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LOCAL NEWS

The New Dollar Store in Niverville Is Open

■ The Great Canadian Dollar in Niverville has finally opened its doors to customers, marking its grand opening on March 1–3. Details on Page 9



LOCAL NEWS

Surviving Cancer: Stories of Hope

■ Three local survivors of cancer share the intimate details of their recovery stories in the hope of inspiring and uplifting those who may be newly disagnosed with this disease, one of the most feared and dreaded.

Details on Pages 6-7

SPORTS & RECREATION

Pilots Pull Off Upset

■ In a big upset, the Providence Pilots' mens volleyball team has captured this year's MC-AC Championship.

Details on Page 20

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Brady Kenneth Releases New Single

Country artist Brady Kenneth is promoting a new single off his new EP, *Under This Hat*, which comes out this spring.

Details on Page 25



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Top Three at Pop Star Compet

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Niverville to Adopt Hybrid Approach to Policing



Like many growing communities, Niverville has experienced waves of petty crime in the past few years that home and business owners alike are hard-pressed to ignore. While the RCMP presence from the St. Pierre-Jolys detachment has been relatively effective, residents of the community have wanted to know if more can be done.

In 2017, two Niverville residents, Lindsay Unrau and Barry Piasta, began a petition asking town council to take a look at the feasibility of other options, including an independent locally run police force. Council responded by commissioning a study to investigate.

In December 2018, council received the 30-page report prepared by Rick Hiebert, former police chief for the city of Winkler.

THE HYBRID MODEL

"After having an independent police study completed... and having given Niverville town council time to review the report, town council has set a strategy for policing going forward," said Mayor Myron Dyck at a February 19 council meeting. "In setting the vision, council sees benefit to a hybrid model of retaining the RCMP service but augmenting [it] with stronger municipal enforcement mechanisms."

What this means for the community going forward is the continuation of the RCMP presence in Niverville for higher-level services requiring their trained expertise. Council will be looking at a number

of ways to manage the lower-level policing requirements, such as education, surveillance, and ways to address incidents of theft and Highway Traffic Act violations.

While council acknowledges that the RCMP have it in their duties to provide service for lower-level policing, the reality is that all things not lower-level are consuming their time and limited resources and that this is not likely to change any time soon," Dyck says. "Thus, council sees it as necessary to come alongside and lower the pressure on the RCMP services... [using] municipal resources."

These resources would include adding more security cameras in public spaces to discourage illegal activity and assist the RCMP in documenting incidents. Council hopes to employ staff, who will work within privacy legislation, to provide real-time monitoring of the camera footage, especially during the night-time hours when more surveillance is needed.

Council will support the volunteers and community groups such as the Citizens on Patrol Program for a safer community. They will also investigate technology and innovation to assist with groundlevel policing.

Since the initial petition requesting a police study, town council has had dialogue and meetings with Manitoba's Department of Justice. Council eventually made two requests to the department. The first was that greater power be given to bylaw enforcement officers, to match legislation that has already been passed in Alberta, granting them the ability to issue traffic tickets over and above enforcing community bylaws. If such legislation is adopted by the province, council would begin a move toward hiring its own full-time enhanced bylaw enforcement officer and discontinue the part-time contract position they have now.

The town's second request to the province was that greater power be given to Community Safety Officers (CSOs), a program established by the Province of Manitoba to augment policing services. While CSOs currently have the authority to apprehend suspects in cases of alcohol and drug consumption in public places, council would like to see their power extended to the apprehension and questioning of people involved in other suspicious activity. Council also recommended that CSOs be provided the authority to carry necessary weapons, aside from a gun. Under these circumstances, council would also be prepared to hire CSOs to work in the community.

"Niverville town council sees [this] hybrid model...as a less expensive option than developing a full-fledged municipal police force as a way to deliver the desired results of a safer community at this time," says a press release from council. "This policing strategy will be reviewed annually and will include annual meetings, or more as needed, with the Department of Justice and the 'D' Division of the RCMP. By having a hybrid approach, council believes that flexibility exists to have policing that meets the needs of the community in the years ahead."

(continued on page 4)

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LOCAL NEWS
THE CITIZEN | MARCH 2019



Do you feel that Niverville council made the right decision on future policing in the community?

It's cost-effective and will provide the added protection that the community needs.

A local independent police force would create a greater deterrence on crime.

Have another opinion? Share your thoughts with us.







Take part in our monthly poll for your chance to win a \$10 gift card from Niverville Shell.

Congratulations to last month's winner: **PAULINE KONRAD**



LAST MONTH'S RESULTS:

Do you think your local government should be responsible for clearing windrows?

Yes. No. **23% 77%**

YOUR COMMENTS:

I think the citizens could call and be put on the list if they are disability or if they are a senior citizen and need help removing the windrow. This way the costs will not be so high. This is something they did when we lived in East St Paul. My senior widow mother who lived by herself had them removed. She had to call every year to be put on the list.

They should be clearing windrows WITHOUT raising taxes. Their job is not done if they are leaving hard mountains of snow on driveways. How anyone can believe this is acceptable is beyond me.

Neither of these should be options. The local government should creat a Department of Windrow Clearing. I don't care if it results in higher taxes. - A. Q. Rogulzinski

I'm voting no because of the tax implications. If snow removal budget would allow for occasional windrow clearing without increasing taxes, that would be great.

The town does enough damage to my grass and yard with snow clearing. I can only imagine what would happen to my driveway. No way I want them clearing windrows.

Is there a way to help those that need it without increasing taxes? Maybe low-income seniors or single moms with special needs children (for example). Could they apply at the town office to have the ends of their driveways cleared and mark their driveways with a special marker? Otherwise I think people can A) clear their own and quit complaining, B) make arrangements with their neighbours to take turns clearing the ends of driveways, or C) pay someone to do it for them. Why should the rest of us have to pay when it's only a handful of people complaining?

Clearly, a driveway is for your own use, to be used to access your property. Just like anything belonging to you, it is your job to maintain it, no matter what other influences may bring. - RL

The windrows are created by the town... for elderly homeowners this is immoveable. We can all post about being young and strong and perpetuate the bravado of being able to clear our driveways. As discussed in a Facebook group, other municipalities do it... it is the right thing to do. I am mildly disgusted by the mayor's response to the windrow debate... as many of us know, we are typcally dealing with windrows over a foot in height and not everyone can afford removal service or a snowblower... he can borrow my shovel and clear it out. That said, I believe homeowners would gladly pay a youth group or citizen group that wishes to contribute to the community. Rather than regurgitate what the "city" does, why don't we come up with a town wide solution?

(continued from page 3)

THE STUDY

The policing study investigated two options for improving Niverville's current policing situation.

The first looked at hiring an independent police force staffed with five officers and one support person. The total start-up cost for such a venture would come to \$477,000 and include the officers' personal equipment, cruisers, office equipment, and recruitment training. The breakdown does not include the cost of construction of a police headquarters or the renovation of an existing building to accommodate them. The known cost of \$477,000 would mean an approximate cost to each property owner of \$227 on their tax bill.

Ongoing annual operating costs would come in at about \$575,000 and would cover wages and benefits, office supplies, vehicle repair and maintenance, an equipment replacement reserve, as well as miscellaneous expenses. These costs would add an additional \$274 per property annually. The anticipated revenue from a municipal police force was estimated at \$36,000.

Conversely, the report assessed the feasibility of instituting a Community Safety Officer Program. According to the analysis, only one officer would be required for the Town of Niverville in the early stages. Start-up costs would come in at \$58,800, or \$28 per property. This would provide equipment for one officer, a cruiser estimated at \$50,000, and recruitment training.

A much smaller location would be required for such an endeavour. Hiebert encouraged council to consider the feasibility of providing space within the newly acquired administrative building. The cost of such a renovation would need to be determined and is not considered in the breakdown. Annual ongoing costs for wages and benefits, cruiser maintenance, and miscellaneous expenses would total about \$62,500 annually, or \$29 per property per year.

"Niverville is looking for a higher level of police presence and proactive work," says Rick Hiebert in the town's press release. "It's also in a situation where policing costs will rise dramatically after the next census regardless of the policing option chosen"

Hiebert adds that if the town decides to stay with the current RCMP policing program, it would be advisable to enter into a contract with Manitoba Justice to allow Niverville to employ CSOs to assist.

If a decision is made to create an independent police service, a professional police-friendly functionality design would need to be drawn up for a new building or the renovation of an existing building.

"It's no secret that a number of larger urban centres in Manitoba have actively explored going the direction of establishing their own municipal police services," says Hiebert, "but in each case, it's the start-up costs that are most concerning. The larger a community gets, the more it will cost to make this move. If this is the direction that Niverville feels it needs to go, then the sooner the better."

Eric King, chief administrative officer for the Town of Niverville, says he feels confident that council's recent decision is a sound one.

"A single police officer is going to cost you six figures," King says. "A CSO is going to cost you half and, if given the appropriate powers through the Police Act, can pull me over for speeding... but currently [the CSO] does not have those powers. Think of the cost saved by using a CSO. We need someone more cost-effective to do the legwork, such as writing the reports. So if my house gets broken into... you know there's someone local there to take a report and send it to the RCMP to address. Instead of having someone that makes \$125,000 a year write that report, why can't someone who's making \$70,000 a year make the report and send it to the person who's making \$125,000 and they can investigate and arrest?"

Council imagines a high-profile presence for the CSO, making regular visits to the schools and investing themselves into the lives of the community.

But until Manitoba Justice makes a clear decision on council's proposals, the extent of a CSO's responsibility is undetermined.

OTHER COMMUNITIES

Thompson was the first Manitoba city to develop a pilot program, partnering with the provincial government to hire and train CSOs to alleviate the work of the local RCMP detachment. The program has been in effect there since 2015. The province had agreed to subsidize Thompson's trial program until the end of 2017.

The CSOs in Thompson actively patrol the city's downtown, dealing with alcohol- and drug-related crime and assisting and taking calls for patients with mental health issues. They have the authority to transport and wait with patients in hospital, freeing up the RCMP's time for other calls. In 2017, about 4,000 calls a year were coming in for disturbances and the CSOs were taking about 30 percent of those calls.

Thompson's mayor, Dennis Fenske, told the CBC in late 2017 that CSOs play a vital role in his community. He added that even if the government pulled out on funding, the city would make every effort to keep the program going.

"Certainly we'll continue our funding," Fenske told the CBC. "We'll have to look at reductions or a different funding model, but it's certainly a valuable program [and] we can't lose it."

As for the model employed by the RM of Springfield, which has an independent police force that works together with the RCMP, King says that it is a hybrid system of policing that is no longer allowed under Manitoba Justice legislation. Municipalities today are given two options: an independent force or RCMP, but not both.

This is not to say that an independent force cannot call on the RCMP for assistance, but that this assistance could come at an additional cost established by the RCMP on an a la carte basis.

In the meantime, council will soon be reopening the local police office and is currently training a staff member to manage the office and perform administrative police-related duties there.

The RCMP will also be encouraged to use the facility for their own administrative work.

NO FULL REPORT

As it stands, the full policing report is not available to the

public, with the exception of a summary of its recommendations and cost breakdowns. Council has said that Hiebert, the author of the report, has maintained a copyright on the document, allowing only council to review its full content. This, council says, is to protect his research from being passed on to other municipalities who might choose to use it as a blueprint rather than hire their own professional to complete a new study.

Lindsay Unrau, one of the residents whose petition helped convince the town to commission the report, still isn't satisfied that residents of Niverville have been given the answers they need.

"While I can appreciate that our town council has made an effort to reshape our policing [system], their press release leaves many unanswered questions," says Unrau. "It is imperative that council release the full police study which was created at the expense of the resident. Neglecting their due diligence in this matter equates to allowing this study to be conducted in bad faith. It is their obligation to give us what we paid for."

Unrau says that residents deserve to know how the annual cost for an independent police force would stack up to the inevitable increase in RCMP costs when the community's population reaches 5,000. She also questions the potential risk that hired CSOs might be placed under.

"How are these bylaw officers and community safety officers going to protect themselves in dangerous situations?" she asks. "Traffic stops are one of the most dangerous duties of a police officer and they are trained extensively and can carry a gun. Are we asking employees who are without the same permissions and training as RCMP to perform such dangerous tasks?"

For Unrau, the newly released information barely scratches the surface of this important public safety issue.

REFERENCES

¹ Brett Purdy, "Community Safety Officers a Model for Dealing with RCMP Shortage in Northern Manitoba," CBC. December 12, 2017 (https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/thompson-community-safety-officer-ride-along-1.4443650).

THE CITIZEN | MARCH 2019 **LOCAL NEWS**





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The chamber also has job listings on its website. It's one more place to check out every now and then if you are looking for a job in Niverville. Visit www.Niverville.com/jobs.

Breakfast with a Guinness Book record holder

On April 4, listen to Arvid Loewen talk about Moving from Success to Significance at the Niverville Chamber's monthly breakfast meeting.

Arvid holds the Guinness World record for cycling across Canada in 13 days, 6 hours and 13 minutes! He has also crossed Canada by bike fours times, the USA three times and cycled from the Arctic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico.

Arvid says, "I am an ultra-marathon cyclist with a passion and a purpose.

Thirteen years ago he retired from a 31-year career with Palliser Furniture where he was vice-president of operations and responsible for 1,000 employees.

Now he cycles to raise funds for orphaned and abandoned children in Kenya. His cycling platform has allowed him to raise over \$5 million to date.

This breakfast meeting is open to all. Cost is \$25 for non-members and \$20 for members or those accompanied by a member.

Reservations are required. Please email chamber@niverville.com. You can cancel up to 4:30 April 2, otherwise you will be charged for break-

Location: West Ballroom, Heritage Centre. Registration & networking 7:45 am; breakfast. 8 am; speaker 8:15 am.

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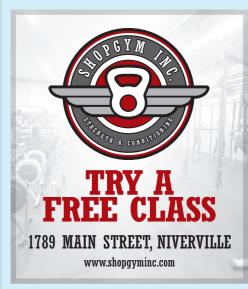
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Surviving Cancer: Life After the Dreaded Diagnosis



Cancer is one of the most fearsome diseases of our time. No one wants to hear their doctor say the word. But amidst all the dread and worry, stories of hope arise. Three local cancer survivors tell their story.

NANCY MCNAUGHTON

In 2013, Nancy McNaughton was getting back on her feet. She'd weathered the hardship of divorce, found a new job, sold her home, and moved into a condo. Her future was beginning to look bright again and Nancy revelled in the possibilities her new life would hold

Until October of that year, when everything changed.

Discovering a small growth on her abdomen, Nancy's doctor confirmed the news: a cancerous tumor had developed at the site of her colostomy, a surgery she'd had over 30 years earlier due to Crohn's disease. She was scheduled for surgery to eliminate the tumor, a hernia, and redirect her colostomy to the lower intestine.

Before her surgery date arrived, though, Nancy found herself in the doctor's office again. She'd awoken that morning to stroke-like symptoms. Tests revealed a massive bacterial infection in her body that had already affected her heart. Five weeks of antibiotic treatment was followed by the installation of a mechanical heart valve. Her cancer surgery was postponed in order to provide time for healing.

"I've always called it my stroke of good luck," Nancy says, "because they would have opened me up [for the cancer surgery], full of bacteria, and I could have died."

Her colon surgery finally came and went and, apart from a difficult healing process, the doctors were optimistic. Within three months, she returned to the hospital for routine follow-up tests.

"The [surgeon] looked like he was almost ready to cry when he had to come in and tell me that I now had stagefour liver cancer," Nancy recalls. "My first thought was, 'I've never heard of anyone surviving liver cancer before."

Her oncologist recommended chemotherapy treatments to shrink the cancer. It was ineffective and by March 2015 she underwent her third surgery to remove a portion of her liver. This led to another round of chemotherapy treatments to combat cancer cells that may still remain.

'The chemo was the brutal part for me because it caused postural hypotension," says Nancy. "Which means as soon as I stood up, I'd black out because I got so dizzy."

At the same time, she was battling low blood pressure, requiring hours in hospital for intravenous rehydration.

"I was just starting to feel better [after the chemo was completed] and getting more positive when they said, We've now found spots in your lung," she says. "By then my body was very broken down, atrophied, and weak."

Nancy underwent surgery one more time to remove a lobe from her left lung. Thankfully, her oncologist didn't believe more chemotherapy would be necessary.

A full year has passed since her last surgery and Nancy is doing well. She's almost made a full return to work and life and is hopeful that things are turning around. In spite of the many surgeries and loss of organs, it's the physical effects of the chemotherapy she still



and daughters Adelyn and Emily

MARY-MARGARET MAGYAR PHOTOGRAPHY

struggles with today.

"I believe that I survived because I'm surrounded by wonderful people who kept me upbeat, a wonderful family, and a fantastic community," Nancy says. "You always run into people who might know your name, but everybody knows your story because you live in a small town. You might think of that as a negative thing, but I had people coming up to me that I had never really known who said, 'I'm praying for you."

Nancy returns to her doctor for follow-up tests and, while some cancer markers still show up in her bloodwork. her scans have reveal edno recurrence of the disease.

Becoming a hypochondriac, she says, is one of the fallouts she's experienced through all of this, as every ache and pain now makes her wonder if the cancer has returned.

'There's still a [worry] sometimes, but I don't think every day about cancer," she adds. "It does make you look at your life and [remember the positive aspects]. I wouldn't change my life. I still feel blessed."

Through the experience, Nancy can offer wisdom to those who are newly diagnosed: always take a family member or friend along to each appointment, since emotions can block a person from hearing much of what the doctor has to say. For Nancy, chemotherapy caused a kind of brain fog which reduced her ability to focus.

Finally, she says, it's really important to overcome feelings of being a burden on those who want to care for you through your journey.

You learn how incredible the human body is," she marvels. "I'm missing a lot of parts, and [I'm still here]."

RACHEL VERTONE

At age 27, Rachel Vertone had everything going for her—a wonderful marriage to her husband Jayme, a beautiful nine-month-old daughter named Adelyn, a comfortable home in Ste. Agathe, and a great job as a police officer for the City of Winnipeg.

Shortly before Christmas 2016, Rachel began experiencing extreme stomach pain that led her to the doctor. A series of tests made them wonder about the possibility of appendicitis. Scans also showed the enlargement of lymph nodes in the area.

Exploratory surgery showed that her appendix was fine, but the surgeon did a colon resection and a lymph node biopsy. The biopsy came back normal, but the pain persisted. Months later, she was advised to do another biopsy.

A week later, she received a phone call confirming a

diagnosis of follicular B-cell lymphoma, a blood cancer affecting immune cells.

"[The surgeon] said this was very rare for someone my age," Rachel says. "It happens typically to people in their 70s and up. Typically, people my age get Hodgkins, but I got the non-Hodgkins [cancer], which is technically incurable.'

Rachel called back three times to confirm the diagnosis before the truth sank in. Still, the hardest part was breaking the news to her family.

A visit to the oncologist brought more devastating news: the chemotherapy could make her infertile.

"The first thing that he told me was, 'You can't have any more kids," Rachel recalls. "Jayme and I were heartbroken. We were grateful that we had one, but we really wanted a sibling for Addy. We always pictured a bigger family, so we were devastated."

While waiting to receive a bone marrow biopsy, she sought out options for post-treatment pregnancy and found a fertility clinic in Winnipeg that could freeze her eggs. But Rachel first needed to determine the date of her next ovulation, and that's when she discovered that her cycle was late.

A test revealed that she was already expecting their second child, throwing further complications into the mix. The only alternatives, the oncologist told her, were to take narcotics to ease the pain until she gave birth or proceed with chemotherapy and risk the odds that it wouldn't hurt the unborn child.

Rachel didn't like either

Upon a recommendation from a cousin, a practicing pathologist, Rachel discovered that safer alternatives may be available at the Mayo Clinic. The couple made the trip to the United States and were told, in fact, that she was eligible for a targeted chemotherapy treatment that wouldn't harm the baby.

[The chemo] attaches itself to the specific cancer cells and pops them and I could actually feel it," Rachel says. "I was laying in the bed and I could feel [the cancer cells in my] neck getting hot and popping."

The treatment eliminated the abdominal pain throughout the balance of her pregnancy. She gave birth to a healthy daughter, Emily, in January 2018. Rachel began her oncologist's recommended chemotherapy treatments a few months later, and will continue with maintenance treatments until 2021 to keep the cancer at bay. The cancer will always be dormant in her body, but it should be manageable, similar to the way that diabetes can be managed.

Technically, I'll never be cancer-free, but I consider myself cancer-free," Rachel says. "All my scans have been clear since June."

Early in her diagnosis, Rachel began attending monthly meetings at a cancer support group for young adults. It's something she would recommend to anyone dealing with cancer. Not a single member of the support group has lost their battle with cancer in the time she's attended, which provides a hopeful outlook on the chance of survival.

"You just look at them and you don't have to say anything," she says. "They just understand exactly where you are and why you feel the way

She has, unfortunately,







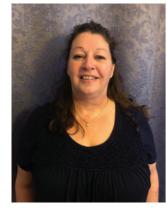
witnessed many young women who have been forced into early menopause due to chemotherapy treatments. So far, Rachel hasn't experienced any menopausal symptoms and is still hopeful she might be among the lucky ones.

Rachel has also decided to change her diet and lifestyle, opting for a pescatarian diet which excludes red meat. Red meat, she says, has been shown to put a cancer patient at greater risk of contracting a secondary cancer.

As for others receiving the news of a cancer diagnosis, Rachel offers the advice that helped her along the way: stay positive.

"It's such a crappy thing to hear, but you can go two ways," says Rachel. "You can say, 'This will ruin my life, why me? This is here to destroy me,' or you can say, 'This sucks, but I'm going to make it through this and do my best to keep on going.' You've just got to pick the road that you want to be on. [The way I look at it], this experience was hard, but it changed who I am and it made me a better person."

Last year, Rachel was chosen as the honored hero of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada and was given an opportunity to speak at their annual event.



SHARI DAVEY

When Shari Davey received her breast cancer diagnosis in 2014, it took her by surprise. She had no symptoms and the diagnosis arrived after a routine mammogram. Even being called back for follow-up testing wasn't overly worrisome, since friends had told her it was a fairly common practice.

Shari remembers calling her husband, Bob, feeling hysterical. He managed to temporarily calm her.

At the following appointment, the doctor broke the bad news: she had stage-one breast cancer.

"Because I was stage one, there was really never a time when I didn't feel that my outcome was going to be a positive one," Shari says. "I never thought cancer was going to kill me."

The surgeon's first action was to perform a lumpectomy of the small tumor. She also performed a biopsy of the nearby lymph nodes and later determined that they were free of cancer. She advised her to consider radiation treatments, just in case.

But her oncologist indicated a significantly reduced chance of recurrence if she included chemotherapy in the treatment plan.

"I have a feisty little oncologist that was also my dad's oncologist. So when she suggests something, it comes across as more than a suggestion," Shari says. "I have complete faith in her."

Her treatment began with four rounds of chemotherapy at three-week intervals. Years later, remembering the aftereffects of chemotherapy still brings back tears.

"Chemo is just brutal," says Shari. "It's everything you've heard and then some."

She came to expect complete debilitation a few days after each treatment. The extreme fatigue meant that on a good day she could make it from the bed to the couch. The pills for nausea made her jittery and anxious. Food tasted terrible. Her hair began to fall out in clumps.

"I was emotional about losing my hair," she adds. "My husband got out the razor and shaved my head. I think after everything I was going through, it was just another piece of the puzzle. In a small way, though, it made me feel a little bit better, because now people would know I have cancer instead of wondering, 'Why does she look so awful?"

Through it all, she was astounded at the care she received.

"CancerCare Manitoba cares," says Shari. "They have just been truly amazing. They go out of their way."

She also appreciated the many doctors and surgeons who provided her with recordings of their in-office consultations.

With only a brief period of recovery, she faced radiation treatments which required a trip to the Health Sciences Centre for 21 days in a row. Still suffering from chemo fatigue, her husband or one

of her grown children would accompany her and try to keep her spirits up. Doctors also prescribed a medication that would send her into menopause, since her type of breast cancer was hormone-driven.

It wasn't until all the treatments were complete that Shari fell into depression.

"The second year was emotionally difficult," she recalls. "It's hard to get your life back on track when cancer was everything you put your energy into. You don't know how to move past that."

She can see now that the months of treatment kept her distracted from her emotions.

"That emotional business afterward was so unlike me. I couldn't get over the fact that I couldn't just say, 'But it's over.' And to sit in a doctor's office and have her say, 'Have you thought about suicide?' and to say, 'No, but I think others would be better off without me.' That was my answer."

The doctor prescribed antidepressants and recommended a consultation with a psychosocial oncologist. Since then, she's learned to practice mindful meditation and has found a cancer support group she still meets with regularly.

"There's a bond there," Shari says. "They get it. And a lot of people have come up to me in town and say, 'I had it ten years ago,' or 'I had it 20 years ago.' You need to hear success stories."

Faith and family have been the backbone of her strength.

"My pre-cancer attitude was 'Life is good' and I wasn't willing to give that up," she adds. "I've always been a sort of turn-it-around kind of girl and in my spirit I've always had a positive happy energy so that was too good a thing to let it slip away."

Shari continues with regular testing and follow-ups. So far, her cancer markers have been mostly stable. After two years off work and another two years on half-time shifts, she finally returned to full-time work as a Kindergarten teacher at the Niverville Elementary School in 2018.

If she could offer useful advice to the newly diagnosed, she'd tell them to take advantage of the many supports CancerCare Manitoba offers, and to do it proactively rather than waiting until they're emotionally destitute.



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R LOCAL NEWS

THE CITIZEN | MARCH 2019

Senior's Spotlight: Rhea Trudeau

By Brenda Sawatzky

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At 75 years of age, Rhea Trudeau is still as active and vibrant as ever. A third generation St. Adolphe resident, she can't imagine anywhere she'd rather live. The small French community has been home her entire life, and it's also where she raised her son and four daughters.

Born in 1943, Rhearemembers a time before housing developments, parks, and sports facilities. Growing up in a community of about 500 people meant that everyone was invited to the weddings. The children entertained themselves tobogganing down the slope of the Red River to see who could reach the other side. They made boats out of garden produce and played outdoor games.

"I was very spoiled and I had nine dolls," Rhea marvels. "I would put all of my dolls in my carriage and go to find my friends and we played with them. Then a fight would start and I would go back home with all of my dolls."

The village had gravelled streets and wooden planks for sidewalks. Neighbours gathered regularly at the St. Adolphe Parish and the community hall on Main Street. Her earliest memories go back

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to her home on the south side. With no indoor plumbing, the family fetched drinking and wash water from the Brodeur Brothers garage. They had an outhouse, and each family member kept a "piss pot" under their bed which had to be emptied in the morning.

She recalls her mother labouring over the cookstove to clean the family's laundry in a large pot. Her father used manure to fill cracks in the house's exterior every fall. She shared a bed with her only sister, and when fights broke out they'd stuff pillows between them to establish boundaries.

THE GREAT DELUGE

A most vivid memory for Rhea was the year she turned seven. The great flood of 1950 swept over them like a deluge, forcing residents to flee to higher ground.

"A boat picked us up at the door and we had my grandmother's dog Finette," Rhea recalls. "We lost [the dog] because she couldn't come with us."

The family then packed into a train for Portage la Prairie. From there, they were transferred to the farm of a family near Elie, where they stayed until it was safe to return home.

"The trip got us all very dirty and muddy. We were five kids and my parents in a wagon



Rhea Trudeau with her book, The Old Convent Tells Its Story.

BRENDA SAWATZKY

behind the tractor. [The people] were very nice. The three boys were put to work on the farm with my dad, and my sister and I were sent to Elie school."

When they were able to return, they discovered that the family home had been devastated by floodwater.

FESTIVITIES

The family started over with grants provided by the government and built a new home on Main Street, bigger and roomier than the last. It proved to be the perfect location for regular family parties.

Rhea has fond memories of visits from her mother's family who lived in the city. They would bang on their doors and windows late at night, appealing to the family to wake up and let "the happy gang" in. They'd come bearing an assortment of musical instruments. Furniture was quickly pushed aside to make room for dancing. Into the wee hours of the morning, the home came alive with square dances, polkas, and waltzes.

Christmas, too, was a time for celebration, although Rhea says the occasion was focused much more on religion than it is today. Rhea's family gathered on Christmas Eve at the local parish for midnight mass.

They stayed for the three-hour service and returned home in the middle of the night to open gifts. At 4:00 a.m., the table was spread with turkey, meatballs, and all the traditional Christmas dinner fixings.

By the time the sun rose, the children had settled in for an exhausted but satisfied sleep.

Rhea and her husband continued this tradition with their own children.

SCHOOL DAYS

The village's only school was in the convent next to the parish, and the children were taught by nuns who called themselves Filles de la Croix (Girls of the Crucifix). They ran a strict regimen and had little tolerance for girls like Rhea who occasionally broke the rules by pulling a tight-fitting sweater over her loosely fitted uniform.

The boys had no dress code and were treated much better, Rhea jokes.

The convent also held chapel every morning at 7:00 a.m., which Rhea and her siblings were required to attend. After chapel, they returned home for breakfast and then headed back for school.

"[My sister] was four years older than me and she didn't want me to walk with her to mass, so she would throw rocks at me on the way to church," Rhea recalls, laughing.

NURSING HOME LIFE

Rhea eventually married and, with the exception of a short period of city living, they settled in St. Adolphe to raise their own family. Times were difficult and Rhea worked most of her adult years to help bring in the family income.

The hardest years of all were those spent working after-school hours as a custodian in Winnipeg, and later working the night shift at the local nursing home. Sleep was sparse, challenging her desire to be a doting mother.

At the St. Adolphe nursing home, she worked in every department from the kitchen to healthcare aid and house-keeping supervisor. Seeing a need, Rhea eventually put the third floor of the old convent to use by establishing Third Floor Treasures, a second-hand store.

"The third floor was not being used, so I took all the rooms and started [to ready them], and at the end we had all the rooms upstairs full," she says. "We got donations like crazy and got someone to build a donation drop-off outside. I had a lot of volunteers that would come and help and it was so much fun... With all of the pennies and dimes and quarters, we made over \$30,000 and we bought things for the seniors that were living there... and paid for their outings."

It was at this time that she experienced a difficult marital separation. She credits the store with saving her during that hard time.

Rhea remained a loyal employee of the nursing home into her seventies, giving up her position only because the nursing home was closing and being readied for demolition.

"It broke my heart," she says,

"because I spent my whole life at that building. I did all of my schooling there and then I worked there for 33 years."

Her friend and manager of the nursing home, Steve Neufeld, encouraged Rhea to write a book to commemorate the convent's century-long relevance in the community. She took him up on the challenge, pulling together nurses, nuns, and friends to contribute stories and pictures. She found professionals to help her with grant applications and book compilation.

Today, the book, *The Old Convent Tells Its Story*, has sold more than 400 copies.

FAMILY

Even now, at 75, Rhea chooses to involve herself in community life. She works actively on the Services to Seniors committee, helping with fundraising for a variety of local events and projects.

With all the challenges that life brought her way, the loss of her son-in-law to a heart attack, and later a daughter-in-law to a sudden illness, have been the most heart-wrenching ones of all.

"My mom is the strongest person I know," says her youngest daughter Michelle. "Every day [there was] so much stability and consistency. In eighth grade, all I cared about was getting the most expensive badminton racket so I could compete in the Provincials. Times were financially hard in our family, but Mom saved her change... to buy me the racket. I won the Provincials that year."

Michelle says it took her many years to realize the many sacrifices her mother made for the family.

"She has always been the rock in our family... and continues to teach all her kids and grandkids that family is the most important thing in life."





Pruning - Removals - Stump Grinding - Storm Damage - Tree Planting -



Dollar Store Marks Grand Opening

By Brenda Sawatzky

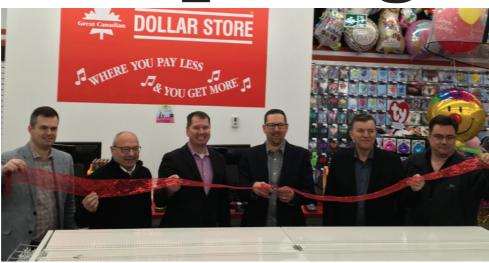
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New staff at Niverville's Great Canadian Dollar Store were stocking shelves and learning the ropes before the store's official grand opening, which ran from March 1-3.

"All of our staff has been working for a month before store opening," says Travis Neufeld, one of the store's owners. "We had them working on learning the merchandising and the product [lines]... so that when we actually open they are very familiar with the store and where things are so they can help people when they come in. We want to focus on friendly service."

Eleven staff members have been hired from the area, including four or five full-time employees, with the rest taking part-time positions. Local resident Wendy Jablonski has been hired and trained in the position of store manager.

Neufeld says that customers can expect to find a store layout and product lines that are very similar to all the other



Owen Reimer, Gerry Russ, Shannon Martin, Travis Neufeld, Myron Dyck and John Magri at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

RAY DOWSE

Great Canadian locations around the province. Some of the product lines will vary from location to location, as the company tries to cater to each community's unique interests and needs. They also plan to be flexible enough that they can order and stock items on request, depending on availability.

The Niverville location carries a vast array of items including housewares,

glassware, cleaning supplies, party supplies, specialty balloons, toys, faith-based items, home décor, and snack foods.

Neufeld says that this location has the largest selection of greeting cards compared to any other location in Manitoba. They also provide a customized stuffed-balloon service. Customers can order balloons filled with a variety of products of their choice.

"We also offer bread for

\$1.25 per loaf," Neufeld says. "It [comes from grocers like] Sobeys and there's a few days left before it expires."

Niverville is one of five Great Canadian locations owned by Neufeld and his three partners. Their other locations include Steinbach, Portage la Prairie, Morden, and an Altona store set to open in May of this year.

INBRIEF

Government Announces Community Grants

By Evan Braun

⊠ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Late last week, the provincial government announced several grants for projects in the Dawson Trail riding. Seven different community groups will share a total of \$95,000.

In Île-des-Chênes, the Gabrielle-Roy Parent Advisory Committee, has been awarded \$20,000 to purchase equipment for a multiuse fitness facility at the school.

The St. Adolphe Child Care Centre has also been awarded \$20,000, which will be used toward the purchase of new furnishings and equipment for their still in development facility on Main Street. Also in St. Adolphe, Club Amical will receive \$11,037.84 for the purchase of new kitchen equipment.

An additional \$20,000 will be given to the Grande Pointe Homeowners Association to purchase an ice resurfacer and tractor.

Further afield, the Lorette Minor Hockey Association will receive \$4,830.75 (to replace hockey goal nets and a floor buffer), the Ross Community Centre will receive \$4,168.75 (to replace hockey goal nets and purchase an upright freezer), and the Landmark Recreation Association has been granted \$14,746.50 (to help maintain its sports fields).

"Our PC government understands that, in communities like ours, supporting small projects can make a big difference," said Bob Lagassé, MLA for Dawson Trail. "I'm very proud that we're making these investments that will improve the lives of so many Dawson Trail families."

The grants are a result of Manitoba Municipal Affairs' Community Support Small Grant Program.

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Major Spring Flooding Forecast for Red River

By Evan Braun

Flood forecasters in southern Manitoba are calling for a high risk of major spring flooding in the Red River Valley this year.

On February 28, Infrastructure Minister Ron Schuler announced that, even with normal weather throughout March and April, the river is expected to crest close to the levels previously seen in the 2011 flood.

Should more intemperate weather come our way, in the form of high precipitation and extended cold temperatures, water levels could come close to the 2009 crest.

The 2009 flood, for point of reference, was the fourth most significant flood since 1826. Sections of Highway 75 were closed that year for 37 days.

Although the flood risk is high, Schuler noted that the province's infrastructure is more than up for the challenge. The Red River floodway, which has been expanded in recent years, is expected to operate, in addition to the Portage Diversion, which controls water levels along the Assiniboine River

That said, properties to the north and south of Winnipeg are likely to be threatened.



St. Adolphe Sisters Sip Up Sales with Silicone Straws

By Fiona Robinson

Canadians use approximately 57 million single-use plastic straws every day. That's a huge amount of plastic that gets used for a few minutes before it winds up in landfills or choking up water bodies.

The reduction of plastic straws has been dubbed the low-hanging fruit of global plastic waste reduction. In 2018, Britain took a stance to ban all single-use plastics, including straws, while encouraging other Commonwealth nations to join the bandwagon.²

The City of Vancouver's council voted to ban all single-use straws and foam takeout containers by June 1, 2019. Without legislation, companies such as A&W³ and Starbucks⁴ already have no-straw plans in place.

Even locally, some restaurants now ask you first if you'd like a straw before plunking one in your glass.

These policy changes, and their environmental impact, weren't lost on the founders of Colibri Canada in St. Adolphe, sisters Sandra O'Malley and Lori Hawkins, who already specialize in the manufacturing of reusable products.

"We gave out reusable straws a few years ago as a free gift with Black Friday purchases," says Hawkins. "Our customers loved them and we started getting emails asking if we would ever start selling them. That's really when the journey began."

Why silicone? Personal experimentation and exhaustive research and development shaped the idea.

"We used stainless steel, glass, and bamboo straws in our household, but we were concerned about the damage to our kids' teeth," Hawkins explains. "Then we discovered silicone straws,



The Colibri sisters, Lori Hawkins and Sandra O'Malley are smiling after their successful silicone straw launch across Canada.

but they were all made in China. Finally we found a factory in Canada that could manufacture them for Colibri."

Colibri's silicone straws currently come in one size and four colours. The straws are 10.5 inches long, making them great for tall tumblers. Customers who would like a shorter straw can simply cut them down to the desired length. The straws are available in a four-pack with a brush cleaner for \$16 or a two-pack for \$8.

The straws are easy to clean and maintain for daily use. Colibri sells a handy straw brush to clean the inside (also made in Canada), or the straws can go in the dishwasher or boiling water for sterilization.

"We like that they are slightly translucent, so you can see if anything is stuck inside," adds Hawkins.

Apart from being fun and bendy, the soft flexibility of silicone straws also makes them better candidates for folks with developmental delays, tremors, or additional feeding needs.

"Many restaurants have stopped offering plastic straws, which is great for the environment but not very inclusive for those who need to use them to safely consume their drinks," says Hawkins. "I like that we can provide a safe, comfortable option for people who need it and we would like to start working with restaurants to make our straws available to customers."

According to Hawkins, some consumers have been saying that once you've started using silicone straws, the old plastic kind feels bad in your mouth. Of course, the Colibri sisters have solutions to help people get on board with the trend.

"Bring your straws with you," says O'Malley. "We make reusable bags that you can put your straws in and keep in your bag or car, then when you're out and about you have your straw with you."

"I recommend keeping a small bag with cutlery, cloth napkins, cups, reusable bags and a few straws in your vehicle so you're ready to save the planet when hunger strikes," Hawkins adds.

So far, the sisters say the straws have been selling like hotcakes, with increasing demand across the country.

"We sold out of our first

shipment within a few weeks," O'Malley says. "Many of our stores have already started placing re-orders."

Colibri's existing products, reusable snackbags and wet bags, are currently available in more than 900 stores across Canada, including nearby shops such as Vita Health, Bulk Barn, Tiny Treehugger, Generation Green, Fort Whyte Alive, and McNally Robinson. The sisters anticipate that most of these stores will be bringing in the straws over the course of 2019. The future looks green and bright for this sipping trend.

"There are so many ways to reduce single-use plastics," Hawkins says. "I think the first step is to start with what you can and build from there. Reusable shopping bags instead of plastic bags, reusable snack bags instead of Ziploc bags, and reusable straws instead of disposable straws can make a big difference. Once people really start to pay attention, they'll find that every small change makes a big difference."

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RuffMutts Expands Pet-Related Services

By Lorelei Leona

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RuffMutts may have only been in their Niverville retail location since last September, but they're quickly showing themselves to be a premiere shop for the region's pet needs.

Guy and Mandy Britten have been servicing the animal community out of their home for more than ten years, offering grooming services and pet food. However, as the need in the community grew, it became more cumbersome to store product in their home. When the opportunity came to open a retail space last summer, they jumped at the chance.

"We weren't certain what response we would have before we opened the store," says Guy Britten. "We had a small client base in place. For pet food, knowing we could carry Acan and Orijen if we went to a storefront, we felt we could make enough to cover the overhead relatively soon."

Being locally owned and operated has its advantages. According to Britten, one of them is the open communication they have with customers, allowing them to offer the specific services and products people are looking for.

"Since we opened, we expanded from just dog and cat food to food and accessories for fish, birds, reptiles, and small animals—ferrets, hamsters, gerbils—based on requests from our customers,"



The dog-washing station at RuffMutts

□ RUFFMUTTS

Britten says. "Other than food and supplies, we received other requests. The number one most-asked-for service was a pet self-wash, [and] right behind that was pet-sitting and pet-walking."

In December 2018, Ruff-Mutts opened their self-serve pet washing station, which features a private area that eliminates distractions for pets so their owners can bathe them efficiently. For \$15, owners can use the station, which includes the use of shampoo as well.

"[People] love the wash system and the fact that they can towel dry and use a blower to dry their pets," Britten says of the feedback he and his wife have received so far. "Those with large dogs appreciate the power lift dryingtable. Everyone comments on how much quicker it is to

wash their pets!"

In addition to the pet-washing station, Ruff-Mutts just announced the launch of their new in-home services, including pet-sitting and pet-walking. Their services include a range of options and prices, from letting your pet out for a bathroom break to overnight stays while you're away.

"We're always listening to what our customers want," he says. "[And] we will continue to do what we can to offer services, pet food, and products that meet the needs of our customers at prices equal to or better than what you can find in the city."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.ruffmutts.ca

Health Foundation and Firefighters Gear Up for Annual Gala

By Brenda Sawatzky

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Mark your calendars for the annual Niverville Health Foundation and Firefighters Ball, scheduled for Friday, March 8 at the Heritage Centre.

Last year was the first year that the Niverville Health and Community Foundation combined their fundraising efforts with the local firefighters to create one large, inclusive gala. Proceeds will be shared between both organizations and will provide for the community's future healthcare, fire, and EMS needs.

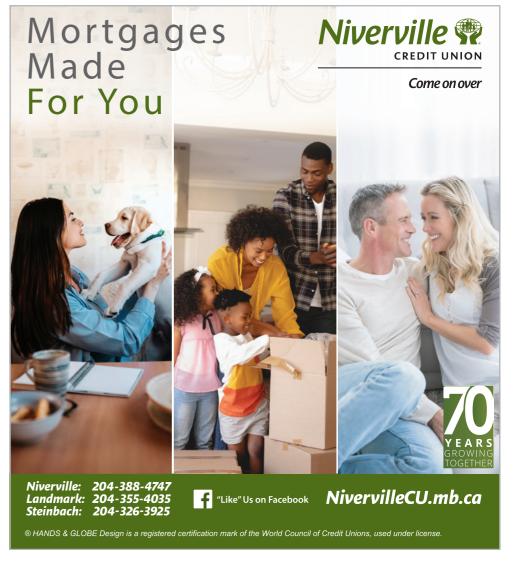
Brad Wasilinchuk, one of Niverville's deputy fire chiefs, says that the band Return of the Science Hounds has been hired to provide dance music for the evening. The band is known for their country and rock cover tunes.

The reception begins at 6:00 p.m., with a 7:00 p.m.

dinner to follow. The dance will begin at 9:00 p.m.

Tickets are selling for \$60 per person for the entire evening. A \$30 donation receipt will be provided to ticket holders. Separate tickets are also available for those interested in attending just the dance. These are selling in advance for \$20 per person. Tickets are available at the town office or through the Niverville Fire and EMS Facebook page.





Ritchot Recreation Master Plan Gets Broad Approval from Council

By Brenda Sawatzky

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At their February 5 council meeting, Ritchot council members gave their approval to the consultants behind the creation of the municipality's recreation master plan. A delegation from each of the consulting companies addressed council after providing them with a 150-page document which will aid council in working out plans for recreation infrastructure and services within the RM over the course of the next 10 to 20 years.

This council meeting followed a public open house on January 22 where details and visual aids were presented to residents from around the municipality, providing a general overview of the multifaceted plans. Based on all the feedback, recommendations were made on which items should be designated for short-term (one to three years), midterm (three to five years), long-term (more than five years), and ongoing implementation.

"We had a pretty well attended open house," said Tom Janzen of Scatliff & Miller & Murray on February 5. "We counted about 45 folks who came out and I think we got some pretty positive feedback on the plan."

The RM's Director of Recreation Services, Amber Mamchuk, says she sensed a good representation from every community at the open house

"The overarching premise of this is just how can we support our volunteer groups better and see growth in recreation in our communities," Mamchuk says. "So I think that [everyone's] really happy with the approach that our consultants have



Ritchot's council speaks with recreation consultants.

Consultant Jack Harper of J. Harper and Associates says that, in his mind, the key to the success of the master plan lies in creating a partnership with the larger community by organizing a recreation advisory committee which would see representation from council, recreation stakeholders, and members of the community.

"You're not unique in the sense that many major municipalities across the province are faced with infrastructure challenges and it's not getting any easier with a limited amount of support from senior levels of government," Harper told council. "So the role that the local municipal council plays... in engaging the community in being a partner in the sustainability of those facilities long-term is really going to be an important step for the community."

The document lays out a number of items recommended for immediate implementation. Further to the installation of an advisory committee, consultants say the team would benefit from a comprehensive volunteer management program as well as the hiring of an asset manager whose role would be to assist in planning, development, operation, and maintenance of all public recreation

Other items for immediate consideration include looking at strategic, low-cost enhancements to St. Adolphe Park, whose natural features and terrain lend themselves well to a pump track or mountain bike course, nature trails, toboggan slide, and a canoe/kayak launch area. Advance planning could also be done for a new all-season park

within the Tourond Creek development just east of the arena. Features could include a skate park, gardens, spray park, pavilion, and toboggan

A concept plan has also been provided for new park development in Île-des-Chênes. Recommendations were made to assess the feasibility of creating connectivity between the existing D'Auteuil Park and Optimist Community Park. The plan could include options for play features, picnic sites, a toboggan hill, sand and water play areas, and sports areas. A treed streetscape and trails would better connect the parks to each other and the community to the park. Council is encouraged to consider land ownership or a long-term lease agreement with TransCanada Pipeline if they choose to follow through.

Consultants also encouraged council to collaborate with the Ste. Agathe Community Development Inc. when considering future enhancements to Promenade Sur La Rouge. A boat launch area might be one such consideration. As well, a long-term vision should be created for Cartier Park. While the area might lend itself well to an outdoor aquatic facility, consultants say this feature should be subject to a feasibility

Further, the development of any indoor aquatic facilities across the region should be delayed until such time as the population increases significantly and funding becomes available from senior levels of

Further development of Grande Pointe Park made the short-term list. A recommendation was made to support the creation of a community gathering facility there.

Items for long-term consideration include improving the operational efficiency and effectiveness of the TransCanada Centre in Île-des-Chênes by marketing it as a regional recreation hub. Consultants recommend that the region explore opportunities to maximize use of all their existing facilities before the construction of new fitness facilities are considered.

Finally, council has been encouraged to develop a comprehensive active transportation master plan on a multi-use trail network connecting each community in the municipality. The planned trail should access all of the region's natural areas, community facilities, parks, and cultural landmarks. The goal would be to commit this to a long-term 20-year plan.



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Niverville High Principal Prepares for School Opening

By Brenda Sawatzky

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This upcoming fall, staff of the new Niverville High School will be putting out the welcome mat for approximately 300 local Grades Nine to Twelve students. Few people are anticipating that day more than the school's new principal, Kimberly Funk.

"I have to say, this is an opportunity of a lifetime," Funk says. "Even though there is a personal and professional level of responsibility to 'get it right,' and the to-do list just keeps growing, I'm genuinely excited and honoured to be part of opening this new school."

Opening a new learning centre, she says, provides an

opportunity to ask thoughtful questions, to discuss hopes and dreams for teaching and learning, and to examine the educational values and practices that will be represented there.

But a new school presents certain challenges as well.

"The challenge is to find out what you don't know and to minimize the number of things that will get missed," she says.

As of February 1, the Steinbach native gave up her position as vice-principal and student counsellor of Landmark Collegiate in order to dedicate the next five months to planning and preparing for the new school. Her days are busy finalizing staffing needs, ordering furniture and supplies, establishing



Kimberley Funk, principal of the Niverville High School.

BRENDA SAWATZKY

the school's website, and determining what the school colours and logos will look like. She's looking forward to frequent meet-ups with teachers, parents, and students over the balance of this school year.

"There are so many things to consider when starting a new school, but my priority is to establish a climate that invokes a passion for learning and fuels school pride," says Funk. "[I also hope to] develop a collaborative culture where we work together, learn together, and truly care about one another. Specific school goals and plans will be developed by the NHS team over the next several

months.

At the end of the day, though, Funk says the school will be about the people.

"The hardware is important, and necessary, but it's the software—students, staff, parents, the people—that is most essential. The focus needs to remain on the students and what they need. Niverville High School is about them."

Part of that student focus will be on creating a smooth transition for everyone. Without question, many students and parents are already awaiting the new school year with great anticipation, but she is also mindful that for some, it might come with a level of anxiety or uncertainty.

Funk began her teaching career at the Niverville Elementary School almost 25 years ago. In the proceeding years, she's taught at Mitchell Middle School, Steinbach Regional Secondary School, and most recently Landmark Collegiate. She's excited

about circling back to the community where her career got its start and looks forward to rubbing shoulders with residents who once filled her early years classroom.

But she says Steinbach will always be home for her. It's the city she was born and raised in and the place she's raised two sons alongside her husband of 26 years. It's also home to the parents and grandparents she holds dear. The daily commute to Niverville, she asserts, bears little concern for her.

"I'm thoroughly enjoying every aspect of this unique process so far, but I'm really looking forward to meeting the staff, students, and parents and becoming part of the Niverville community," says Funk. "I'm grateful for the strong foundation that has been built and excited about the possibilities that lie ahead."

CP Rail and Niverville Council Agree to Improve Crossing

By Brenda Sawatzky

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Council has come to a much-anticipated agreement with CP Rail to create two sidewalk crossings across the railway tracks dividing east and west Niverville. The crossings will be located immediately north and south of Main Street. The cost to the town is not to exceed \$80,000.

Costs for the installation of the sidewalk crossings will fall on the town and will include the extension of sidewalks from Chicken Chef and JWH Water Services on the east side, across the tracks, to connect with sidewalks on the west side. CP Rail will take the initiative to improve the vehicular crossing on Main Street.

The railway project will include concrete slabs poured on either side and in between each set of tracks which will sit level with



The CP Rail crossing on Main Street Niverville.

FVAN RRALIN

the tracks, eliminating the current bumpy crossing for motorists and creating an ease of crossing for pedestrians and bicycles.

Eric King, Niverville's CAO, says that CP Rail does not, by law, have to install crossing arms or other safety features until vehicular numbers or a notable concern of risk would substantiate such a move. King hopes to initiate a means to calculate vehicular

and pedestrian numbers this fall as new businesses open on the west commercial corridor and the new school draws in greater traffic from the east. He hopes that such evidence will be enough to merit CP Rail's investment in further safety features in the near future.

The completion of the current crossing plan is expected for September 1.





Commentary

The Slippery Slope and the Absence of Trust

By Greg Fehr

The business of government is a ruthless taskmaster. Those who serve must face the daunting task of governing for the good of all peoplethe voices loud and quiet, those who lobby and those who don't. They must consider the full scope of each decision, including all consequences, whether intended or otherwise. Economic decisions may have social consequences, and environmental decisions may have economic ones.

Within the business of government, just like with capital market businesses, there are some discussions and considerations which must be kept in confidence, at least in the short-term. To disclose these details could potentially weaken the government's ability to best serve its constituents. Just as you as a homebuyer would not disclose your financial position to the vendor, governments must keep some information under wraps until negotiations are finalized and decisions come to their end.

These are pretty basic ideas which I would suspect most of us understand. And yet we end up in situations where these considerations and confidences can raise ethical questions. Agovernment's failure to disclose certain details can result in accusations of conspiracy.

Having occupied public office myself, I can relate to the challenges facing our elected officials. At the same time, I feel no shame in the disappointment I feel when ethical lines are crossed by those officials.

Let us consider the current controversy embroiling the Liberal federal government: the SNC-Lavalin affair. This large Canadian company is accused of unethical practices in its global operations, including making questionable payments to decision-makers in other countries, payments which some people are calling "bribes."

We should remember that business is done differently in different parts of the world. We are blessed in the great democratic West to have a reasonable expectation of good ethics in business. But in a large part of the world, this is simply not the case. Even the international arm of our proud provincial Manitoba Hydro has had to "adapt" to the systems in other countries.

Our attorney general now has to make a decision about whether to prosecute the company.

It has been suggested by some governmental ministers that prosecuting the company could lead to dire economic consequences, and the opposition is crying foul. This is downright foolish. We charge our government with good, balanced decision-making, and we would be justifiably upset if they didn't consider the impact of their decisions on the jobs and lives of the approximately 50,000 employees at SNC-Lavalin.

And yet it would be greater folly still to allow the pendulum to swing the other way, for the government to consider economic realities over the rule of law and in the process unduly influence the attorney general to make an unbalanced decision.

The weeks and months ahead will bring to light the realities of this controversy. But as a member of the voting public, I would implore you not to fall into either side's oversimplification of the complex issues in play.

On a more local level, the recent policing report commissioned by Niverville's council seems to have raised the ire of some neighbours who feel that the full report should be released. These people seem flabbergasted by any redaction at all.

Such people may have some justification to cry foul, but they also fail to recognize some important considerations. It used to be true that choosing a municipal council was about electing the wisest and best of our community, charging them with the duty to make the best decisions possible. By electing five people of wisdom and experience, we felt assured that

their combined wisdom would lead to the best solutions.

However, through continued criticism and critique we have hobbled councils to the point that they now he sitate to make any major decisions without the ammunition of an expert's opinion, such as in the case of a consultant's report. They he sitate to rely on their own sound judgment. These consultant reports do provide great information, but bear in mind that they also come at a

financial cost.

Is council wrong to enter into a contract whereby the final report cannot be released? Not if they received the best information from the best source available. Would I begrudge a consultant from putting in place a nondisclosure clause? Not at all, for I myself—and likely some of you as well—have had my work later "borrowed" by others without due compensation. Much like the musician who laments the free

download, we all deserve to be paid for our work.

Trust is the issue at hand. We don't trust our elected officials, and they don't trust themselves and each other. Trust cannot be given blindly and should be earned, but to imply ignorance, incompetency, or conspiracy at every decision is counterproductive.

Our governing officials will not always make perfect decisions. Sometimes that's because there is no perfect answer. Any solution will come with some pain.

Yet I am reminded of words I've heard so many times from politicians of all stripes: "All who serve have the best and same intent: a better town, a better province, a better country." We may disagree on how to get there, but our intention is by and large the same. If we start from a position of finding common ground, we will find the right solution... even if that solution is not mine or yours.

Paying It Forward in Kindness

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Small town life isn't for everybody. It's true what they say: everyone really does know everyone else's business. This is truer than ever in the era of social media, where our lives are bared publicly.

But while social media can be a modern-day soapbox, a place where grievances are aired and messy lives shared, it can also be a reminder that goodness persists.

What follows are some real-life stories of kindnesses paid without expectation of compensation.

Maylia Bodman has a three-year-old daughter with a rare disease, so the Bodmans travel to Chicago on a monthly basis for testing and follow-ups over a new and promising treatment.

In early February, the family flew south once again, leaving just before a major snowfall, and they returned to mountains of fresh snow. Exhausted after hours spent in hospitals and airports, they knew they'd have to deal with the snowy aftermath.

"We were blown away when we got home to find that a neighbour had cleared our entire driveway and walkway," Maylia says. "We still don't know which neighbour it was but are extremely grateful for the kindness we have been shown."

Another woman, Sapphire, has also been touched by a small gesture that impacted her in a big way.

"I moved to Niverville in July and didn't know anyone," Sapphire says. "In November, I had a doctor appointment and it was really cold outside. I was only wearing a hoodie. [There was] snow on the ground and a windchill. As I was walking to the pharmacy, this woman pulled over with her two young kids [and asked], 'Would you like a ride?""

Sapphire gratefully accepted and found the stranger not only willing to wait at the pharmacy but ready to drive her home, too.

Bobby Buhay and his partner Breanne moved to Niverville in 2015. Within a week of their move, neighbours were bringing baked goods and inviting them over for casual visits. On Halloween, a neighbour even delivered a special baby-friendly package for their new son Luke.

"I saw an amazing act of kindness last summer," says Bobby. "I had gone outside to check on a sprinkler and saw a vehicle stopped in the middle of the road with people standing by on the sidewalk. I ran over to see what was going on and a gentleman in a wheelchair had tipped backwards off of the sidewalk. Two people had seen it happen and slammed on their brakes to get out and help."

A town employee had also been nearby cutting grass. The team pulled together to right the wheelchair and get the man back on his way.

Liz Byron tells a story of paying-it-backward where her kind gesture led to an unexpected thankyou.

"My partner and I were on our way into [Niverville] on a Friday night," Liz says. "It was about 7:00 p.m. and it was one of those really cold, deep freeze days. As we turned off Highway 200 onto the 311, we saw a truck on the shoulder, engine off, with its lights on."

Liz and her partner stopped to check on the driver's well-being. They waited with him until his stalled engine started again and they knew he'd be okay.

"We then stopped at Gan's to pick up dinner on our way to see friends, and as we were about to pay for our food, the driver of the truck walked in and said he wanted to pay for our dinner."

Liz quibbled with the man, arguing that on a night like that anyone would have done the

"We had ordered a large meal for four people," Liz adds. "He said that he was so comforted to know that if he had been in trouble, he would have had help. He insisted on paying for our dinner and wished us a good evening. It was such an unexpected, generous thing to do and I was very touched."

Residents of the 55+

development in St. Adolphe also know what it's like to be on the receiving end of a local man's thoughtfulness. For years, the facility has been the drop-off location for a variety of fresh summer vegetables for their enjoyment. On a regular basis throughout the harvest months, they'll find pails of cucumbers, carrots, squash, and more waiting in their front fover.

"Many of the residents are on fixed incomes and to have these treats is amazing," says Natalie, a resident in the building. "I am not sure if he realizes how grateful we are."

During the Christmas season, too, 55+ residents there have been gifted with huge festive packages dropped off by a group of anonymous girls. The packages include toiletry essentials and a variety of goodies, chocolates, and handmade cards.

"They have done this on Christmas Eve for years," Natalie says. "They brighten Christmas for all of us [and it] makes such a difference at this time of year."

These are just a few of the many thoughtful and sometimes anonymous gestures of goodwill that happen all around us, every day.

If you're one of the selfless citizens in our communities, we all thank you! However big or small, your kindness does make a difference.

Sports & Recreation



The many skaters of the Niverville Skating Club, at the annual Ice Show.

CARA DOWSE

Local Skaters Impress at Annual Ice Show

By Lorelei Leona

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Celebrating their fifth season, the Niverville Skating Club (NSC) hosted their annual Ice Show on Tuesday, February 26.

The club, which offers four different skating programs—CanSkate, StarSkate, Synchronized Skate, and CanPower—came together to celebrate the hard work of their athletes in a Winnipeg-Jets-themed showcase.

The evening started by featuring the routines of members of StarSkate, a program for skaters who want to pursue figure skating and have already completed the CanSkate program. The program focuses on three disciplines: dance skating skills, freestyle, and

it gives its skaters the opportunity to perform in competitions and showcases throughout the year.

The eight kids in StarSkate—Elizabeth, Willa, Zoe, Erik, Jordyne, Justin, Mackenzie, and Sawyer—range from nine to 12 years old and are all Star 2 figure skaters, with the exception of Elizabeth, who is a Star 4.

During the season, skaters are recognized with awards, badges, and report cards. However, additional awards were also given out at the Ice Show to recognize exceptional improvement and abilities. One skater from each group (Red, Yellow, and Green) was honoured for demonstrating dedication and commitment to improving their skills and showing a positive attitude.

Sloane Collet was recognized from the Red group for her hard work and great progress this season. In October, she started as a hesitant new skater and now displays great confidence. She recently passed her Stage One balance skills and agility tests.

Ruoxi, who was selected from the Yellow group, has been skating for two years and impressed her coaches with her hard work.

Kaitlyn has been skating with the Niverville Skating Club for two years. This year, she started skating with the Beginner 2 synchro team, where she worked hard to keep up with the older skaters on the team. Showing her dedication to improving her skills, Kaitlyn has also started training in the off-season with Coach Meghan.

Aurora Ice, the synchronized skating team, took to the ice to close out the evening, performing an ABBA medley. The routine was performed by skaters Katelyn, Zoe, Willa, Erik, Elizabeth, Jordyn, and Stewart.

The program is led by Coach Meghan Rafferty, who has been coaching skating for 15 years. Rafferty has been teaching in Niverville for the past five years and sits on the National Program Development committee for Skate Canada. In addition to her coaching, she was recently selected by Skate Canada to be a StarSkate clinician for Skate Manitoba. She has also been chosen to train other coaches across the country in their quest to become CanPower coaches.

INBRIEF



ne 2019 champions Matt Tkatchyk, PRAESHA ENNS ustin Krahn. Kris Dueck, and Patrick Friesen.

Niverville Curling Club Finishes 2019 Season

This winter's long stretch of cold weather has been a breath of fresh air for curlers at the Niverville Curling Club.

"I don't remember many years where we haven't had to worry about weather and consider alternate options in the event the temperatures were too warm," says Dustin Krahn. "This year was pretty much worryfree, with no cancellations and good ice conditions right through until the playoffs were complete. That is pretty rare here, but quite welcome."

The league playoffs were held on March 1–2. The 2019 champions were the second-seed team skipped by Dustin Krahn, along with third Kris Dueck, second Matt Tkatchyk, and lead Patrick Friesen. They finished the season with a 6–2 record.

Finishing in second place was the team skipped by Brian Chornoboy, along with John Stott, Brodie Chornoboy, and Garett Wieler. They had a very strong weekend, defeating the reigning champions, and also beating out the 2019 first seed team to earn their place in the finals.

"We have a very fun group of people in our league," Krahn adds. "It's about having fun and socializing first and foremost, but it was nice to have good weather, good ice, and to be able to finish out the season in our own rink."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ info@nivervillecurlingclub.com







THE CITIZEN | MARCH 2019 SPORTS & RECREATION



The Prov Pilots celebrate their unlikely but hugely satisfying upset victory.

NEIL FRIESEN

Prov Pilots Pull Off Big Upset to Win V-Ball Championship

By Lorelei Leona

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The Providence Pilots men's volleyball team may have finished as the third seed in the regular season, but they managed to pull off two major upsets to win the MCAC Championships during the February 23 weekend tournament.

The Pilots needed to defeat not only two of the top-ranked teams in the league-Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) and St. Boniface—but also the two teams they'd had the most difficulty beating during the regular season.

Having only beaten St. Boniface once during the season, and CMU not at all, the Pilots' confidence was not high heading into the semifinals.

"There wasn't a lot that happened in the last three to four weeks of the season that made us think we had much of a chance to win a championship this year. So I would say our confidence wasn't super high," says head coach Scott Masterson. "That being said,

we talk a lot about peaking at and passing, so focusing on the right time of the season and whenever you have one more game left, there's always that chance that the next game will be your best. Somehow we played our best two matches of the season, by far, in the semifinal and the final. As we realized the quality of volleyball that we were playing, I think our confidence grew as the weekend went on. Even in the championship game, we played with a level of confidence that I had not seen from this group to that point in the season.

It was easy for most people, including the team, to assume that the results of their last two games would be similar to how the scores ended during the season.

With a record of 1-3 against St. Boniface and 01-34 against CMU, Masterson was looking for ways to give the Pilots an edge and send them into the semifinals with the hope of turning things around.

Without making any huge adjustments to their style of play, Masterson says their biggest weakness throughout the season was serving improving those two areas during the final matchups could be the edge they needed.

"Our coaching staff always knew that if we could pass well and serve tough, it would allow us to better execute the kind of volleyball we have always been trying to play this season but just couldn't execute until the championships," he explains. "The main area that contributed to our success was that we did both of those things exceptionally

The Pilots won the semifinals 3-2 against the St. Boniface University Les Rouges, advancing them to the championship final against the CMU Blazers, where they won that matchup 3-1.

Despite their high performance during the first few sets of the semifinals, the Pilots were still the underdogs to advance in the tournament and knew they needed to continue performing if they wanted a shot at the championships.

"Prior to the last five points of the fourth set of the championship game, I don't think any of us assumed that winning the match was going to be the likely outcome, Masterson says. "Even after going up two sets to one against CMU, we knew they had a lot of veteran players and would fight to the end. That being said, going into the championships without any expectations definitely helped us play freely and without much tension. The guys were more nervous heading into the final and so we were intentional about keeping things light and upbeat. In the end, the players had to remain mentally strong in very high-pressure situations and they were able to do so."

Masterson is in his third season coaching the men's volleyball team at Providence, where they have had a 40-7 win-loss record and one MCAC championship.

He previously coached the women's volleyball team for six seasons where they accumulated a 188-68 winloss record, four MCAC championships, and six NCCAA North Region championships.

An experienced coach, Masterson knew that he

needed to rely on his experienced players to perform at a high level during their playoff

Matt Friesen, a Grunthal native who is in his fifth year with the Pilots and plays left side, came up big in the last two games with 24 kills, 14 digs, and three blocks. The veteran was awarded championship MVP and was selected to the all-conference team for his performance throughout the season.

"He passed incredibly well and was able to get a lot of touches and slowdowns as a blocker," says the head coach. "In the final, he had a couple incredible defensive plays that helped swing momentum at important moments in those sets. Most importantly, Matt was consistently effective offensively, with a 45 percent kill percentage and only 10 attacking error in our two matches. Matt led our team by example through his consistency, calmness in tense moments, and infectious confidence.

Brett Foley, a middle and another veteran, is in his third year with the Pilots. He also had a great weekend, earning Player of the Game in the semifinal upset against St. Boniface. The Portage la Prairie native had 24 kills, nine digs, eight blocks, and two aces in their final two matches and was almost unstoppable offensively with a 77 percent kill percentage and only one attacking error in two matches, according to Masterson.

"I also want to commend our freshman players who started for us during the championships," says Masterson. "Adrian Kalyniuk, a setter from Île-des-Chênes, Kole Bergman, a right side from Carmen, and Trey Friesen, a left side from Rosenort, all played exceptionally well, and with a lot of poise. They played the best they have played all season and seemed to thrive in the pressure of the situation. I was incredibly proud of how they handled themselves and how they rose to the occasion. I am very excited to continue working with them in the years to come."

THE CITIZEN | MARCH 2019

SPORTS & RECREATION

Jets Make Flurry of Trades at Deadline

By Nicholas Anderson

Well, that was fun.

After weeks of speculation that the Jets were in the market for a big name forward, general manager Kevin Chevaldayoff swung five trades, improving depth and adding a huge piece to the puzzle when it comes to competing for the Stanley Cup. This calls for my annual take on the old adage: "Who says Kevin Chevaldayoff doesn't like to make trades?" The team isn't rebuilding anymore, retaining its asset. The Jets are now a buyer.

For the second year in a row, Chevaldayoff made a huge move on trade deadline day, acquiring centre Kevin Hayes from the New York Rangers in exchange for forward Brendan Lemieux, the Jets' 2019 first-round pick, and a conditional fourth round pick in 2022.

Though his name may not be among the likes of Mark Stone or Matt Duchene—two names the Jets were also linked to that moved this week—don't be fooled: this is a huge addition for the Jets.

Just where he's going to play and who he's going to play with is yet to be determined, but there's a good chance he could be in the middle of some combination of the Jets' corps of young wingers—Patrik Laine, Kyle Connor, and Nik Ehlers.

At Tuesday's practice, he skated between Nikolaj Ehlers and Matthieu Perrault.

An unrestricted free agent at the end of this season, Hayes is on pace for a new career high in points, with 42 points in 51 games. He also led all Ranger forwards in penalty killing time. That's not a huge feat, given the Rangers have the twenty-sixth-ranked penalty kill at 77.4 percent, but a fresh face could be just what the Jets' penalty kill needs right now. After starting



RAY DOWSE

the year strong, the Jets currently have the twentieth-ranked penalty kill.

Hayes plays a responsible game defensively, and at six-foot-five, his size and length help him prevent shots against. He's a smooth skater who generally makes the right play whether he's got the puck or not. He can pass from all over the ice, uses his reach to get around guys, and has finish around the net. In other words, he's the whole package.

There are still some question marks surrounding just how consistent a producer he can be, and whether or not his point totals this season are just a product of playing lots of minutes on a bad team. That being said, you could make the counterargument that as a good passer on a better team, he could be even better.

In fact, he just might need to be better considering the moves made by other Western Conference teams at the deadline. The Predators added forwards Mikael Granlund and Wayne Simmonds, and with a win over the Oilers on Monday they've taken over top spot in the division by one point.

The Jets have three games in

hand, though, and as I discussed earlier in the season, winning these games is crucial. Especially after the trade deadline.

Last year, the Jets managed to win game seven in Nashville, and while they could do it again, it'll be much harder this time around. Winning the division and getting home ice advantage could be the difference when chasing a Stanley Cup.

Gaining home ice advantage won't be easy for the Jets, though, and it got even harder when it was reported that the team will be without defenseman Josh Morrissey until late March or early April.

Out in the Pacific Division, despite all the talk, the Flames didn't acquire a marquee name at the deadline, choosing to hang on to their picks and prospects. This may be an odd thing to say, especially about the second-best team in hockey thus far, but after the trade deadline, is it safe to write off the Flames as a serious contender?

The Flames to me are the 2018–19 equivalent of last year's Jets—a team on an upward trajectory with questionable goaltending. Of course, last year we saw Connor

Hellebuyck go from a fringe starter to an elite goalie. I don't know how much faith I have in Dave Rittich or Mike Smith, though, especially come playoff time.

The Golden Knights added forward Mark Stone in a deal involving top defensive prospect Erik Branstromm, while the Sharks added Gustav Nyquist for a second and third round pick, rounding out their top nine.

Safe to say, there's going to be a lot of good hockey this spring, and after Monday the Jets have put themselves in an even better position to once again make it to the Conference Finals, and maybe go further.

Aside from the Hayes deal, the club also swung a few minor deals with the Sabres, Leafs, Jackets, Panthers, and Wild. We won't go into all the details here—sorry, Alex Broadhurst fans—but the Jets did pick up some nice depth acquiring (and re-acquiring) forwards Par Lindholm and Matt Hendricks.

Broadhurst, Lindholm, and Hendricks are nice depth pieces and may be deployed situationally. Don't expect Lindholm or Hendricks to become regulars in the line-up, though. The two will likely be used to patch and plug holes during the final stretch of the season. It also helps to have guys who are older, who have been there, and who have played under pressure. At 26, Lindholm has seen the playoff stage many times in Sweden. Getting Hendricks back is also convenient because he was just here last year. He knows the coach and he knows the system. Come playoff time, these could play huge factors.

The club also acquired defenseman Nathan Beaulieu. With Morrissey set to miss four to six weeks, he may see some topfour minutes some nights.

■ INBRIEF

Baseball Registration Now Open for Niverville

By Brenda Sawatzky

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Registration for baseball and softball in Niverville is now open for children between the ages of five and 18.

"Niverville Baseball just got a new website and we've opened up registration for the 2019 season," says Rod Wolfe, chairperson of the local committee. "The site is a work in progress, but there is a link to the registration page. All registration will now be online and payments of fees with a credit card is also available."

Wolfe says that, traditionally, boys have signed up for baseball while girls for the softball league. But he says girls are welcome to play baseball at any level as well. Softball in Niverville is a girls-only league.

Local softball has been divided into seven different age categories, while baseball has six age categories.

"We love and need volunteers [too]," says Wolfe. "We are always looking for help in areas of coaching, umping, tournaments, grounds, etc."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ To volunteer or inquire about baseball and softball options, the committee can be reached at niverville. wildcats@gmail.com.



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WHY JOIN THE CHAMBER?



Updates from the Ritchot Chamber



The Ritchot Regional Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome our new administrative assistant, Rachel Pelletier. Rachel has been a long-time resident of the RM of Ritchot and has a proven track record in organizing and motivating team members and event planning. We invite all members to reach out and say hello to Rachel at 204-881-2351 or send her an email (rachel@ritchotchamber.com).

We're Hiring!

The Ritchot Regional Chamber of Commerce is hiring a part-time Chamber Relations and Membership Sales Manager position. See the full job description at www.facebook.com/ritchotchamberofcommerce.

Upcoming Events

B2B Networking Mixer, Saturday, March 30, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Co-hosted with the Southeast Home & Reno Show TransCanada Centre, Île-des-Chênes

5th Annual Chamber Golf Tournament, Tuesday, June 18, 2019 Lorette Golf Course

2019 Business Gala Awards, Saturday, November 16, 2019 TransCanada Centre, Île-des-Chênes

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THE CITIZEN | MARCH 2019 **SPORTS & RECREATION**

Team Manitoba Wins Ringette Bronze

By Lorelei Leona

Josée Roy, a ringette player from Ste. Agathe, has won bronze with Team Manitoba at the Canada Winter Games.

Roy, who was selected to represent her province in late 2018, took part in the Games in Red Deer, Alberta from February 15 through March 3.

Team Manitoba began the round robin in Pool A, where they faced off against Alberta, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. Manitoba went undefeated in the preliminary round, clinching them a spot in the playoffs, where they went on to face the top teams of Pool B.

"We knew coming into the tournament that we had a good chance against these teams because we saw them beforehand," says Roy. "We were most nervous playing Alberta, because we hadn't seen them since October."

Manitoba ended up defeating Alberta in double overtime, coming back from a 5-1 deficit early in the game. That matchup was their final game of the round robin and set the tone for how the



Team Manitoba with their bronze medals.

team wanted to play heading to the playoff round.

"It was faster energy across the arena... there were so many fans," she says of the pace of the games. "Every day there was a line-up to come into our games. There was a lot of excitement and energy. After the preliminary round, there were more fans that wanted to come. It was do-or-die for us, and we wanted to keep winning to go into the semifinals and finals.'

Undefeated in the preliminaries, Team Manitoba played Saskatchewan, the fifth seed in

Pool B, in their first game of the playoffs, winning by a score of 5–4. Next, they played Quebec, the second seed in Pool B, where they lost 7–5. This was good enough to advance them to the medal round, where they played B.C. and won the bronze medal game.

"It was an unreal experience," Roy says. "It's a good feeling to win bronze for the province, myself, and for my team."

Her dad, Luc Roy, was there to watch his daughter play in front of the packed arena. He says he couldn't help but feel an immense

sense of pride for all the hard work she had put in to make it to this stage.

It was a really exciting feeling," Luc says. "It was nice to see all the hard work that she did throughout the last two years leading up to this. All of the personal goals she set and [the things] we talked about in order to make the teamkeeping up with the workouts [and the] mental training it took. It was a great experience."

Roy, who also recently won bronze in the Canadian Ringette Championship, is passionate about inspiring kids to explore athletics, and she wants to study kinesiology in nniversity, as well as play one more year with the AA Eastman Flames. For her, the experience representing Team Manitoba at a game of this calibre is something she wants to remember forever.

"Winning bronze is the cherry on the top," she says. "Being able to spend time with teammates and build our friendships is the highlight of this experience. This may be the end of my career, so I love that I was able to make the most of it.

INBRIEF



Soccer Registration Underway for Eastman League

By Lorelei Leona

☑ lleona@nivervillecitizen.com

Registration for the upcoming soccer season is underway for the Eastman Youth Soccer League, which services 15 clubs in southern Manitoba, including Niverville.

The league is a not-for-profit recreational-level soccer league operating mainly in the Eastman region of Manitoba, according to its president, Dave Nelson. Players in the league range from eight to 18 years old, and the league has seen over 3,000 participants

"Our season begins in early May and ends in late June, with tournaments or playoffs for each of our age groups just before school ends for summer," says Nelson. "Outside of the league, most of our clubs host their own mini-soccer programs as well. These programs range in ages from two to seven years old."

In Niverville, players can register through the Niverville Recreation website until March 15. Teams for Niverville are divided into Under 10, Under 12, Under 15, and Under 18, and registration is \$80 per player. Each team plays twice per week throughout the season.

Football Player Returns from International Tournament

By Lorelei Leona

□ Ileona@nivervillecitizen.com

Mason Funk, a local athlete, recently got the chance to play in the 2019 International Pigskin Classic in San Antonio, Texas.

The Classic brings together ten teams from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Virginia, California, Mexico, Dallas, and San Antonio to compete against each other. The tournament follows NFL rules and consists of one-hour games.

Funk, an eighth grader who

attends Niverville Collegiate, was selected to play for the Manitoba Selects after the team saw his potential during his time playing for the Eastman Raiders.

'The Manitoba Selects [is a] a football club started up by Kito Poblah, a former Winnipeg Blue Bomber, [and is] designed to further develop young football players who want to develop their skills and take football to another level," explains Greg Funk, Mason's father, "They held tryouts in the fall where they chose

the top players and created their team. The team spent about three months practicing together on a weekly basis with the goal of traveling to Texas to play and experience football at an international

The Selects, like all the other teams at the Classic, were only guaranteed two games. The more games they won, the more opportunity they would have to play. Unfortunately, the team was eliminated after their two games, with the scores of 8-0 and 8-6.

Still, the experience was great for the young cornerback and safety. Mason's family was able to make the trek down south to watch him compete.

We made a family holiday out of this trip to Texas," says Funk. "It was a great experience to see Mason involved in high-level football, doing what he loves. It was also neat to be a part of a group coming together from all parts of the province cheering our teams on down in Texas."



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That's why the Town, together with the Niverville Chamber of Commerce, has started the Business Enhancement Initiative (BEI).

BEI can help you get information that will assist your business, find someone to talk to, or arrange for a mentor.

The official launch of BEI will take place in April.

For information about BEI, contact Dawn Harris, executive director of the chamber, at 204-388-6140 or chamber@niverville.com.

Be all you can be with BEI!







NCI's Varsity Boys after recent tournament victory.

NCI Varsity Boys Off to Basketball Provincials

By Lorelei Leona

☑ lleona@nivervillecitizen.com

The Varsity Boys basketball team at Niverville Collegiate went undefeated during the regular season and continued their streak into the playoffs. The team has played consistently all season, leading to their top spot as they head into Provincials.

"Lately, we have been playing more consistently with great effort and focus, leading to less turnovers," says head coach Richard Toews. "This effort has allowed us to improve and play close to our potential."

The Panthers played well in their most recent tournaments, winning third in the Nighthawk Invitational on February 15-16, where they defeated the Green Valley Pirates 60-52. Playing against teams they don't normally get the chance to see, these tournaments have given Niverville

the chance to up their play and adapt to different styles.

We played well, and close to the consistency we are aiming for, in our last tournament," Toews says. "Each game had intense moments with aggressive play. We encountered some challenging teams, leading to challenging games. This gave us some experience in playing in tight games. Playing tough teams with high intensity allows us to elevate our own play, which helps us bring greater intensity to our regular season games. It is nice playing different teams that each have their own style of play. We must adapt and modify how we play to give us the best opportunity to play well."

The Varsity team recently qualified for Provincials on March 2, after beating the third seed Green Valley Pirates once again in a tight matchup, by a score of 61-53.

"Increased communication

has been a goal for the season, says Toews. "Their focus and efforts have contributed to the team improving throughout the year and we aim to continue this improvement in all areas. All of our players have been outstanding at different times and different ways. We need all of their strengths to be the best team possible, and each player has been unselfish, making sacrifices so the team can experience success. I am thankful for the character they have each shown."

He says the Panthers are playing a disciplined season, working hard and creating strategies that focus on defence while maintaining a fundamental offense that focusses on ball and player movement.

The team now heads to Provincials on March 14-16, where they hope to defend their title as AA Varsity champions.







Country artist Brady Kenneth.

BRADY KENNETH

New Single Out from Local Country Artist

By Lorelei Leona

Almost three years after releasing his debut album, local country musician Brady Kenneth is back in the spotlight, dropping his new single at the beginning of February, and getting ready to release an EP in the spring.

Recording his EP at Arcade Studios in Niverville, Kenneth has done a lot of growing up in the past few years—from what inspires his writing to coming into his own as an artist. As a country artist, Kenneth wanted his new record, *Under This Hat*, to reflect his growth and be reflective of his own sound, not what someone thinks a country artist should sound like.

"I think I've just learned to let myself sound how I'm supposed to sound naturally... as opposed to trying to sound like other artists," Kenneth says. "We all have our influences, but so far I've felt the biggest and most positive response when I've let the songs come out naturally."

His first single off the album, "What I Gotta Do," is a fun, upbeat track that gives listeners a glimpse into what is to come on the new record. Kenneth says that one of the keys to writing great music for him is to keep his mind open to new sounds and ideas, giving him plenty of inspiration to choose from when it comes time to dive into the writing process.

"I've worked really hard on the writing aspect of my songs," he says. "I made a couple trips to Nashville and was fortunate enough to sit down and learn from a hit songwriter. Finding a catchy melody and rhythm is very important, but for me it was the storytelling that I really wanted to stand out."

Recording his latest tracks with local producer Evan St Cyr, Kenneth uses the studio sessions to get into the meat

of the songs, allowing them to create a unique sound that is reflective of his vision and musical style.

"It really starts with recording all of the instruments the way the song naturally flows," he says of the recording process. "We try to take way too much from every instrument so that there's always new ideas to use or fall back on. Even though the bare bones of the songs are written prior to coming into the studio, the actual magic is formed, created, and produced after most of the initial recording is done."

The musician is coming off a Manitoba and Alberta radio tour, where he was able to promote his new single and get the word out about his music. In addition to promoting his current single, Kenneth has booked a few tour dates for the summer, including performances at the Teulon Centennial at the end of June, and Howl at the Moon in July.

He's also looking at a couple of shows in Alberta over the summer.

"I did some meet-andgreets at various stations along the way, as well as some on-air interviews and performances to debuts my new single," Kenneth says. "[It] was really cool to hear my songs in different cities and provinces. It was a lot of fun and really interesting to see how closely connected radio is across Canada."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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- www.facebook.com/
- bradykennethmusic
- Instagram: @bradykennethmusic

🛑 IN BRIEF



The top three finishers of this year's Pinoy Pop Star, including Joey Villanueva of Niverville.

EVAN BRAUN

25

Niverville Crooner Places in Top Three at Pop Star Competition

By Evan Braun

☑ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Joey Villanueva, a singer from Niverville, has taken one of the top prizes in this year's Pinoy Pop Star, a singing competition that features the best of the best in Manitoba's Filipino community. The grand finals played to a sold-out crowd at the McPhillips Street Casino in Winnipeg.

In the face of stiff com-

In the face of stiff competition from the other 13 performers who made the finals, Villanueva tossed off a pitch-perfect rendition of Michael Bolton's "How Am I Supposed to Live Without You?", good enough to land him in third place—and in the money.

Earlier in the competition, Villanueva had sung "Killing Me Softly" by The Fugees, and "Incomplete" by Sisqo to make the finals.

Villanueva notes that he didn't tackle Michael Bolton's original version of the well-known 90s hit, but rather a Korean cover with a stronger R&B flavour, which plays to Villanueva's strength as an artist. The judges were suitably impressed by both the performance and the song choice.

First place went to Klayd Gatdula of Winnipeg, who sang Calum Scott's "You Are the Reason" and took home the \$2,000 grand prize. Andrea Macasaet, first runner-up, claimed a \$750 prize for her cover of "And I Am Telling You," from the *Dreamgirls* soundtrack. Villanueva's third-place finished netted him \$500.

This was not the first time Villaneuva had joined the competition. He previously competed in the inaugural season back in 2009.

"It was a nerve-wracking experience for me, the first time I joined," says Villanueva of his unsuccessful 2009 run. "But at the same time, I was excited because I got to meet a lot of talented people. After the competition, it opened a lot of performance opportunities for me in and around the community."



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LoungeFM Heads Out on Tour

By Lorelei Leona

☑ lleona@nivervillecitizen.com

LoungeFM of Niverville has been busy establishing themselves in the local music scene, filling bars and music venues with smooth tunes, melodic sounds, and groovy undertones. Now, riding off the momentum of their debut album, Love Will Let You Down, which they released last spring, the quartet is taking their music to Eastern Canada on their first-ever tour.

Almost a year after the band released their album, they dropped two new singles—"Act This Way" and "New Phone/Who Dis"—which quickly garnered more than 47,000 YouTube views in their first two weeks.

Recording their newest singles at Arcade Studios with producer Evan St. Cyr, LoungeFM's sound has caught the attention of audiences around the world.

"The new songs were ones we started writing near the end of recording the album," says bassist Joel Braun. "We had some member changes after the album came out, so once we figured out what the new line-up looked like, it was just a matter of feeling out how we wanted our sound to evolve as we moved to the next chapter. We had been sitting on these two song ideas for long enough, and when the opportunity came to record at Arcade, we jumped at the chance."

"The two singles were my first experience writing and recording with the band, so it was a significant milestone for me," adds newcomer Graeme Leaver. "I definitely felt nervous going into it, but it ended up being a great experience. Arcade is a beautiful studio and everyone in the studio and band was very supportive along the way."

Drummer Adam Pauls, who produced the band's first album, handed over the reins to Evan St. Cyr as they headed into the studio to record their singles.

"I found myself getting anxious



Adam Pauls, Joel Braun, Corey Wohlgemuth, and Graeme Leaver of LoungeFM.

BUIO ASSIS

in between sessions, but like anytime you switch up the way that you're accustomed to doing things, you learn something new," Pauls says. "Evan's a pro and was very accommodating, so he was the perfect guy to work with on this project and to bounce ideas off of. Arcade's also a step up from the basements I usually produce in, so it was inspiring to work somewhere nice for a change."

The band kicks off their tour with a Winnipeg show on March 12 at The Handsome Daughter before heading out on the road for ten days, playing four more shows along the way. The group will make stops in Windsor, Toronto, and Montreal before heading back to Toronto for a second show to wrap up their tour.

Picking a place to start was tricky, as the band has listeners throughout Canada and the United States, and as far away as Europe and South Korea. However, using information gathered from various streaming services, they learned that Toronto and Montreal have the largest listening base.

"A few days after we released 'Act This Way,' I found a lyric video in Spanish for the song on

YouTube," says Leaver of how far their audiences reach. "It was very cool to see the song connecting with a non-English-speaking audience outside of Canada, and that someone cared enough to go to the trouble to translate the song and make that video."

In a year of firsts, LoungeFM recently did their first live podcast with WitchPoliceRadio, where they did an interview and played five songs. It was a more intimate setting than the venues they're used to. The group has had to adapt their sound to the energy of the room and create an experience that is unique to the audience.

"It was a great, intimate space to get to play in," says Leaver. "It's always interesting to me to experience how the songs change when you're playing to ten people hanging out on some couches instead of playing over the crowd in a bar. I feel like there is a lot of adaptability in the songs to meet the energy of whatever room we end up in. I'm excited to see how that plays out on the road."

Braun agrees that tapping into the energy of the room is how they make their shows an experience.

"Whether that comes from an

audience, or even just us as friends on stage, any chance to give in to that moment feels wonderful," Braun says. "With the way that music works now, through streaming services... there's this added knowledge that there are people out there who are listening and liking the music that we're creating. So it feels easier to capture that live energy and connect with people who enjoy the same music as us."

After the tour, the group will open for The Amadians' release show at The Park Theatre before focusing on more writing and recording.

"We still want to make our way west in the near future as well... maybe another tour at the end of the year," says frontman Corey Wohlgemuth. "Keep your eyes open for festival announcements this summer."

Regardless of whether you're seeing a live show or listening to their album, people can expect to get their groove on with LoungeFM and experience a performance that strips away the bells and whistles until they're inundated with the raw, genuine sound that only this band can deliver.







JOB POSTINGS



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Director of Facilities and Special Projects

The Municipality of Ritchot invites qualified people to apply for the full time position of Director of Recreation Facilities and Special Projects. Reporting to the Recreation Director and Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, the incumbent will be responsible for ensuring that facilities in the Municipality of Ritchot are operated and maintained in a safe, efficient and effective manner. This position will also play an integral role in project management of structural capital projects.

The applicant must possess a broad knowledge of facility operations, building maintenance and construction and a minimum five (5) years' experience in a management position is preferred. The incumbent must have the ability to communicate and interact effectively with the public with a wide range of responsibilities.

Salary dependant on qualifications.

A detailed job description may be obtained by contacting the Municipality of Ritchot office at (204) 883-2293, or by accessing it on our website at www.ritchot.com – Employment Opportunities.

Please submit a detailed resume, complete with a cover letter, salary expectations and including appropriate references, to:

> The Municipality of Ritchot 352 Main Street St. Adolphe, MB R5A 1B9 Or by email to info@ritchot.com by Friday, March 22, 2019.



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Recreation Programmer

The Municipality of Ritchot invites qualified people to apply for the position of Recreation Programmer. Reporting to the Recreation Director, the incumbent will be responsible for supporting the development, implementation, evaluation and administration of Recreation Programs in the Municipality of Ritchot. This position is part time (10hours per week) from September through April and full time (37.5 hours per week) from May through August.

The applicant must possess experience in program development, administration, management and delivery, superior public relations, organizational, and time management skills, the ability to work independently and to complete necessary tasks, basic office skills, including office suite and scheduling software, first aid/CPR, ability to communicate and interact effectively with the public.

Salary \$17per hour

A detailed job description may be obtained by contacting the Municipality of Ritchot office at (204) 883-2293, or by accessing it on our website at www.ritchot.com - Employment Opportunities.

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