous impact it has had on him and his family.

The Niverville High School band will provide music prior to the ceremony. The event will also feature the involvement of representatives of the Niverville Scouts and Girl Guides, as well as other community youth. Cadet Riley Bruce will stand vigil during the ceremony.

Melanie Bergen will lead the musical program, with bugler Abigail Olfert and bagpiper Rod Christie performing during the Acts of Remembrance.

The local RCMP, Niverville Fire and Emergency Services, and cadets will provide

additional assistance before and during the event. Various members of government, including MLA Ron Schuler, will take part in the wreath-laying ceremony.

"It is important for us to have various members of the community taking part in this event, in particular our youth," explains Natalie Batkis, a member of the planning committee. "By involving them, our hope is that Remembrance Day becomes more connected to them in a meaningful way. Our service is open to anyone in Niverville and the surrounding communities. Our goal is to reach more and more people each year to ensure we never forget those who have served and are serving in conflicts

around the world."

The Niverville Remembrance Day ceremony has an average of 700 attendees. As the committee receives no funding from local governments, it relies heavily on the generosity of community members in order for the ceremony to continue year to year.

St. Adolphe will also host its annual Remembrance Day service, with guests gathering at 10:40 a.m. by the cenotaph at 352 Main Street. Following the service, coffee and refreshments will be served at Club Amical. The organizers also would like to remind people that this ceremony will take place outdoors, so please dress accordingly.

Niverville Autobody Expands Skyward

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

What does a growing business do when they can no longer expand outward? They go up.

Niverville Autobody has recently undertaken its third expansion since owner Ferd Klassen bought the business in 2008. This most recent expansion, he says, is an investment in his employees.

"It ultimately started because we do a lot of our own training and we have our staff meetings and different things, so we needed a place to do that," says Klassen. "I want to focus on bringing all of my employees into a group setting. We're out of space on our property, so the only other option for us was to go up."

Along with all the building expansions, so too has his



Rendering of new Niverville Autobody facade.

VON AST CONSTRUCTION

staff expanded over the last 11 years. Most recently, Klassen added a full-time estimator to his team. To accommodate an extra office on the main floor, the old lunchroom had to go.

The new second storey will provide about 600 additional square feet of space. Here, Klassen envisions adding a kitchenette, lounge furniture, and a board room large enough to accommodate his entire staff of 12.

Klassen says ongoing training is essential to keep his staff on top of changes and

new technology. To provide the best possible service to his customers means keeping his technicians at the top of their game.

As well, he adds that staff are often the ones to come up with improvements and efficiencies within the business. Put them all together in a room to brainstorm, he says, and great ideas come out of that.

"[Another] value that I see is that now I'll have a place for these employees to actually rest in comfort," Klassen

says. "They do a great deal for us and we need to make sure that they have an environment where they can take an hour and just flat-out relax... Basically, at the end of the day, we're just trying to provide the best [customer] service that we can and [happy] staff is a big part of that."

As with his previous expansions, Klassen hired Von Ast Construction to complete the build. With it comes a complete renewal of the building's façade, which will include a variety of metal, wood, acrylic, and stone features.

"There's going to be curb appeal," says Klassen, adding that curb appeal has the potential to substantially improve a business's bottom line. "The building's going to look absolutely beautiful when it's done."

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2019 Winterfest Craft Sale & Market It's almost here!

It's our fifth anniversary!

When: Saturday, November 16, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Where: Niverville Heritage Centre atrium and both ballrooms
What: 80 sellers, including nearly 30 new ones
Who: Hosted by the Niverville Chamber of Commerce.
Why: For the fun. For the value. For the location. For the variety. For your family and friends.
Cost: \$3. Kids 14 and under free. Funds raised support the activities of the Niverville Chamber of Commerce.

*From warming your head, to styling your shape,
From the coziness of your cuppa, to the bounty of your table,
From the calm of your bath, to the glitter of your dresser,
From the glow of your tree, to the welcome of your door,
From the dressing of your walls, to the tidying of your rooms,
From things that will delight you, to things that will surprise you,
From the practical to the whimsical,
It's at the Niverville Winterfest Craft Sale and Market*

For up-to-date information and a complete list of our vendors, check it out at facebook.com/nivervillewinterfest or our website niverville.com/wf. We're also on Instagram.

It's time to nominate for our business awards

The Niverville Chamber of Commerce is looking for nominations for the following business awards for 2019:

Outstanding Customer Service Award
Outstanding Business of the Year
Alex Fast Sr. Memorial Award (for community service)

Anyone can make a nomination. Those nominated do not have to be members of the chamber. Winners for 2018 cannot be nominated for the category in which they won in 2018. Self-nominations are acceptable. Businesses must have been in business for at least three years to be considered for the Business of the Year Award.

To nominate a business and for complete details on the business awards, please visit niverville.com/business-awards-nominations.

Or email the chamber at chamber@niverville.com, and we will send you the details on how to nominate.

Deadline for nominations is November 30, 2019.



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Shopping Local at Winter Markets

By Crystal Isaak

Believe it or not, the season for Christmas shopping is upon us once more. Taking part in neighbourhood events, craft sales, and markets is a great way to spread the joy and generosity of the season. When you purchase your gifts at local sales, you end up giving two gifts—one to the person on your mind and another to the vendor.

Many of these sales seek to support community initiatives, so consider shopping local this year and let your gift-giving go a little further.

SERVICE TO SENIORS CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE

Shoppers can come by the Golden Friendship Centre in Niverville on Saturday, November 9 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., check some items off their Christmas shopping list, and pick up a bowl of chili and cup of coffee in support of Niverville's Service to Seniors program.

"We have bakers, knitters, crafters, pierogi makers, barbie clothing, Avon, and Tiber River (natural household products including body care)," says organizer Damien Gagné.

He adds that the goal of the project is to "raise money to run programs like seniors game nights, healthy eating classes, and seniors outings."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ 204-388-9945
■ sts@heritagecentre.ca

HOWDEN CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE

The Howden Community Centre, at 1078 Red River Drive, is hosting its annual Fall Craft and Vendor Sale on Saturday, November 16 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Admission is free and a homemade soup lunch will be available for purchase.

"We have approximately 25 different vendors registered," says Kim Glowach, co-organizer of the sale. "For being a small community centre, we have had a great turnout the last



Shoppers at last year's Winterfest Craft Sale.

JOEY VILLANUEVA

two years. We are hoping for a larger turnout this year! We offer a hot lunch and coffee and baking by donation. All donations go back into the hall to help with improvements to the hall and the community."

Glowach adds that the hall is supported through events like this sale, donations, and the proceeds of facility rentals.

"The hall is a main staple within our community since 1953," she says. "It was originally located further down Red River Drive but had to be relocated due to the 1997 flood. Since then, it has been renovated and a new addition has been added. It has become a great venue for weddings, showers, anniversaries, birthday parties, memorial services, recreation events, and family get-togethers."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ howdenc@gmail.com

NIVERVILLE WINTERFEST CRAFT SALE

The fifth Niverville Winterfest Craft Sale and Market will be held on Saturday, November 16 between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Heritage Centre. Nonperishable items will be collected for Niverville Helping Hands. Admission is \$3, with no charge for those aged 14 and under.

Last year's Winterfest hosted more than one thousand attendees in the festively decorated atrium.

All proceeds raised support the work of the Niverville Chamber of Commerce. Expect to find home

décor, sweets, clothing, and other items from the many artisans, crafters, and vendors who have signed up.

"We are once again full, with 80 crafters, artisans, and direct sellers and we have a wait list," says organizer Dawn Harris. "We have doubled in size since our first event in 2015. We have both ballrooms and the upper and lower atrium of the Heritage Centre occupied again this year. One of the great things about our event is that regardless of how many people there are, there is always lots of space for people to walk around and see the vendors. There is always something new to see. About 30 percent are new vendors every year. Our event is a great place to get into the Christmas and holiday spirit."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.facebook.com/nivervillewinterfest
■ www.niverville.com/wf

WHITETAIL MEADOW CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Whitetail Meadow Christmas Market, at the junction of Highways 311 and 200, will run on December 1 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

"There will be over 50 vendors, including artisans and commercial popups," says organizer John Falk. "Whitetail Meadow Event Centre is the perfect venue and grounds for a market like this. The old rustic barn, ponds, meadow, bridges, etc. make it a very picturesque setting. You can check out their website to get a better visual if you have never been there."

Falk says he organized a spring market in May 2018 that was so successful that customers and vendors suggested he do a Christmas market as well.

"Our Christmas Market in December 2018 was very well attended with over a thousand adults coming, not counting those under 18," he adds.

Double Take Cakes & Desserts will supply food for the café and Perk Coffee Bar will serve beverages alongside them.

"Double Take Cakes & Deserts is based out of Steinbach and offers amazing homemade food," says Falk. "Guests can enjoy [the food] at the market as well as take product home. Perk Coffee Bar is operated by Chris Ewen from Île-des-Chênes and serves lattes, etc. using Deluca's beans."

Admission to the market for adults will be \$5 while those under 18 are welcome to attend for free.

CHRISTMAS TOWN

Local families won't want to miss Christmas Town when it arrives in early December. It is hosted by the Niverville Community Resource and Recreation Centre and all proceeds go towards its development and construction.

This event is held on December 7 and will run in two timeslots, the first from 9:00–10:30 a.m. and the second from 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Tickets will be available to purchase onsite.

At Christmas Town, kids get to meet Mr. and Mrs. Clause and have

their photos taken with Santa.

"It is a great way for families to get Santa photos done without having to drive into the city," notes organizer Ester Jofre Raftis. "[Christmas Town] is the only Christmas event in town catered for the kids... kids will receive candy canes from Santa when they get their photo taken and will leave with a special gift."

Special activities will run throughout the morning, including storytime with Mrs. Clause, crafts and games stations, and letters to Santa, all of which is included in the price of admission.

There will also be a bake sale, and the committee is accepting donations of baked goods for the fundraising effort. Coffee, hot chocolate, and snacks will also be available.

Admission is \$5 per person. Families cost \$25, for a maximum of six people, and that includes one digital Santa photo. Santa photos are otherwise \$5 each (cash only please).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ Tickets are available for pre-purchase at www.friendsofniverville.org or at the Niverville municipal office. If you'd like to volunteer or donate baked goods, please contact Heather at multiplex@whereyoubelong.ca.

THE CHRISTMAS NIGHT MARKET AT WHITETAIL MEADOW

If you're looking for a 100 percent handmade artisan event this Christmas season, plan to be at the Whitetail Meadow Christmas Night Market. This evening event will be the complete experience, with live music, wine, a café, and diverse local artists and vendors. Expect to find new and unique products here as the majority of the artisans will not be at the Whitetail Meadow Christmas Market on December 1.

The Night Market will be open from 4:00–10:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 7. The event will feature Double Take Cakes & Desserts, Perk Coffee Bar, and door prizes. Admission is \$5 but attendees under 18 come enter for free.

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Saturday, December 7th 9AM-10:30AM & 11AM-12:30PM

IN BRIEF

Vintage Club Hosts Seniors Conference

On October 19, local seniors participated in the Healthy Mind, Healthy Body conference, a day-long event aimed to help them improve their overall health. The conference brought in many experts, such as RCMP officers and mental health professionals.

"Feedback received from attendees was overwhelmingly positive," says Vivian Berube, one of the organizers. "The speakers were very interesting, captivating, interactive, and informative. More than 60 seniors attended this day and said they would return again."

The event was hosted by the Vintage Club, part of the larger Ritchot Senior Services, which provides resources specific to the needs of senior residents.

The conference was inspired by a survey the club took during the last three months of 2018. Many participants noted their desire for an increase in senior education regarding their specific health needs.

"We are currently reviewing comments and suggestions made by our attendees, and we will certainly follow up on their ideas," Berube adds. "A very special thank you goes out to the RM of Ritchot, along with Southern Health Santé-Sud who provided us with the framework to make this event possible."

New Chicken Chef Owners Introduce New Ideas

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Upon meeting Chicken Chef's new owners, one can't help but feel the infectious nature of their passion and drive for this staple restaurant. The brother and sister team of Tim and Laura Mulvena, as well as Tim's brother-in-law Carl Pottinger, are more than just excited as they expand their Chicken Chef franchise ownership into Niverville.

"It'll be business as usual," says Laura, who is the onsite manager of the Niverville location. "We want to get to know everybody [in this community]."

The trio are no strangers to franchise management. Carl bought his first Chicken Chef franchise in Ashern three years ago and has since become a shareholder in three more: Lundar, Arbog, and now Niverville.

Tim is also a partner and general manager for the Arbog and Ashern locations and Laura gained her experience in franchise management through her Sage Creek Freshii store in Winnipeg.

Just one week into management, the new ownership group's wheels are already spinning with new and fresh ideas they hope to introduce.

New items will be hitting the menu in the coming weeks, including boneless wings and sweet potato fries. But that's just the beginning.

Recognizing that Niverville is quickly becoming a multicultural community, they hope to introduce new menu items that cater to different nationalities. As well, more vegetarian and gluten-free options should be available in the near future.

"We're trying to learn [the various] nationalities of people that live in town here and what people don't have in town that



Carl Pottinger, Laura Mulvena, and Tim Mulvena.

BRENDA SAWATZKY

we might be able to offer," says Tim. "There'll be something to eat for everybody... so that we'll be able to please as many people as possible."

Pending local feedback, the team would also consider licensing for beer and wine.

Along with menu changes, they're considering a new line-up of services. Delivery will likely expand very soon into rural communities not currently being served by a Chicken Chef franchise. Friday lunch buffets and student lunch deals are also being pondered.

Efficiency of service will soon be improved by providing wait staff with electronic tablets for order-taking, and they hope to introduce an online ordering system which will give customers a chance to view the full takeout menu from their mobile devices and place orders electronically.

Other services, too, have worked well for the team at different locations. Catering is one they've already built a reputation

on, and Carl says no event or size of group is out of the question.

"Catering is [something] that we're going to expand into," says Carl. "And it's not just chicken and pizza. It can be roast beef, turkey, ham, meatballs, pulled pork. We can do just about any type of item that you can think of."

As well, parents will be glad to see the introduction of kids birthday party packages, with a variety of options including the delivery of a bouncy castle so kids can be entertained and heartily fed in one fell swoop.

In the end, they say, everything they do will be about providing the best possible customer service.

"It's about building relationships," says Laura. "That's what it comes down to. You have to build a strong relationship with your staff so that they respect you and want to work for you. Also, building relationships with customers so they want to support your business. Even though we don't live in the community, we grew up in small towns so we know what it's

like."

All of the restaurant's current staff has been maintained upon takeover and they hope to continue to provide the community's youth with excellent first-job work experience in a supportive setting.

"I worked as a waitress and went to head cook [at a Chicken Chef] when I was in high school, so this brings me back to [my roots]," Laura says. "I loved waitressing."

To be a part of a community, the trio says, means giving back to the residents in tangible ways.

"At the end of the day, you can't just take [from a community] and never give something back," says Tim. "It always comes back to you."

And based on their track record in other communities, they should be good for their word. Recently, the team treated stranded motorists and Hydro workers in Ashern to free meals during an extended power outage. As well, they've been known to bring complimentary hot meals to firefighters as they battle blazes.

SAYING GOODBYE

Previous owners Shawn and Merris Dyck took care of the community's appetite for nearly 11 years prior to the sale. Merris says they hadn't officially been entertaining the idea of selling the business until they were approached by prospective buyers.

"It felt like the right time solely for the reason that we felt like we are still young enough to tackle something new," says Merris. "We also realized that, with the town growing in size again, we didn't have the energy that someone younger and with fresh eyes may have."

Merris says they learned a lot during their tenure as first-time entrepreneurs and are thankful to the community for the love and friendship that was shared with them.



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Members of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region meet with the region's indigenous chiefs.

WINNIPEG METROPOLITAN REGION

Local Leaders Take Steps Toward Reconciliation

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Two years ago, members of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region (WMR), including local mayors Myron Dyck and Chris Ewen, initiated some important first steps toward reconciliation and collaboration with the indigenous leaders of southeast Manitoba. They called it the Collaborative Leadership Initiative.

The WMR has long operated as a collective of reeves and mayors from 18 municipalities in and around Winnipeg. Their goal is to work together, providing strength in numbers, to create large-scale solutions for the entire region.

In October 2017, the leaders of the WMR began a formal process of transforming their relationship with the indigenous chiefs within the region and seeking ways to work together for the greater good.

The WMR held four sessions, facilitated by the Centre

for Indigenous Environmental Resources. Together they formed a think tank, addressing their shared social and economic concerns and discussing the complexities of protecting Manitoba's land, water, and air.

"The elected leaders have committed to a pathway forward that includes clearly defining our common interests, identifying obstacles to progress and dispelling mutual myths with the fact-based dialogue of mutual respect," reads a statement on the Collaborative Leadership Initiative's website.

On March 1, 28 chiefs and 16 mayors and reeves signed a historic Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding at the Lower Fort Garry National Historic Site, where Treaty 1 was originally signed on August 3, 1871.

"The WMR, right now, is the only [capital region] who is including the indigenous communities in our planning," Dyck says. "They live among us and yet they've been

excluded from so many [discussions] in terms of climate, water, septic and things like that."

Because of this unique collaboration, award-winning international filmmakers Denis Paquette and Carmen Henriquez from Real World Media were provided a government grant to create a documentary capturing the journey of the building of trust and collective collaboration between these indigenous and non-indigenous leaders.

"[This documentary should] provide a glimpse into the reconciliation process that must take place across all jurisdictions if we want to have real trusting relationships between our communities," reads a media advisory from the WMR.

The debut screening of the documentary will take place on March 10 at the Park Theatre.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.winnipegmetroregion.ca

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Commentary

The Stability (and Instability) of Confederation

By Greg Fehr

Since the first discussions of confederation, the diverse nature of our great nation has been both a concern and an opportunity. In the very beginning, the maritime colonies debated intensely as to whether confederation was in their best interest. Newfoundland and Labrador said no and waited until 1949 to join, and had the transcontinental railway not been completed British Columbia may have ended up quite different.

Yes, we are a diverse nation of many regions with different strengths and interests. This diversity has been—and is—our strength.

And yet it is also the source of many of our challenges.

The west has always felt used, and perhaps in some

ways rightfully so. Initially the fertile plains and forests were seen as a bread basket to fill eastern coffers. In other words, farm the west to fill the bellies and pockets of Upper Canada. Easterners manoeuvred and schemed for wealth and influence with only a cursory regard for those who called the west home.

At various points in history, this diversity has ebbed and flowed from a subtle annoyance to outright defiance. From the United Farmers of Alberta, which still runs stores in the Wild Rose province, to the “Let the Eastern Bastards Freeze” campaigns of the 1970s, the west has pushed for their rightful place.

Much like Quebec has, or the Maritimes with their fishing resources, and as the north continues to do.



DEPOSITPHOTOS

Simply put, basic economic and social principles dictate that our confederation of diverse parts is stronger in sum than it is as individual parts. Our national portfolio is less vulnerable when we combine the manufacturers of the east, the resources

of the west, the ports of the Maritimes, and the temperate climates and forests of British Columbia. As a confederation, labour has the ability to move freely through the nation, serving these various sectors as required at different times.

Is our confederation always equitable? Not at all, and don't think it ever will be. There is no equitable system, short of anarchy, where we all take what is ours and service our own needs. Taxation, confederation, and association of any sort are about pooling resources for the common good.

Is separation the answer? This is just as ridiculous an argument as Quebec separation was. While initially there may be some benefits, these would be outweighed by the challenges to follow. Not to mention, some of the benefits I've seen touted by our Wexit friends involve holding

the remaining confederation hostage. Separation, whether it be western, Quebec, or any other region, would ultimately produce two weaker nations with even more challenges than they face currently. The initial control over resources and trade negotiations would have some benefits, but the individual entities would be much more vulnerable, just as a lack of diversity in anyone's investment portfolio increases their risk.

In the east, you have entire communities devoted to a single manufacturing facility. In the west and north, entire communities are dedicated to a single resource, and sometimes a single company. While this has caused pain in times of commodity downturns and plant closures, the pain would be even more pronounced without our collective diversity offsetting it.

Our politicians, both federal and provincial, know this. And our western premiers are leveraging the current anger for political purposes. While entirely appropriate to bring up the frustrations of the western population, to foster or even remain mute on movements of separation is inappropriate. Our western leaders should be encouraging us to seek a better seat at the confederation table, not allow people to muse about leaving the table altogether.

Do the resources of the west leave us supporting the

rest of Canada? And if so, does the equalization formula require change? Canadians have conflicting views in regards to these questions, but global movements need to be considered as well. In other words, regardless of your stance on climate change, the world is preparing to transition away from oil—not only for carbon reasons, but also for the dangerous role that plastics (derived from oil and gas) play in breaking down within our environments.

What does this mean for the future of oil and gas and its impact on the Canadian economy? Quite simply, its role is changing.

When we buy insurance, we pay for stability. In years without claims, we get a “raw deal”; yet when we have to make a claim, insurance provides the cushion we need. Perhaps we need to view confederation for exactly what it is—and what it is not. It is not a perfectly balanced and fair system analyzed over the short term. But in the long term, it has and will provide stability that benefits everyone.

We are a motley collection of regions that are complementary and contradictory at the same time. Like a large family, we are bound to disagree and even fight, but as in any relationship, sacrifice and compromise must be undertaken by all parties involved.

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Niverville's Retail Cannabis Debate

On Tuesday, November 26, Niverville residents will undertake a plebiscite to decide whether retail cannabis sales should be allowed in the community. Voting will take place at the Town Administrative Office at 329 Bronstone Drive between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Residents also have the option to vote in advance at the town office on Monday, November 18. The Citizen encourages everyone to vote!

Vote No: Are We Voting for a Dispensary or a Store?

By Roger Armbruster

Some seem to have the impression that we are voting about the medical use of cannabis. In actuality, access to medical cannabis has been legally established by Health Canada since July 2001. Granted, it has been restricted to mail-order purchases from licensed providers, but prior to October 2018 this had already spurred the proliferation of cannabis dispensaries that have operated with impunity.

Physicians have long been able to prescribe medical cannabis if they feel comfortable with it, and no doctor has ever faced prosecution for prescribing medical cannabis, nor have the cannabis dispensaries been prosecuted. I support the legalizing of these dispensaries for medical purposes, but even some who have operated these dispensaries are opposed to those who are now setting up retail cannabis stores.

What is the difference between a cannabis dispensary and a cannabis store? A cannabis dispensary is a storefront operation that sells marijuana to customers who have a medical need. Most purchases require a doctor's prescription or note from a medical professional, but others are less strict.

A cannabis store, on the other hand, is oriented to the non-medical, recreational segment, and appeals to customers who want specialized products for recreational use, particularly esoteric products that appeal to youth who are in danger of getting hooked into lifelong habits. This helps the cannabis industry long-term, but it does not protect the cognitive development of those under 25.

The Town of Niverville's notice for the July 23 public hearing referred to a proposal "to allow for a retail cannabis store." Yet the cannabis advocacy signs around town tell us to vote "for the cannabis dispensary." Is this plebiscite about a dispensary for medical purposes or for a store that is oriented towards recreational purposes? The actual plebiscite question asks, "Should licensed retail cannabis stores be allowed in Niverville?"

Unfortunately, cannabis stores are not diminishing the black market in any convincing way. A year after Canada introduced the legal cannabis market, a vibrant black market for weed remains. It is not the occasional users but the heavy users who drive cannabis-market economics, and this is a major obstacle in converting illegal sales into legal ones. Heavy users will stick to the less expensive illicit, tax-free market.

Blair Longley, the leader of the Marijuana Party since 2004, does not see present legalization laws as a victory, but as far too restrictive. Big corporations now influence the legal industry, and they are going to need to listen to Blair and press for fewer and fewer restrictions if the industry is going to make a profit that can compete with the black market. This, in turn, will increase the likelihood of cannabis getting into the hands of adolescents, despite the fact that it was the original intention of the Cannabis Act to diminish these odds.

Yet the precise legal status of cannabis is less important than the public understanding of both the benefits and risks. Some have assumed that because recreational pot is now legal in Canada, licensing a cannabis store should be as routine as licensing a shoe store or a gift shop.

This totally ignores the flaws of the present law in view of the neurotoxic effects of recreational cannabis on the developing brain for those under 25, and particularly for those who are under 21. Other jurisdictions, like Colorado, had the foresight to make 21 the legal age for pot consumption. In Canada, we have made 18 the legal age. This leaves a growing generation increasingly vulnerable.

Clearly, medical marijuana has relieved medical patients from troubling symptoms, but there's a big difference between people who use cannabis medically, when they are actually suffering or are handicapped, and those who use the drug recreationally without regard to the risks of impairment in cognitive functioning.

I do not at all dispute that occasional use of marijuana by people over 25 is generally safe. Of concern, however, is the fact that casual use of cannabis has risen only moderately over the last decade while heavy use has soared dramatically among those under 25. The Canadian Medical Association notes that youth and young adults are among the highest

users of cannabis. From a health perspective, the focus needs to be on protecting the developing brain of adolescents and young adults.

To get to the root of social alienation between the generations, we need loving family environments that children will not need to heal from. There is no substitute for spending quality time with others until heart-to-heart connections take place. I am learning that with patient love, even FAS children can build new pathways in their brain.

There is a vacuum in every personality that needs to be filled with something beyond any material or impersonal substance. The opposite to addiction is connection. We need more connection and loving relationships that can heal human brokenness and social alienation.

Regardless of the outcome of this plebiscite, let's all pull together for Niverville, and make staying connected as a vibrant community with strong families our most important vote!

Vote Yes: It's Not About Cannabis

By Citizens for a Progressive Niverville

When we, as citizens in support of a progressive Niverville, were approached to write this article we had to remind ourselves how and why this whole thing started.

When the federal government legalized cannabis in Canada, each province and subsequent city, town, and municipality was asked to make a decision to allow cannabis sales in their respective jurisdictions. The Province of Manitoba and Niverville both agreed to allow cannabis sales.

Subsequent to those decisions, a cannabis retailer, Canna Cabana, was selected to potentially operate in Niverville. Following due course, they selected a location that met all of the provincial and municipal requirements to operate in our community.

However, when it came time to approve their conditional use application, a group of local anti-cannabis lobbyists attended the "conditional use" hearing, turning it into a "legitimacy of cannabis" hearing.

Despite the largely one-sided lobby and a few inconsequential questions that Canna Cabana

needed to take away to clarify, town council decided to proceed with their vote. Nathan Dueck forwarded a motion to accept the retail cannabis application and Chris Wiebe seconded it. However, John Funk and Kevin Stott voted against it, resulting in a tie. Mayor Myron Dyck broke the tie by voting no, and as a result the conditional use application was denied.

Council could have tabled the vote to allow Canna Cabana to go back and clarify those questions that remained outstanding, allowing council to further consider the information that had been presented by the anti-cannabis lobby so as to properly represent the best interest of the entire community, not just those who had attended in opposition.

When the details surrounding the conditional use hearing spread and local media picked up the story, town council decided to distance themselves from their original decision to allow cannabis sales. Instead they voted in favour of holding a plebiscite.

The plebiscite was motioned by John Funk and seconded by Kevin Stott. Nathan Dueck and Chris Wiebe voted against it, once again resulting in a tie. Myron Dyck voted for the plebiscite, breaking the tie.

The mayor defended his decision to allow this matter to go to a plebiscite by suggesting it is in the best interests of the community to allow the people make this decision themselves—a position that our group disagrees with. By allowing this matter to be decided via plebiscite, council has inadvertently created the very divide in our community that we are discussing here.

Our position on this matter remains the same: this is a legal business wishing to operate in our community and working with the town to meet the requirements to open for business.

This is good for our community, as it allows us to be seen as progressive and committed to economic growth. Our community has struggled for years to grow the business community and tax base and now it would appear we are doing everything we can to turn legitimate businesses away.

There has been much discussion about the economic benefits of a cannabis dispensary in Niverville. It's important to clarify here that this is not about a new building or

new property taxes, since it is most likely that a cannabis dispensary will assume tenancy of an existing building.

This is also not about the economic sustainability of a cannabis dispensary in Niverville. Business owners are responsible for analyzing and accepting the risk of opening their business. We as a community cannot make decisions to allow businesses to operate in our community based on whether we think they will be successful.

The real benefits are about the economic spinoffs. A cannabis dispensary in Niverville would serve all of southern Manitoba. When customers arrive, we can expect that they will also buy a coffee, grab some lunch, play a round of golf, get some gas, pick up groceries, renew their insurance, and maybe even drive around town and say, "Wow! This looks like a great place to live. Let's move here."

We wish we could just leave it there, focusing on the economics of a new legal business opening here. Unfortunately, there is a group of individuals in our community who morally disagree despite federal legalization and the existence of very stringent laws that have been put in place to monitor and regulate cannabis dispensaries.

So as a group, we have been forced to pivot and focus less on the economic benefits and almost entirely on educating the community as a whole in response to the misinformation that is currently being shared. In response to this misinformation, we have created a website, www.supportniverville.com, to educate our community.

In conclusion, the truth about cannabis is clear and the information is accessible to everyone who wishes to be informed. Whether we have a cannabis dispensary in Niverville will not stop residents from having access to legal product. Our hope is that our community will say Yes so that we can create greater access for those in Niverville and the surrounding communities and take advantage of the economic benefits.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ The Citizens for a Progressive Niverville group invites you to visit their website, www.supportniverville.com, to learn more about cannabis and the plebiscite vote in our community on November 26.

Sports & Recreation



Carly Loeppky, Coach Mel Hall, and Brianna Ginter.

HEATHER WALLACE

Tribute to a Ringette Coach

By Evan Braun

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

A new year has begun for the Red River Rage, the local ringette club which has seven teams competing this year. All of the teams play out of the arenas in Niverville and Ste. Agathe, but the players come from such communities as Niverville, St. Adolphe, Morris, and St. Jean. The Rage has teams for girls of all ages, from beginners to those who are in their late teens.

The first major tournament of the season will take place in Brandon in November, with approximately 80 players making the trip out west.

"Many of us are still trying to decide if we're going for the ringette or just the fun of hanging in the hotel with our club," says Heather Wallace,

a member of the Rage board.

At this early point in the season, the Rage don't have much to report when it comes to games and standings. However, the club wants to take the opportunity to single out one of its many valuable coaches for special recognition: Melanie Hall.

Hall has been a part of Rage ringette for almost ten years, and she has been coaching some players of her U16 team since they were Bunnies (five years old).

"Mel gives selflessly year after year, always willing to lend a hand," says Wallace. "She has made a huge impact on not only her girls but their parents, grandparents, other coaches, as well as many members on the Rage board as they see her smile on the ice each new season."

Two words that describe Hall, according to Wallace, are devoted and caring.

"Coach Mel continued to coach her girls even without her daughter being on the team," says the parent of one of the players. "I'm sure she made some sacrifices and we appreciate her dedication. When Mel coaches, she exudes a love of ringette that permeates the entire team. Being patient, organized, and challenging are just a few of her strengths that we admire and appreciate."

The players on Hall's team are just as effusive in their praise.

"Coach Mel is encouraging, and even if we lose a game she always says it's okay, that we will just work on getting better," says Nyah.

Another player, Tierzah

adds, "Coach Mel pushes us to do our best. She never talks down to us and she makes playing ringette fun!"

Members of the entire club say they are grateful for the amount of time Hall has put into the program over the years, pointing out that her efforts in the sport of ringette will have a lasting impact on many local players—and their communities—for years to come.

"Coach Mel has given these girls a love for the game of ringette," says another parent. "She has taught her players the fundamentals of the game, but more importantly she's instilled in these girls the virtues of teamwork and to always try your best. She has helped develop these girls into confident young ladies."

IN BRIEF

Local Players Make the Roster of Eastman Hockey Teams

By Evan Braun

editor@nivervillecitizen.com

After four gruelling weeks of tryouts, the Eastman Selects have announced the rosters for their 2019–2020 hockey season.

The Eastman teams are regional in scope, providing the most talented young players across southeastern Manitoba the opportunity to train at a higher level than many local minor hockey organizations may be able to provide. They also give players a chance to match skills against other regional teams.

In addition to the privilege of competing at the highest level of hockey for their age groups, earning spots on these teams requires great commitment from both the players and their families. The Eastman teams meet three to four times per week during the season for practices and games.

Competition is fierce for roster spots. On average, more than 70 kids try out for each age group, with only about 17 players making each roster.

At the PeeWee level (for ages 11 and 12), three local players made their teams, including Ben Doan of Ste. Agathe, Calyb Moore of St. Adolphe, and Max Dowse of Niverville. The PeeWee team trains and plays all its home games in St. Adolphe.

At the Female Bantam level (for ages 13 and 14), the roster includes Ginger Fast and Mia Jones of Niverville, and Hailey Claydon of Ste. Agathe.

At the U18 level, six local players made the team, including Denis Gagnon of Ste. Agathe, Matthew Egan of St. Adolphe, Hayden Fast of Niverville, and Michael Svenson, Cole St. Laurent, and Brody Beauchemin of Île-des-Chênes.

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Marc Palud, President of the Ritchot Regional Chamber of Commerce and Maranda Rosko, Member Relations and Membership Representative for the Ritchot Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Updates from the Ritchot Chamber

Announcement - New Staff

The Ritchot Regional Chamber of Commerce would like to introduce our new Member Relations and Membership Representative, Maranda Rosko. Maranda has worked in this region most of her life, growing up around family members that owned and operated several local businesses. She is also a partner in a local business called PERK Events and is currently working with the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region, which represents 18 municipalities and supports regional economic development efforts and initiatives. "I am looking forward to working with and meeting our local business owners, entrepreneurs and leaders so I can do my part in helping them grow and succeed," says Maranda on her new position.

New Chamber Website Coming Soon

The Ritchot Regional Chamber of Commerce is currently working on a new website. For the time being, please go to our Facebook Page for the latest Chamber info. Facebook.com/RitchotChamberOfCommerce. If you want to take a sneak peek at our new website, go to www.RSTChamber.com.

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IN BRIEF



Connor Hellebuyck.

JIM MAHONEY

Jets Fans, It's Time to Embrace the Chaos

By Dan Hoepfner

This year's Winnipeg Jets are consistently inconsistent. They have played some good hockey and some bad hockey in their first 12 games, where they went 6-6-0, ranking twenty-first in the NHL.

On any given night, it's hard for fans to predict which version of the Jets will show up.

Will it be the version that shut out Connor McDavid and the Edmonton Oilers in their best defensive game of the season?

Or will it be the version that let the L.A. Kings skate virtual circles around them the very next game in arguably their worst defensive game of the season?

2019 HERITAGE CLASSIC

The 2019 Heritage Classic was played on Saturday, October 26 at Mosaic Stadium in Regina with more than 33,000 fans in attendance. As a lifelong Blue Bombers fan, it pains me to commend Saskatchewan, but I must tip my hat to the city of Regina, the event organizers, the players, and the fans in attendance.

"It was great," said Bryan Little when he was asked to summarize the experience after having missed the 2016 Heritage Classic due to an injury. "It was definitely frustrating last time to watch from the sidelines and not getting to experience it.

I had this one circled on the calendar and it definitely lived up to everything."

On the ice, it was Calgary Flames forward Elias Lindholm who opened the scoring in the second period with a controversial power play goal. Late in the third period, Winnipeg answered with a power play goal of their own when Josh Morrissey found the back of the net.

The game ended in overtime when Bryan Little scored after a nifty pass from Kyle Connor to win the game 2-1.

CONNOR HELLEBUYCK BRILLIANCE

Connor Hellebuyck has saved 93.3 percent of shots against, the third best save percentage in the league. Although the save percentage is usually more of an indication of how the team is playing than the goalie, Hellebuyck is the exception and is performing well despite the inconsistent play from his smaller and inexperienced defence.

The Jets have played enough good hockey in the first 12 games to provide fans with hope. If the defence can reduce some of the chaos from their inexperience, and if Connor Hellebuyck can continue his strong play, the Jets may be able to squeak into the playoffs.

Buckle up, Jets fans. This rollercoaster of a season is just beginning.



Niverville High School's soccer team at Provincials in Minnedosa.

DWAYNE PENNER

Panthers Bring Home the Consolation Trophy in Soccer

By Mattea Jones

The Niverville Panthers, with a 5-1 win over Gabrielle Roy in mid-October, earned the honour of representing Zone 13 at the Provincial A-AAA High School Soccer Championships, held October 18-19 in Minnedosa.

Niverville only holds one Provincial championship in soccer, dating back to the 2008-2009 season.

"Heading into Provincials, the team's main focus was to play the right way," says head coach Dwayne Penner. "We

wanted each member to work hard, make smart passes, not try to do too much, and overall take care of their area."

The Panthers went into Provincials as the number two seed and faced the host team first, the Minnedosa Chancellors.

After a tough 2-1 loss, they had success on the consolation side of the tournament, defeating the Northlands Parkway Nighthawks 3-0, which took them to the consolation finals.

"One thing that stood out about the Panthers was the

resilience they showed," says Penner. "Throughout the tournament we didn't get all the calls we wanted, but we persevered and did not let that define how we were going to end the year. They worked hard for what they got and as one of the coaches I could not be more proud of them."

The Panthers went on to win the consolation final over the Morweena Raptors in a close 2-1 match.

"To play three games in two days is a lot to ask from the boys... one of the things that really helped us was scoring

early," Penner says. "It helped us build momentum and give the boys an energy boost."

Penner also had one final comment for the Panthers: "I would like to thank all the boys for their hard work. I would like to give special recognition to our captains who are in Grade Twelve and graduating this year. Koleton Peters and Dylan Peters were both integral parts of our team for the past number of years and provided great leadership to the younger players both on and off the field."



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Arts & Entertainment

Children's Book Helps Kids Cope with Anxiety

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Cindy and Cristabelle are goats—but they're not just any goats. These two little critters live at the Lil' Steps Wellness Farm in St. Malo, Manitoba and recently made their debut in a children's book called *Cindy and Cristabelle's Big Scare*.

Author Lucy Sloan introduced the loveable goats and their farmyard friend Wilbert the pig in this story, the first of a series, to help children who struggle with anxiety. Sloan is also a registered professional counsellor, animal-assisted therapy professional, and owner of Lil' Steps Wellness Farm.

Just like Sloan, the gentle animals on her wellness farm enjoy their work as therapists to children and teens alike.

"They... do a wonderful job," says Sloan. "Cindy and Cristabelle are miniature fainting goats that help children identify what anxiety feels like in the body. Cindy tends to [flee] when she feels anxious while Cristabelle freezes when she feels scared. Wilbert... is the happy and content pig on the farm that spends a lot of time just being in the moment, eating and playing in the mud. He is the friend to the goats that, in the book, helps them along and teaches them how to enjoy life."

Sloan has been practicing animal-assisted therapy on her farm in St. Malo with much success since 2015. Along with the book, she also provides an activity booklet and toolkit which introduce fun and interactive ways for parents and caregivers to understand their child's situation and help them cope.



Joanne Lariviere and Lucy Sloan with Wilbert the Pig at the Lil' Wellness Farm near St. Malo, Manitoba.

STEVE BURTON

"We want children to know that anxiety is normal and okay. However, when it becomes a problem for them it can be addressed and managed," Sloan says. "A real key in addressing the issue of anxiety is understanding it first. Anxiety is one of the most treatable mental health difficulties. Providing education and understanding of symptoms, what happens in the body and brain when experiencing anxiety, and how to manage worry and fear is so important. I hear a lot of parents telling me that they wish they had this book

when they were children."

Storytelling has become a useful and effective tool for Sloan in her work with children and teens. And animals, she says, are non-judging, accepting, and easy for children to connect with.

"The basis of animal-assisted therapy is that it is a back-door approach... in that children can connect to the emotions and stories of the animals and thus be able to discuss and process their own stories and struggles," says Sloan. "My practice is 'attachment basis,'

where the focus is on building relationships with and attachment to animals. This helps children meet core attachment needs and develop a healthy mental well-being. To be able to have it in a storybook format is a wonderful thing so we can reach more children."

Sloan recalls one young child who came to her with symptoms of anxiety and a lack of self-confidence. It was affecting her school and social life in a negative way. At Lil' Steps Wellness Farm, the child found Fleur, a 1,200-pound quarter horse. The

pair quickly bonded.

"I remember her face when she was able to walk this horse," Sloan recalls. "She glowed and walked with her shoulders up, a huge smile, and a newfound sense of confidence. It is a wonderful process to see and be part of."

Sloan discovered animal-assisted therapy about seven years ago after suffering a major head injury that left her unable to work for two years. During this time, she felt stripped of her identity and began to suffer the debilitating effects anxiety can have on the mind and body.

"Through my healing process, I purchased two miniature horses, Peanut and Sweetie. I spent a lot of time with them, just being and learning how to let go of control and be in the moment." This, she says, led her to introduce farm animals to her counselling toolkit. "We are able to help a lot of children and teens in their mental health journeys. It is the best job in the world!"

Sloan's official book launch took place on October 19. The farm filled up with children and parents wanting to meet the star animals and get a signed copy of the book.

In the aftermath, Sloan is already working on the next entry in the Lil' Steps series.

"I have a few other scripts done and in the making and I'm hoping that this series will be a success," Sloan says. "There are many animals on the farm that have a lot of different stories to share."

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Farmer Takes Part in Empowering Documentary

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

On October 15, a new documentary film premiered at the Park Theatre in Winnipeg to a crowd of about two hundred—a film that stars Niverville farmer and entrepreneur Colleen Dyck, chronicling her recent journey to Kenya to work alongside a local farmer and live the African experience.

The film is called *Common Strength*, and it was created by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFB) to explore the important role that women play in ending world hunger. The film seeks to celebrate the strength of women who, given just a few tools, can make a vast difference in the lives of their families, communities, and the world.

Dyck, selected from a host of candidates across Canada who applied to participate in the unique project, travelled to the eastern African nation to meet Lucy Anyango, a Kenyan farmer in the small village of Busia. For one week, Dyck lived and worked alongside Anyango, in the process witnessing the plight of women who struggle to survive and feed their families.

Dyck resided in the humble family home with Anyango and her five children, resting at night behind a makeshift curtain and toiling by day in the thirsty soil of the family's small agricultural plot.

All the while, the pair was followed by a Kenyan film crew and several CFB staff.

"I think what surprised me is that I didn't expect to feel so welcome right away," Dyck says. "I wasn't sure what I was walking into... I'm an emotional person and I didn't trust my face because it shows things when I don't want it to show things. But Lucy was so warm and so protective of me."

Fully immersed in the culture, Dyck demonstrated raw vulnerability in the film as her strength was challenged while carrying water the way African women do numerous times per day. As well, her gender required her to display stoic acceptance within a culture where women traditionally have no voice and few rights.

In a post-screening Q&A, Dyck regaled the audience about how difficult it can also be for men in cultures so steeped in traditional gender roles. For example, on one occasion Lucy's husband went to the market to retrieve spices for the women. He was mocked and ridiculed, and even paid a visit by an upstanding male member of the community who chastised him for this deed, which was apparently below his calling as a man.



Colleen Dyck and Lucy Anyango in Kenya.

COLLEEN DYCK

These poignant moments of the film are peppered with light-hearted ones, too. In retrospect, Dyck laughs now at how openly emotional she became when asked to kill the family chicken for dinner. She'd never had to kill anything before.

She also laid bare her humility during an African celebratory dance. After all, her feet, she says, "have no rhythm."

THE MISSION OF CFB

The CFB, a charitable organization established in 1983, has one goal: to end world hunger. To accomplish this, they provide emergency food in times of need, agricultural tools and training so that the hungry can learn to feed themselves, and nutrition support and advocacy. As well, they work with foreign governments to create policies that will help end hunger locally and globally.

According to Carol Thiessen, Senior Policy Advisor for the CFB, more than 820 million people go without food on a regular basis. That equates to about one in nine people.

Women, Thiessen says, are more likely to go hungry than men in almost every area of the world because, in times of crisis, women are most likely to sacrifice their own food so their families can eat. In some cases, these women then turn to small-scale farming to feed their families, but they face many barriers.

They don't have access to land, seed, or good training programs. Plus, their lives are very busy with children and elderly parents, as well as collecting water and wood for fuel.

In many countries, women also aren't eligible to apply for paying jobs. As a result, their husbands must leave home in search of work, often-times returning to the family home only once or twice a year.

underdeveloped countries, it has been proven to improve the nutritive value of food, decrease overall labour requirements, and provide greater bounty which can be sold at markets for a profit.

CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE IN ACTION

Anyango has been a recipient of the CFB's training in these techniques and has become a living testimony to its effectiveness in empowering women. As well, her neighbours have witnessed a visible difference in her children's health.

Anyanga has since become a leader in her community, teaching farming techniques to others in her village. She also heads up her own organization which provides local support and aid. Members of her organization make small deposits into a savings account which is then used to help others get their start in business and pay for school fees or household necessities.

"Research shows that if women had the same access as men to productive resources such as land, seeds, water, etc., they could increase their yields by 20 to 30 percent," says Theresa Rempel Mulaire, Conservation Agriculture Program Manager for CFB. "That would mean a reduction in hunger around the

world of 100 to 150 million people."

The CFB is currently working with 50,000 small agricultural landholders in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania, more than half of which are women. On top of training, the CFB also works at sourcing farm implements from African fabricators and blacksmiths and they are looking at ways to mass-produce these items to bring down costs for local farmers.

"I'm really excited to say now, as we're entering our fifth and final year of the project, that we have over 90 percent of our target already reached," says Mulaire. "Last year, in Ethiopia... the minister of agriculture put out a proclamation saying that Ethiopia is supporting conservation agriculture and they want to really push that down to the community levels."

The program has proven to be effective in more ways than one. Mulaire adds that the program, which has been embraced mostly by women, is providing opportunity for cultural shifts through which many husbands are seeing the benefits, too.

"The women who are in the [Conservation Agriculture program] are fighting to show that it works. And the husbands say, 'Oh, you're making a little bit of money. Maybe I'll come home,'" says Meagan Silencieux, Public Engagement Officer for the CFB. "Very quickly... they're working alongside their partners. They're doing things that other men might laugh at them for. They're doing dishes and taking care of the kids. It's a radical change in behaviour, culturally and gender-wise. It blew my mind to see how quickly that happened."

NO PRECONCEPTIONS

Dyck says she went into the experience with few preconceived notions of what to expect. The biggest surprises, she admits, were not the ones she anticipated.

"It was so neat to watch Lucy outside of her family environment, where she's a community leader. She's looked up to and you see how much respect they have for her," Dyck says. "I saw her be her powerful female self and it was beautiful to watch."

Along with Dyck, the CFB team was thrilled at the outcome of this experimental filmmaking experience and they hope many will be moved and motivated by its viewing.

"Colleen entered into this project and this experience with so much vulnerability and humility," says Thiessen. "She had to put herself way out there to do this and we are just so thankful [for her]."

"I think what surprised me is that I didn't expect to feel so welcome right away. I wasn't sure what I was walking into... but Lucy was so warm and so protective of me."

Colleen Dyck | Subject of documentary

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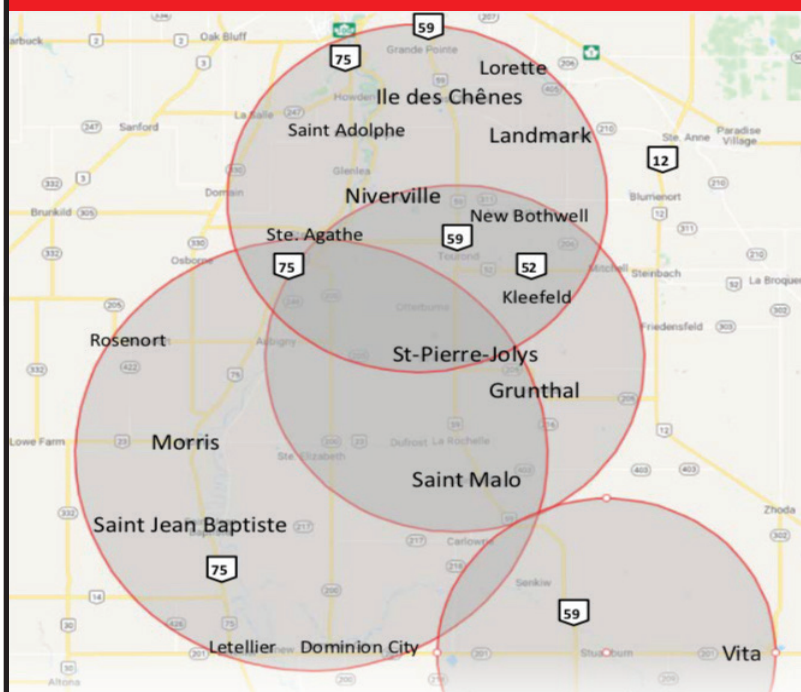


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Did you know Niverville has a book club? We are a small group of ladies who meet once a month to discuss and read books. Our next meeting is scheduled for November 21. This month we are reading Educated by Tara Westover. For more details and if you'd like to join, check out our Facebook page called Niverville Book Club or contact Hannah at (204) 905-1989

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