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LOCAL NEWS

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Details on Page 5



LOCAL NEWS

Niverville Collegiate Student Remanded into Custody After Making Gun Threat

On April 8, the RCMP responded to a threat made against NCI by a 15-year-old student. The student was apprehended at his home that same day and taken into police custody.

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THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Rejuvenating Our Lawns and Outdoor Spaces

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Changes Coming to Niverville Fair

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Niverville Community Resource Centre Has Broken Ground

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BRENDASAWATZKY

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Rendering of the community campus in Niverville.

STANTEC

Construction Officially Underway on Community Resource Centre

BRENDA SAWATZKY

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April 12, 2019 will go down as a monumental day in Niverville's history. On this day, ministers and leaders from all levels of government made an appearance at the Niverville Arena in order to make formal announcements regarding their investment to the people of the community and the surrounding area.

The big news? The much-anticipated Community Resource Centre (CRC) was ready to break ground as early as Monday, April 15, thanks to grant contributions of \$7.8 million from the federal government and an additional \$3.5 million from the province.

Construction is now officially underway at the site.

"So much of the activity in our communities... has to do with places like this, where we gather, and it's also a way of acknowledging how important it is that our governments work together, because when we do, almost anything can happen," Jim Carr, the federal Minister of International Trade Diversification, told the gathered crowd. "Spaces like these play a huge role in all of our lives as Manitobans."

The initial plans for the CRC began to take shape in 2014, although Niverville Mayor Myron Dyck admits that improving recreation options in the community has been on council's mind since at least 2001.

Today, with 29 percent of the town's population under the age of 14, it's never been more important. Demographics like these mark Niverville as the youngest community in Manitoba.

"The residents here are very

generous... but you can't just keep asking [them to donate to] everything because [we're all] limited, so you had to be patient," Dyck says. "We needed other levels of government funding. This [financial promise today] is what we needed. We committed \$5 million three years ago with the hopes that this would show that we are serious."

Carr says he understands firsthand the important role that community campuses play in the life of a town's residents.

"Growing up in south Winnipeg, I spent all of my time at the community club," Carr says. "This was where lifelong friendships were forged. We exercised our bodies and our minds... this is where we forged who we were in our identity. For Niverville, whether you're taking centre stage in the performing arts spaces, or chasing a puck down the rink, or monkeying around on the indoor jungle gym, or taking advantage of new childcare services, the centre will have something for everyone."

All parties agree that it was the unique and multifaceted plan for Niverville's CRC that made it an investment they could sink their teeth into. The proposed 99,000-square-foot facility, once complete, will house an arena, fieldhouse, and regulation-size ball courts. But it will also serve as an optimal gathering place with a registered childcare facility, a performing arts space, a two-storey indoor playground, meeting rooms, multipurpose rooms, a teaching kitchen, and rental space.

A PROJECT OF FIRSTS

The CRC is a project of firsts. It will be the first of its kind in Manitoba to be connected to a high school, something made possible by Hanover School Division's cooperation in locating the school onsite.

The CRC is also the very first project in all of Canada to be made possible through the federal government's Investing in Canada initiative.

"I think it's very important that the people who go to the polls and elect us know that, in spite of all the noise that you might hear, we really do often work collectively for the betterment of our people," Carr adds. "It's important... [for] the democracy that we share."

While Kelvin Goertzen, Manitoba's Minister of Education and Training, agrees that government funding plays a role, he acknowledges that, in the end, it's the people on the ground floor who really make things happen.

"One of the things I learned and will always remember in representing Niverville is the tremendous creativity that this community has in getting projects done," Goertzen says. "In this community, [people] don't just talk the talk but open their wallets and walk the walk... Governments get to stand in front of podiums and make announcements, and I'll tell you that that feels good. But it's really about you. It's not about government."

Carr also shares these sentiments, suggesting that the CRC project became a reality due to the fortitude and persistence of the community and its leadership.

"It's easy for [us to see] that [Niverville] is a place that knows its future and how it wants to get there [based] around all of the best values: recreation, culture, economic development, and young people gathering together to forge lifelong relationships," says Carr. "[We] have [all] worked so well on this project, so it's probably a model for other projects to coalesce around the same values."

(continued on page 4)

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- WHAT ABOUT THE CARE OF MY KIDS?** This is a very complicated question but the guiding principal of the courts is to do what is in the best interests of your children. Putting your children first is the key to a healthier separation and family;
- WHAT AM I ENTITLED TO?** While the facts will always determine this, a general rule to start from would be that the value of all assets acquired while together should be divided equally;
- WHAT ABOUT THE HOUSE?** Sometimes the house is sold and debts are paid, sometimes one party buys out the other's interests, and your lawyer will help you work through what options are best for you;
- WHAT INFORMATION DOES A LAWYER NEED?**
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 - 3 years tax returns
 - Marriage certificate
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 - List of Debts
- WE ARE AMICABLE, WHY DO WE NEED A LAWYER?** Unfortunately, amicable situations don't always last forever, and legal agreements become necessary and in fact when in place help the family unit to get along even better, as there is little to argue over; and, sometimes parties make agreements that they think are fair, before they are informed of all of the facts.
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Jim Carr, Minister of International Trade Diversification, speaks at the Niverville Arena.

■ BRENDA SAWATZKY

(continued from page 3)

THE PROJECT'S ROOTS

Mayor Dyck wants to remind everyone, though, that the community vision took root long before many actually remember.

"The residents of Niverville have waited a long time for today's announcement," he said in an emotional address. "Some longer than others. Today, in this room with us, is both a council member, Chris Wiebe, and a former mayor, Clare Braun, that fundraised for [the existing arena] as school-age boys back in 1967. Also here today is our deputy mayor, John Funk, who has served on council for over 30 years. Back in the 80s, he ran on a platform of bringing recreation to Niverville. Seeing their smiles today makes me so happy."

Mayor Dyck also chose to acknowledge the generosity of the Church family, who, in

the 1960s, donated the parcel of land on which the CRC will sit in the hopes of providing recreational space for the community.

As well, Dyck recognized the Indigenous community that once inhabited this land.

"When our forefathers came up the Red River and settled in this area, it was our Indigenous neighbours that assisted them," Dyck said. "The CRC project will have part of it set aside to honour our Indigenous friends and neighbours and to acknowledge the relationships both past and present that we have with them."

FINAL FUNDRAISING

For the CRC fundraising committee, this important commitment from all three levels of governments means they, too, can make positive strides forward. The total cost of the CRC build is estimated at around \$19 million. Now, with assurances of grants totalling

\$16.3 million, the committee has a better idea of the fundraising mark they need to achieve.

"We have been wondering when we should really begin the major part of our fundraising focus," says committee member Clare Braun. "We're in the position to raise \$3 million, which includes donations, naming rights, and all of those kinds of things. We didn't want to start before we knew that we were going to get the grants, so the announcement today from the federal and provincial governments is huge."

Residents can watch for a variety of fundraising events in the near future, including the Sparkle Spring Gala being held at the Heritage Centre on Friday, May 10.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ For tickets to the Sparkle Spring Gala, email resourcecentre@whereyoubelong.ca



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CITIZEN POLL

What component of Niverville's Community Resource Centre are you most likely to use?

- ☐ The new arena.
- ☐ The fieldhouse.
- ☐ The indoor play structure.
- ☐ The childcare centre.
- ☐ The performing arts space.
- ☐ The rental spaces.

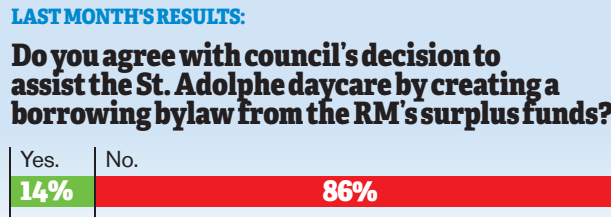
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YOUR COMMENTS:

No! This is horribly unjust for the citizens of the RM who do not use the daycare. Take out a loan with the bank.
- Franz Blonski-Polskiovich

Since when do municipalities act as banks? Did the RM apply for an extension to the provincial deadline?

No. Daycares are not part of the municipal mandate in Manitoba. Although a daycare is needed in the community, it is not up to the municipality to be funding such project. Municipality should focus on projects that are within their mandate. Innapropriate use of municipal funds.

While I am a huge supporter of daycare centres and am aware the community is in need of one... I am not quite sure how a not-for-profit organization can feasibly handle a loan of this amount, even if over 20 years.

Rule of thumb is that community daycares should raise 1/3 or more of required funds from the community which could include a grant contribution for the municipality, then 1/3 from the province and 1/3 from the federal government. Any funding shortages from the community should be borrowed from a financial institution, not an RM or the taxpayers.

The daycare is a great idea, but funded by a municipality will be unnecessary burden on taxpayers.

Since when are daycares a municipal service?

I feel the project was rushed, with little community engagement in terms of fundraising.

As a taxpayer in the RM of Ritchot, I would like a clear explanation from councillors Pelletier, Belanger, and Mamchuk about how they feel this is viable? The answer of just because St. Adolphe needs a daycare is not an appropriate answer. This isn't their personal money to toss around. Also wondering where the CFO and CAO were in all of this? Why did it take an outside source to find all the discrepancies in this short sighted plan?

NCI Student Remanded into Custody After School Threat

By Brenda Sawatzky
bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

On the afternoon of April 8, RCMP officers were dispatched to Niverville Collegiate for the second time in just over a year due to social media threats made against the school. The Hanover School Division (HSD) was quick to respond by notifying the RCMP and immediately putting the school under a hold-and-secure protocol.

The doors of the school were locked for just under an hour, preventing anyone from entering or leaving. Parents waited outside with bated breath until their kids were released.

The apparent threat came from a 15-year-old Niverville resident.

"The photo [on social media] appeared to be a youth carrying a firearm," says Paul Manaigre, RCMP media spokesperson. "The understanding is that it was a real firearm but not his own."

Accompanying the photo was a message issuing what could be conceived as a warning to anyone attending the high school in the coming days. Manaigre says the police were able to quickly identify the individual, who was already known to RCMP officials. Five officers were immediately dispatched, three to cover the interior and exterior of the school and two others to track the suspect down at his Niverville home.

"Within the hour... they located and arrested him and brought him back to the detachment," Manaigre says. "He has been remanded into custody. [He's] probably facing charges of uttering threats and weapons-related charges."

To remand someone into custody, he says, means making an application to the court to have him held until he can appear before a judge. Typically, an appearance before a judge happens within 24 hours of an arrest. The judge then makes a decision as to whether the suspect will continue on in custody until his next court appearance or if he'll be released on specified conditions until that date.



Niverville Collegiate on the day of the incident. CARA DOWSE

As of the Tuesday afternoon after the incident, Manaigre was unsure as to whether the suspect had been presented before a judge and, if so, what decision had been made.

"The [RCMP] were fantastic," says Randy Dueck, superintendent of the Hanover School Division. "I can't say enough. For a while [during the event], we had a live phone open to [Principal] Michael Koester's office... and we were able to include the RCMP directly in our conversation at the division office as well."

Dueck explains that a hold-and-secure measure is something that is done when the threat to the school is external and there is no perceived danger within the school. The outside doors are locked and, depending on the situation, students and staff are allowed to move freely within the building.

Students in the portable huts, on the other hand, were moved to the security of the main building. On Monday, that meant they gathered in the gymnasium, the only place large enough to accommodate so many students at once.

A lockdown measure, he clarifies, is taken when the threat exists internally, in which case students and teachers are locked into their individual classrooms.

"What you need to know is that, in a crisis situation, we have a division crisis team that we bring together immediately," Dueck says. "We had eight people in a room here contacting [parents] and the RCMP, etc. Our assistant superintendent of student services was in the room reaching out to her clinicians, and I think there was even one within the school at the time to provide support."

Unlike the similar event of February 2018, school division staff worked diligently at providing virtually live feedback to parents throughout the course of the event. A series of emails and voicemails were sent to all parents with children at both NCI and the Niverville Elementary School.

"The parents will get notification almost as soon as we're into a situation and then we try to provide as regular updates as we can with information as to how the situation is unfolding, because we know that parents are really concerned," Dueck says. "It's a challenge, because we're learning information as we go along as well. It's not like we know everything when something starts. We've unfortunately had other opportunities in other schools to practice some of these things and we're getting better every time."

HSD's decision to likewise inform parents with children in the Niverville Elementary School came as a result of past experience.

"We've heard from parents, loud and clear, 'If something's happening in one school in the community, even though we don't have kids in that

school, we want to be aware," says Dueck. "So [we're trying to be] very responsive to parents in that situation."

Because the hold-and-secure measure was still in effect at the end of the school day, HSD was faced with a new challenge: what to do about bus pickups. With no existing threat at the elementary school, early years students were picked up as usual. Some bus drivers proceeded to deliver these children home while others waited for permission to proceed to NCI to load the balance of their passengers.

While HSD made attempts to contact all parents again to inform them about late bus arrivals, Dueck admits they could have done better.

"I would like to think we did a great job of that," says Dueck, "but we did receive some feedback from early years parents that maybe we didn't get that particular announcement out in as timely a way as possible. That's something that we've listened to and have made a note for the next time."

As of Tuesday, with the threat under the RCMP's control, students returned to school as usual. Counsellors were on site to provide a listening ear for students who might be struggling with the previous day's trauma. They will remain at the school until they are no longer needed.

"[I was] surprised to learn about the hold-and-secure procedure," says one parent of a Grade Five student at NCI. "I had planned to pick up my child on Monday afternoon instead of the usual bus routine, therefore I was definitely a little worried as I waited outside the school for them when I got the call from HSD notifying me."

She's pleased, though, that the threat was taken seriously and that the suspect was detained quickly.

"They were very prompt in notifying parents, as I got the phone call at 3:30 p.m.," she adds.

While her child didn't appear rattled from the day's events, she's glad for the counselling support provided by HSD staff.

Chimney Swift Migration Soon to Arrive in St. Adolphe

By Brenda Sawatzky

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The May arrival of a bird species called the chimney swift is a much-anticipated event in St. Adolphe. So much so that the community has adopted the bird as its own, inviting bird watchers from around the province to witness the sight. As a result, St. Adolphe is known as the chimney swift nesting capital of Manitoba.

The name of the bird, a relative of the Swift species, is derived from its habit of taking advantage of mortared chimneys to roost (rest) at night and eventually construct a nest and breed.

Barb Stewart is a biologist, Ritchot resident, and long-time volunteer for the Manitoba Chimney Swift Initiative (MCSI). She and her husband Rob have been integral in helping monitor and update data on the bird's nesting habits here at the edge of the species' migration route.

Today, only five old brick chimneys remain on four historical buildings in the community, many of which have been restored from their crumbling state in order to preserve the birds' familiar nesting spots.

"I'm more heavily involved in the research," says Stewart. "I can help generate nesting success and reproductive success. Before this research started in St. Adolphe, the best



Photo 1 Caption: Barb and Rob Stewart of the Manitoba Chimney Swift Initiative.

✉ BRENDA SAWATZKY

data that Canadian scientists were using... were 1949 New York State statistics."

The anticipation of the bird's arrival each year is partly linked to the fact that it's considered an at-risk species, both federally and provincially, and it's on the threatened list internationally. Stewart works closely with Tim Poole, coordinator of the MCSI, which is hosted by Nature Manitoba, a non-profit organization.

"The chimney swift has declined in Canada by 90 percent since the 1970s," Poole says. "In Manitoba, we basically sit at the northwest periphery of its global range, and when a species declines it always declines from its edges... We're probably at the frontline of trying to help this species here in Manitoba because we're at that edge."

The rapid decline of the species has been attributed to a number of circumstances,

namely the loss of old brick chimneys to modern heating systems. Any chimneys being erected today have slippery linings and capped tops, preventing their usefulness to the chimney swift.

The increased use of pesticides has also reduced the number of insects available for food. Climate change, too, has caused new weather patterns such as drought, high winds, and heavy rainfalls, conditions which didn't used

to be so severe.

These factors all work against the survival of the species.

Poole says that to understand the importance of the chimney swift, we need to recognize what these birds do on a practical level for humans and the environment. Chimney swifts are aerial insectivores, consuming about a thousand flying insects per day per bird. Similarly, other insect-eaters like swallows,

whippoorwill, and the night hawk are also becoming endangered in the north.

"They are doing a real practical role for us," Poole says. "If we lose this whole suite of birds, we're going to be putting more chemicals into our system to control these insects."

A strong believer in habitat stewardship, he wants everyone to recognize that creatures such as the swift are an important part of a healthy ecosystem, with its intricate system of checks and balances. Saving the birds means saving the environment and humanity from the overuse of toxic insecticides.

For this reason, the MCSI has been actively campaigning for the restoration of old chimneys. As well, they've erected hollow brick towers around the province, similar to an initiative in Texas that has proved successful. One of these towers sits on the site of the St. Adolphe Parish, along with an interpretive plaque for residents and bird enthusiasts to learn about the species.

Unfortunately, none of the towers have so far been successful in attracting chimney swifts for nesting.

"We have birds repeatedly playing follow-the-leader games over the tower, and they drop down but they won't enter," Stewart says. "So something about the recipe that is so successful in Texas



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does not work in Manitoba.”

Beyond the birds' endangered species status, Poole and Stewart say the chimney swift is an incredibly fascinating bird to watch. They are described as charismatic and very social in nature. Because they're an aerial insectivore species, they have no ability to perch. Instead they spend the majority of their time flying, stopping only to roost after dark or to build a nest and lay eggs.

Their strong claws work like grappling hooks to cling to the rough inside edges of a chimney. Bristly tail feathers provide them with an added level of grip. They also demonstrate impressive aerial displays, descending into urban chimneys in fast, kamikaze-style dives or slow, foot-first drops.

Monitors at the Assiniboine School in Winnipeg's St. James neighbourhood have noted up to 100 swifts roosting in their chimney at one time. Once they move to their eventual nesting sites, a chimney will only be occupied by one nesting pair, and occasionally one or two helper birds that assist in building the nest and feeding the young. Nests are built with a collection of small twigs and are attached to the side of the chimney using the bird's sticky saliva.

From the first time Stewart witnessed the ascent of the chimney swift in St. Adolphe, she was hooked.

“It was what I imagine a little crack cocaine fix is like,” Stewart jokes. “I think I'm addicted.”

Curiosity seekers should begin to see the birds arriving in St. Adolphe near the end of May. Updates on their arrival will be available on the MCSI website.

Throughout the month



A chimney swift nest.

BY BRENDA SAWATZKY

of June, the adult birds will be visible throughout the daylight hours, swooping in to build nests and eventually feed their young and provide them with flight training. Each adult pair can have a clutch of between two to seven birds.

In past years, the chimney swifts tended to spend the summer months at their nesting site. As of late, they have been leaving as soon as the young are ready to make the long trek home.

“The birds can hardly wait to get out of Dodge the last couple of years, because summer weather has been so horrendous [with] extreme heat and smoke from forest fires,” says Stewart.

As well, an increase in summer fogging and spraying for mosquitoes is reducing their food source earlier.

“What these birds really need is champions,” Poole says. “Having people champion the cause of these birds has been critical in the initiative since it was founded.”

Stewart likens Poole to a caped crusader for the species, referring to his dedication in rescuing nests with eggs that people have removed from chimneys as well as fledglings that have

become trapped inside the buildings to which the chimneys are attached. In some circumstances, where little ones have fallen from a nest, they are sent to a rehabilitation facility in Ontario to ensure they'll be ready to make the migration south again.

“We share the environment with these birds and if they are indicating through population declines that something is wrong with the environment, that means we could be suffering similarly,” Stewart warns. “There's a health issue... Are we starting to challenge ourselves with water quality issues, food quality issues, air quality issues? Well, these birds are sending [mankind] messages and feedback [on that].”

Historic buildings where the native chimney swift can be viewed include the St. Adolphe Parish, the future childcare centre at 372 Main Street, Club Amical at 344 Main Street, and the residence at 395 Main Street. Walking tour maps are available at the RM office.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.mbchimneyswift.com

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IN BRIEF

Helping Hands Announces Spring Food Drive

By Lorelei Leona

lleona@nivervillecitizen.com

The annual Helping Hands spring food drive is happening on May 3, as the organization looks to stock their pantry for the upcoming month's hampers.

Helping Hands provides food assistance to those in need in Niverville, New Bothwell, Otterburne, and Ste. Agathe. Hampers are distributed twice per month throughout most of the year and once per month during the summer.

"As per tradition, the food drive is supported by youth groups in Niverville and New Bothwell churches," explains Ashley Chamberlain, Volunteer Program Coordinator. "The youth will distribute door hangers on Wednesday, May 1, advising residents of the upcoming food drive. They will return on Friday, May 3 after 6:00 p.m. to pick up donations. If residents wish to, they can leave donations in a bag or box on their front step either with the door hanger attached, or clearly mark [them for] Helping Hands."

The most needed items include pasta, rice, fruit juice, canned beans and meat, and gluten-free items. There is currently no need for canned cream soup. For those who wish to donate in other ways, Helping Hands accepts cash and cheque donations as well. Those who donate amounts greater than \$20 receive a tax receipt.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

info@nivervillehelpinghands.org

Communities in Bloom Gears Up for Busy Summer

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Niverville's Communities in Bloom (NCIB) committee has created another long list of town beautification initiatives for this spring and summer. Some items on their to-do list are continuations of past projects, while new ones will take root this year.

Three new Heritage Reflections signs will appear along Main Street, continuing the theme of providing historical pictures and stories for residents and visitors alike. Many of these signs are already in place, including along the fence at the Niverville Elementary School as well as on buildings facing the railway tracks for travellers entering town from the west.

NCIB hopes to access funding this year for the creation of a 64-foot metal heritage wall to replace the deteriorating wood fence running alongside the Niverville Credit Union parking lot. The heritage wall will have six panels, each one depicting different periods in Niverville's history, including a focus on the immigrant pioneers who first settled here.

As well, the committee is making plans to work with the Mennonite Landing Committee on the creation of a historical point of interest at the location of the original well near the Red River.

Planting and enhancing gardens around the community is also on the spring agenda. Shirley Hoult says the committee will continue their work in the Fifth Avenue Estates development, where a number of gardens had been suffering from neglect. One such point of interest is at the amphitheatre near the play park. The existing shrubs there will be cleaned up and replaced with



The historic storyboards on display on the fence outside the Niverville Elementary School.

DUSTIN KRAHN

ornamental grasses and native plants.

"At the Fifth Avenue Estates entrance last year, we transplanted some of the rose [bushes] and added soil and mulch," says Hoult. "[We] planted day lilies, French irises, and a tree to improve the appearance. This year we will see how those plantings have done before adding more."

The beautification work will continue into Hespeler Park, where a variety of native plants will be introduced around the timber frame structure that acts as a welcome to visitors near the lagoon remediation site. This area has recently been transformed into a native wildlife habitat.

By late July, Hoult says they will be hosting a Niverville garden tour, drawing plant lovers from Winnipeg and surrounding area. It's for anyone, she says, with

an interest in small community initiatives and gardening.

She adds that you can't have a true appreciation for natural beauty without considering our environmental impact. To address this, a number of green initiatives are underway.

"Environmental action is a part of the Manitoba Communities in Bloom program and has been identified as an area for potential improvement," Hoult says. "In an attempt to build awareness on this, we've created a survey to be completed by business [owners] to better understand where they are at in environmental [initiatives] and if and where we can provide assistance to them to improve as a business community."

As well, the NCIB hopes to work together with town council and local businesses on an initiative that will see the reduction and

eventual elimination of plastic bags in town. Single-use plastic bags have become a pervasive problem impacting the health of our planet.

At NCIB's request, the town is also taking on a number of new beautification initiatives.

"We have ordered supplies and NCIB will be using volunteers to help clean off graffiti throughout town," says Eric King, Niverville's chief administrative officer.

The town will also consider improved lighting at the cenotaph, located at the Heritage Cemetery on Main Street.

While much of the fundraising is already in place for NCIB's 2019 initiatives, Hoult welcomes donations from residents or business owners towards any specific project.



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Lots of NEWs

There's lots new in Niverville that indicates this is the place to be. The announcement of funding for the Community Resource Centre is perhaps the most exciting in the past month. All those working so hard to move it forward should be congratulated. Then there's the new high school that is visibly taking shape. There have been several new businesses that have come to town recently, expanding the existing solid business base.

All these activities make Niverville a more interesting place to live and work. The greater the activity, the more spin-off activity that is created. This is good for both business and residents.

While we welcome and congratulate new businesses, we encourage residents continue to patronize existing businesses that have contributed to this community for so many years, in addition to trying the new business offerings.

New chamber board for 2019/20

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John Magri, general manager, Wm Dyck & Sons

Vice-president:

Amanda Wiens, manager special projects, Wiens Furniture

Treasurer:

Elvin Krahn, senior account manager, BDC

Executive member:

Karen Albaugh, owner, done hair, skin and nails

Ben Dueck, CEO, Score Leadership Development

Doug Dyck, president, Heritage Lane Builders

Steve Neufeld, chief officer for community & development, Niverville Heritage Centre

Andy Rempel, associate broker, Rempel Insurance

Bryan Trottier, owner, Trotco Electric

New Members



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Leo Cespedes, Flush-N-Flow, is based in Niverville. Leo is a Red Seal Journeyman plumber offering a wide range of plumbing services. He is available for after-hour and emergency service. He can be reached at 204-381-6306. Check out his website: <https://flushnflow.ca> or Facebook.



Evergreen Village



NICK BERGMANN

Peter Schellenberg and his team from Evergreen Village offer an eight-acre, park-like setting for weddings, family gatherings, meetings and events. The venue can be reached at 204-388-5312. Check out the venue's Facebook page or website: www.theevergreenvillage.com

Based in Niverville, Nick Bergmann is a realtor with Re/Max One Group. He has sold houses in town and south-eastern Manitoba for five years. Nick is a strong supporter of Niverville and all it has to offer. He can be reached at 204-230-6762.

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Entrepreneur Embarks on AED Donation Program

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Garrett Hawgood is, by his very nature, a lifesaver. In fact, the Niverville man has made saving lives one of his main objectives.

Hawgood's business, Aim for Life, instructs people in CPR and first aid training. But his latest mission is to work towards a future where every building in every community is equipped with a key live-saving tool: an automated external defibrillator, better known as an AED. He says too many buildings—such as businesses, churches, and public facilities—don't have them.

Together with his long-time friend and business partner, Kris Magnifico, Hawgood has pledged to donate one Zoll AED for every first aid and CPR class sold.

The Zoll AEDs that Aim for Life provides are the same ones used by the City of Winnipeg and in emergency vehicles around the province. He warns that people might be tempted to buy a less expensive brand at a department store, but not all AEDs are created equal.

"Zoll has technology in it that makes CPR better," says Hawgood. "It tells you if you're applying enough pressure to the chest, which they don't all do."

To better understand heart failure and the purpose of an AED, Hawgood likens the heart to a spinning top. As long as it's spinning at full power, it's working at peak efficiency. A heart that goes into cardiac arrest is like a top whose motion is slowing down. Soon it begins to wobble and shake. This, he says, is literally what happens to the heart. Eventually, the shaking stops as the heart stops. The

AED's job is to identify and respond during that brief period when the heart is shaking.

"If the AED can catch it during that unstable rhythm, chances are very good that the person can be revived," Hawgood says. "But... an AED has to be on the person right away."

Applying CPR can keep the heart in the wobble rhythm longer—until an AED can be located.

"If an AED finds the shaking of the heart... it passes electricity through the heart and stops it in the hopes that when the heart turns back on, it remembers what it's supposed to be doing."

INCIDENTS OF MEDICAL DISTRESS

Hawgood also works as a full-time firefighter for the City of Winnipeg and has been trained in paramedicine, so he understands the urgency of trying to save a person in medical distress.

On three separate occasions, he's been called into action to perform CPR when he wasn't on work duty. Once it was on his daughter, Keira, who suffers from a rare medical condition called CDKL5. Another opportunity arose when a complete stranger stopped breathing at a Mexican resort where Hawgood was vacationing. The last took place on a multifamily outing to an amusement park when his friend Steve collapsed after his heart stopped beating.

In each situation, Hawgood was thankful for his CPR training.

"They were all very scary," says Hawgood. "It could happen to anyone, anywhere, at anytime. Nobody is protected."

Hawgood says that, ideally, an AED needs to be applied to a failing heart within two



Garrett Hawgood, co-owner of Aim for Life.

✉ BRENDA SAWATZKY

minutes of the initial distress signal. But, too often, good AEDs can be hard to locate. One of the reasons is that a good AED unit comes at a cost of about \$2,100.

"They had an AED at the amusement park, but it wasn't working," Hawgood says. "By the time an AED was on scene, it was 17 minutes. So for 17 minutes we did CPR on Steve."

Thankfully, it saved the life of his friend, a seemingly healthy 42-year-old with no known history of heart problems.

OPERATION HEART HEAL

In his spare time, Hawgood teaches others to do the same. Hawgood and Magnifico have

been teaching CPR and first aid training under the Red Cross umbrella for the last four years. They also provide first aid standby services at local events and sell Zoll AED units.

Their latest initiative, Operation Heart Heal, has a dual goal: to make AED units readily available in every public building, public space, jobsite, and workplace in the region. Once achieved, their secondary goal will be to donate AEDs to people living in remote places, like First Nations communities.

"We make good money with our full-time jobs, so when it comes to this kind of thing we're going to be making

a little bit of money on the classes and the funds will go directly toward the donation of AEDs," Hawgood says.

But in order to achieve this lofty goal, Hawgood hopes to partner with the local fire department, town, and business community. It's a win-win scenario, he says, since every business owner, club, and organization should be providing CPR training for their people on an ongoing basis. As a matter of fact, Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health regulations require it.

While many qualified trainers are available, however, Hawgood and Magnifico are the only ones who will donate an AED to the business or organization that provides a group class. The team offers training onsite or in a local community centre and supplies the equipment necessary to hold the class. They also offer classes at the same price as other trainers.

The only stipulation, in order to make this grand gesture feasible, is that the class sizes has to meet a minimum number.

"I'm a huge advocate for everybody getting trained," Hawgood says. "I'm hoping that this will entice people, because it really can help. I know from personal experience that you really don't know when you'll need to use it."

Hawgood says that too many workplaces or clubs only have one or two people trained in CPR and first aid. But that one person can't always be within two minutes of a cardiac arrest incident. Other times, they might freeze in the face of shock—or, worse still, be themselves the person in medical distress.

As well, training should be refreshed on an annual basis

for all employees, because when a skill is rarely put to use, it is quickly forgotten.

Once a business or organization receives the free AED after the first course, they can choose to donate an AED with every proceeding course offered. These AEDs can then be donated to churches, non-profit organizations, members of the community who are at risk of heart failure, or vulnerable communities who don't have access.

REMOTE COMMUNITIES

First Nations communities are some of the first to come to mind. Hawgood and his partner have spent a fair bit of time offering classes in these remote communities.

"The first time I was on a reserve to teach, it really shocked me at how different it was," says Hawgood. "Everybody thinks that everywhere you go in Canada is the same and everyone has access to the same stuff, but they don't. The soft spot that I have for that group of people kind of started with my firefighting job in Winnipeg."

In one northern Manitoba community, Hawgood discovered not just a shortage of medical expertise but a complete lack of 911 emergency services. Medical emergency calls there were made to the fire chief or a few trained individuals. If they weren't available, people died.

He sees his AED donation program going one step further in the future: partnering a local community with a remote First Nations community so that cultures can be shared and unique relationships built. In this way, Hawgood says, AEDs might be only one of many ways to share with those who have less.

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It's Time for Spring-Cleaning

By Lorelei Leona

lleona@nivervillecitizen.com

Communities around the south-east are hosting spring clean-up days in the coming weeks.

A series of community garage sales will also take place in early May.

The annual Niverville Community Garage Sale will occur May 3-4, with individual residents around town hosting their own sales. Maps of all the sales are available at the Town

of Niverville's website to help people with route planning.

Niverville's annual Free Give-away Day will be held on May 5. On this day, residents are encouraged to move items to the curb of their property and clearly label them as free.

St. Adolphe will hold its own town-wide garage sale the following weekend. Maps will be available for pick-up at the Esso station. New Bothwell's community garage sale is scheduled for later in the month, on Saturday,

May 25, and will last from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Niverville will launch into its clean-up days on May 10-11 from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

"Niverville residents will have the opportunity to dispose of larger items normally not picked up during regular weekly waste collection by bringing them to the Bristol Hauling yard," says a message on the Niverville Recreation website.

Large items that can be disposed of during these two days

include tires, propane tanks, and appliances. Freezers and fridges will cost \$20 to dispose, with all other appliances being free of charge. An extensive list of accepted items is available on the Niverville Recreation website.

In conjunction with the clean-up days, the Niverville Credit Union is hosting a free-document shredding even on May 11 from 10 a.m. until 2:00 pm in their parking lot on Main Street.

IN BRIEF

IDC Businesses Host Bike Tune-Up and Haircut Fundraiser

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

The owners of LDN Auto Service and Salon 421 are excited to host another annual spring fundraiser geared towards kids. On Saturday, May 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., families are encouraged to bring their kids' bicycles for a complimentary spring tune-up, which includes a tire pressure check, chain lube and adjust, and brake check and seat adjustment.

While they wait, kids can get free haircuts provided by the staff of Salon 421. A complimentary hotdog and drink barbecue will also be available for the whole family. Attendees will receive Slushie coupons, courtesy of Ile-des-Chênes Country Store.

Kids will have an opportunity to experience what it feels like to sit inside an actual race car. For every bike tuned, the lucky kid will leave with a ticket to the Red River Co-op Speedway this summer.

While the event is completely free to all attendees, a donation box will be available to anyone wishing to make a contribution to SwimAbility Manitoba, a swim program provided by University of Manitoba students and designed with special needs children in mind.

Garden and Outdoor Living Show Kicks Off Spring

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

This spring's annual Garden and Outdoor Living Show, held at the Niverville Heritage Centre on April 13, was a resounding success. The event is a fundraising initiative of the Enhanced Garden Committee, a group dedicated to the ongoing beautification of the Heritage Gardens located on the west side of the Heritage Centre.

"We were thrilled by the attendance," says committee member Shirley Hoult. "There was such energy at this year's event. We estimated that close to 500 attended. Interestingly... an estimated 30 percent of visitors to the event came from outside of the community, mainly Winnipeg."

The atrium floor showcased exhibitors from all over Manitoba. Beyond the atrium, workshops were held on landscape design, creating pollinator gardens, gardening for kids, and how-tos on reducing landfill waste. The



Visitors met the many exhibitors at this year's Garden and Outdoor Living Show in Niverville.

BRENDA SAWATZKY

event was free of charge to attend. A variety of auction prizes and a draw for a barbecue brought in an estimated \$4,500, the sum of which will be dedicated to

the Heritage Gardens pavilion project.

The planned pavilion will be a focal point of the public garden, providing a place for people

to connect with their heritage through the use of storyboards and props such as stained-glass windows depicting Niverville's history. The 26-foot diameter structure will be designed to model Niverville's first grain elevator built in 1879 and will use authentic wood salvaged from the original.

"We are waiting to hear from two grant applications, but all intentions are to start the build this year," Hoult says.

The committee has also been holding fundraising bingo nights, and barbecue raffle ticket sales continue at Hespeler's Cookhouse and Tavern.

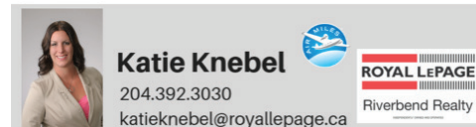
Hoult says the committee is indebted to the many volunteers, sponsors, workshop presenters, and staff at the Heritage Centre who make it all possible.

"We are [also] very grateful to the [exhibitors] who returned for this year's event and appreciate all their support for our community project," Hoult adds.

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IN BRIEF



MP Ted Falk meets with American officials in Washington D.C. TED FALK

Falk Lobbies U.S. Government to Increase Border Hours

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

On April 10, Provencher MP Ted Falk met with American officials in Washington D.C. to discuss the hours of operation of several Minnesota border crossings. A year and a half ago, in late 2017, these ports began closing earlier than their Canadian counterparts.

"The changes made to the American side of the border negatively impacts a large number of Canadian residents," Falk says. "Many Manitobans use these crossings to shop, visit family, and to travel to their places of employment in the United States."

Falk adds that some residents in southeast Manitoba also rely on cross-border travel to access medical services. He argues that closing borders at an earlier hour has an impact on the long-standing agreement on the provision of healthcare services between Canada and the United States.

"Last fall, along with my provincial and municipal counterparts, we were successful in lobbying to keep border crossings open longer on the Canadian side of the border," said Falk. "I am hopeful that today's discussions [in Washington] will lead to adjustments to the hours of operation on the American side of the border as well."

Country Snacks and Red River Co-op Begin Transformation

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Pete and Rose Friesen of Country Snacks and Red River Co-op are excited for the big changes coming to their Main Street business over the coming weeks. The changes will include a substantially larger gas bar, a new automotive propane fill station, and a large outdoor patio.

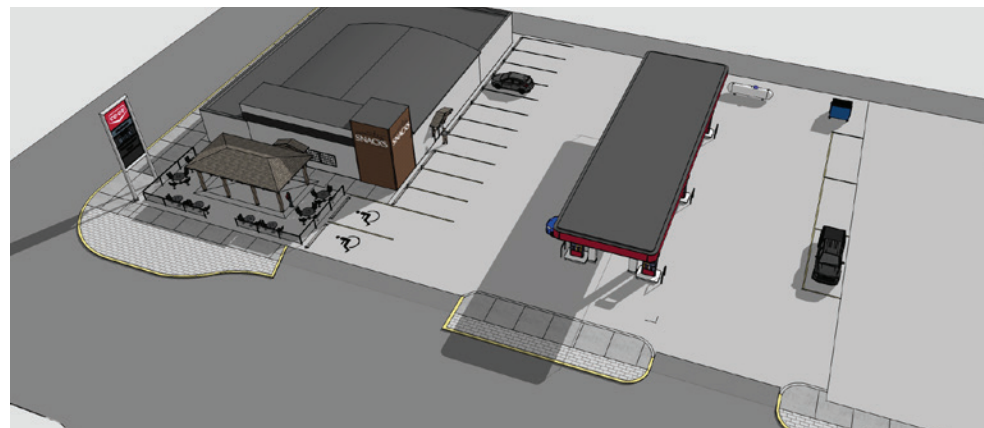
"The upgrade will consist of six pumps, which will serve 12 cars, and the propane is getting upgraded, too," says Rose.

The new gas bar will be located on the property just west of the store with a Main Street access and egress loop. The filling area will have an overhead canopy illuminated by LED lighting. An added automotive propane fill station will be large enough for motorhomes to drive in and fill their fixed propane tanks.

At some point down the road, they also hope to add an electric vehicle charging station.

"That's something that we're looking at doing because we know that that's coming," she says.

Work is expected to begin by mid-May. Before new tanks can be dug and pumps installed, the old ones will come out. This, the couple says, means having their gas island down for about three months. They hope to have the existing pump area cleaned up and a new 14-foot by 28-foot timber frame covered patio installed on the



Rendering of the new gas bar coming to Country Snacks.

CORNERSTONE TIMBERFRAMES

front of the building by the fair weekend in early June.

For the three-month construction period, the propane fill station will also disappear, but the Friesens plan to bring in a tank exchange program to continue servicing their customers. In the meantime, they encourage Red River Co-op members to fill their gas and propane tanks at either the St. Mary's Road or St. Norbert locations.

"These plans have been in the works for the past five to ten years," Pete says, suggesting that it was a lengthy process of determining a strategy, buying the additional property to make it happen, preparing the property, and working together with the Town of Niverville and Red River Co-op to bring their plans to fruition.

During the construction period, the store and restaurant will remain open for business. The parking area on the west side of the building

will be under construction but parking will continue to be available on the east side and along Main Street. The town will soon be installing 15-minute parking signs on the east side of Fourth Avenue South to accommodate customers.

"Really, we've been continuously reinventing ourselves for many years and we're coming up with new concepts all the time," Pete says. "That hasn't changed. It probably has forced us to view things differently, which is natural... It doesn't matter if it's an existing business or a new business, you have to offer something that will draw people."

As for new competition in town, Pete and Rose aren't too worried. The way the town is growing, they say, there's plenty of business for everyone. The competition doesn't seem to have impacted their bottom line much and the couple attributes that

to customer loyalty, their diversified range of offerings, and their centralized location.

"This is a very central location," Pete says. "We have a lot of walk-in traffic... which is huge for our store. The gas is very important to us, but the store and restaurant is also a big part of our profit. That's why we want to keep growing the restaurant side of it. Of course, the ice cream speaks for itself. We still have a lot of people commenting that it's very good ice cream."

Rose says that they will be keeping their staff levels lower during the upgrade but will be hiring new people come mid-July to get ready for the new gas bar opening.

In the meantime, they've signed on with Red River Co-op for another lengthy term because they're optimistic that Country Snacks will continue to be a central and relevant part of the community for a long time to come.

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Updates from the Ritchot Chamber

5th Annual Ritchot Chamber Golf Tournament

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Golf Tournament is set for June 18, 2019 at the Lorette Golf Course.

Registration: 10:30 a.m. | Tee off: 11:00 a.m.

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Sponsorship opportunities are available at multiple price points to ensure that your
business has the opportunity to get exposure.For sponsorship opportunities and/or register, please phone (204) 881-2351 or email
rachel@ritchotchamber.com.

Member Message

If you are a member of the Ritchot Regional Chamber of Commerce and would like
to get better exposure online and in social media, call Rachel at 204-881-2351 and ask
how your Chamber membership can help you with your online presence.We would like to welcome and recognize
the following new member:Darren Baggley and Peter DeFoort of Seine River Telecom. SRT is a local company
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Seniors Spotlight: Richard and Laurie Dorge

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Richard and Laurie Dorge have loved and committed themselves to the community of Ste. Agathe for more than five decades. Now, at 82 and 76 years of age, they are some of the last aging seniors in the community. While they wish for an assisted living complex in the village Richard was born in, they will soon make the move to Winnipeg, like so many of their friends before them.

Without question, residents of Ste. Agathe will feel the loss. The couple's passion for community and Richard's quick-witted sense of humour precede them wherever they go. Laurie will also be missed at the local school, where she's worked as a teacher's aide and speech therapist for the past 35 years.

The couple married back in 1962 and settled on the 400-acre farm Richard had purchased from his father only a few years earlier. At a cost of \$35 per acre, they struggled under the debt load. Laurie used her previous banking experience to manage the Ste. Agathe Caisse Populaire, and together they raised two daughters in the community.

Eventually, they were able to build a comfortable bungalow on Ste. Agathe Street, complete with a covered backyard pool. It became a summer cooling off point for kids all over town. Laurie hosted swimming lessons each summer in the pool.

Raising the children and volunteering around the village kept her busy while Richard invested himself in volunteer positions almost too numerous to mention.

"I've been president of every cultural committee there was in Ste. Agathe," Richard says.

And it's true. Richard organized the efforts to build Chalet Ste. Agathe, the community's only seniors housing project. He spent 25 years on the local chapter of the Knights of Columbus, first as Grand Knight and then as Master. Along with his farm work, he drove a school bus for 43 years and worked with CBC Radio Canada, occasionally flying to Montreal to find musical artists to play at CBC events.

THE CHANGING VILLAGE

The Ste. Agathe they knew in the early years of their marriage is a different place today.

"It was smaller and more active," Richard recalls. "Everybody went to church... Everybody!"

The Ste. Agathe Parish, after all, was a major gathering place for all the families. But although they once expected to see 300 to 400 people there on any given Sunday, only about 40 parishioners attend today.



Richard and Laurie Dorge of Ste. Agathe.

✉ BRENDA SAWATZKY

"I think people are too busy now for [church]," Laurie says. "They have [so many kids in activities]. People don't seem to have the time to get involved with anything anymore."

Another favourite community meeting place was the dance hall. Willing musicians were always easy to find in or near the village.

"Nobody dances anymore, but at least once a week we had a dance," says Richard. "We danced a lot... I went to dances at maybe 17 or 18 years old, when we could swipe a couple of beers."

THE MONEYLENDER

Richard grew up the last of 14 children. His father immigrated to Ste. Agathe from Quebec when Manitoba was giving away 160-acre parcels of land. His land comprised much of what the community sits on today. His father did well on the land and, in the 1930s, he also became the local moneylender.

"In those days, if you didn't get [your money] back in seven years, then forget it," says Richard. "That was the law. Then he became poor. He lent too much money... When he died, we found all of his IOUs."

Richard recalls his father speaking of one borrower who went on to start a very successful paint company in Winnipeg, yet the loan went unpaid even as the borrower achieved his millions.

"They could have at least sent him a five-gallon pail of paint," Richard jokes.

LIFE IN THE DEPRESSION

Born in the middle of the Great Depression, Richard has memories of a life that was all work and little play. The family farm did well, though, since the grain sold for much higher prices than it did years later when Richard took over the farm. They also

had a large variety of livestock to sustain the family.

"[During the depression], we were well off compared to people in Winnipeg," Richard says.

He remembers his father hitching up a team of horses and taking loads of wheat to a mill in Steinbach. The mill would keep half of the wheat and give back the other half, milled into flour.

NAUGHTY CHILD

Richard admittedly was a naughty child. He recalls attending school in a multi-storey convent located where the school sits today.

"The nuns had a strap in their pocket all the time and there's nobody in Ste. Agathe that had it more than me," Richard says. "I guarantee you that. I was bad!"

For him, the strappings began on the first day of his first school year. On the playground with a friend, Richard decided to take a pee where he thought no one would see him. A nun did and he paid the price.

That was the first of many incidents, he says.

The event that replays most vividly in his mind took place when he was in Grade Five. He had distracted some boys in the classroom and within minutes the nun had him in her chair and was sitting on him. Then he made the ultimate mistake—lifting her hair veil for the other children to see.

"She made me stand on her desk and she told me to raise my pant [legs]," he says, adding that she proceeded to strike him forcefully ten times on each bare leg. "It burned like crazy. Those were real leather straps."

He was sent home and, as was common in the day, his parents rallied behind the nun's disciplinary decisions. The welts on Richard's legs swelled and became infected. He missed three months of school and

had to repeat Grade Five to catch up.

NOT ALL HARD TIMES

But life wasn't all hard times. Richard recalls big family parties that became raucous when the local moonshine came out. The women were loud, too, he jokes, even though they couldn't drink because they were always pregnant.

Holidays were special times as the large family gathered around tables of French Canadian food. To this day, Richard enjoys making some of his mother's traditional recipes, namely ragout, a stew made with browned flour and pork hocks and served over beans.

New Year's for the men of the village meant a visit to every household for shots of alcohol.

GROWING UP IN LORETTE

Laurie grew up on a farm near the village of Lorette, the oldest of ten children. She recalls hard work, too, such as milking cows and tending a very large garden.

"In the summer, [my mother] would take a piece of pork and put a weight on it on a stick," Laurie says. "We'd go to the Seine River... and we'd go and [catch] crayfish... My mother would throw them to the pigs, because they loved that. We used to laugh because [the pigs] would get caught with the claws."

She recalls playing an Indigenous children's game with her friends called tippet and spending hours in rousing games of baseball with all the community children. She also says the nuns at Laurie's Catholic school didn't use the rod as harshly as they did in Ste. Agathe. The girls wore school uniforms and black stockings even in hot weather. Boys and girls were separated on the playground.

While she wasn't a naughty child, she remembers being strictly

forbidden to use her left hand for writing. Years later, Laurie learned that left-handed people were once considered evil.

Richard says his father was also left-handed, but it was never corrected since he didn't go to school.

"He learned to write his name [but that's about it]," Richard says. "He learned to write a little bit because I saw one love letter. It had about 40 words and 40 mistakes."

MARRIAGE AND TRADITIONS

The couple met when Richard came to Lorette for a wedding.

"My girlfriend couldn't come... so I asked [Laurie] to come to the wedding with me," Richard teases.

He continued to sneak off to Laurie's family home regularly when his girlfriend was busy with other things.

Three years later, Richard and Laurie married.

They continued in the Catholic traditions of their parents, attending midnight mass on Christmas followed by the full turkey and tourtière meal, a tradition French Canadians call Réveillon.

"Supposedly Christ was born at midnight," Richard says of the long-held tradition.

Unfortunately, it's a tradition that no longer exists at the Ste. Agathe Parish, with the declining congregation and priests that come from outside the community.

Laurie carried on with her mother's tradition of hosting elaborate birthday parties and pool parties for her kids and five grandkids.

WORRIES ABOUT THE FUTURE

Apart from the decline of church attendance, the couple sees societal changes that they find alarming and worrisome.

"The kids are younger and they're doing adult stuff," Richard says. "They're living together now at [a young age]... They have no commitment... But in our days that was a sin, so you had to confess and rather than confess you didn't do it."

Laurie is likewise saddened by the lack of community togetherness and neighbours helping neighbours.

"When we were young and my father would build a shed or something, everybody would come and help," she says. "Now you don't see this anymore."

She worries for the world her grandchildren are growing up in, where consumerism, debt, depression, and anxiety are the norm. It's a world so very different from the one she once knew.

In May, the Dorges will move from their home of 45 years to an assisted living complex in St. Norbert.

Rural Leaders Propose to Eliminate Plastic Bag Use

By Brenda Sawatzky

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At a public meeting of Niverville's town council on April 2, Councillor Chris Wiebe gave a report about a waste management meeting he attended in early March. At that meeting, round table discussions took place between representatives of the south quadrant of the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region. Municipalities involved in this quadrant include Niverville, the RM of Ritchot, the RM of Tache, Roseau River First Nations, and the RM of Morris.

The topics of discussion included ways to reduce landfill waste in the region, primarily in terms of single-use plastic bags.

After a thorough examination of the problems associated with plastic bags, the team produced a proposal which they intend to submit to the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM).



DEPOSITPHOTOS

It is their hope that the AMM will, in turn, make a formal request of the province to eliminate the use of single-use plastic bags across the province.

Wiebe says the group realizes that such an initiative requires a much broader scope than just

banning plastic bags in the municipalities south of Winnipeg.

"We could ban plastic bags in Niverville or in Morris or in Ritchot," Wiebe says, "but the problem is Winnipeg. The few garbage bags that are generated locally is a drop in the bucket

in comparison to what comes into our communities from Winnipeg."

Wiebe anticipates that this request will be on the table at the AMM's fall general meeting. As for providing alternatives to plastic bag use, Wiebe says that was not part of his team's agenda.

"If you eliminate the problem, the solution will come," Wiebe concludes.

Wiebe also imagines that pushback to such an initiative is likely to come from larger city supermarkets that charge for plastic bags since they're a commodity that add to the company's profit margin.

"It's just cowboy math," he says. "They're paying [a fraction of a cent] for something that they're selling for [a few] cents a bag... You sell a million bags, and what other kind of product can they make that kind of margin on?"

IN BRIEF



Sewer Rates Going Up in Niverville

By Brenda Sawatzky

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Niverville's town council gave second and third reading on April 2 to a sewer rate increase that will come into effect in the current quarter.

Based on a report provided by the Public Utility Board (PUB), the change will result in a rate increase on utility bills during the periods of April 1, 2019, January 1, 2020, and January 1, 2021. Rates will increase by \$28 per year, or \$7 per quarter.

"We have to submit a report [to the Public Utilities Board (PUB)] every four years saying, 'This is how our budget looks and this is where the numbers come out,'" says CAO Eric King. "They review it to make sure that we are being reasonable."

King adds that these rate hikes are a direct result of PUB advisements and were not requested by council.

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Fourth Graders Learn to Make a Global Difference

By Lorelei Leona

lleona@nivervillecitizen.com

There may be an ocean between them, but Niverville Elementary School's fourth graders aren't letting that stop them as they organize a few fundraisers to support a school in Kenya.

The students, who are part of the student voice group called Team NOVA—which stands for Noticeable, Open-Minded, Voice, Action—are involved in a number of school events, according to the school's principal, Tracy Beaudin. She notes that the group does sometimes look for opportunities to make a difference outside of the school.

"The group this year wanted to do such a thing, and they have often heard about poverty in Africa," Beaudin says. "So the idea of helping students there came to be."

Three years ago, Team NOVA held a bracelet fundraiser, where they collected cereal boxes and sent them to an international group that made them into bracelets which NES students sold.

This year, the student group held a movie night, where families were invited to watch a movie in the school gym for \$5 per family.



DEPOSITPHOTOS

The event raised more than \$1,500, prompting NES to hold another movie night in May.

"The Kenya school that we are supporting has purchased school supplies and school uniforms with the money we have raised so far,"

Beaudin says of how the money is being used at Hope Gateway School in Nairobi. "They have sent us emails with thank you letters and also pictures of the students."

Another NES student group, the News Club, has been getting

involved with helping others in a different way, by covering stories in their school newspaper.

The News Club was formed early this year after a group of enthusiastic fourth graders approached NES Vice-Principal Marge Thiessen with

the idea before Christmas. The club commenced in the New Year and is open to any fourth grader who wants to join.

"It's a pretty fluid project, meaning that students come when they can. Most, however, have been very committed from the outset," explains Thiessen. "It is based on an inquiry model, meaning that where we go is based on student input. They try out ideas and then reflect on what we need to move forward or improve."

Thiessen, who previously taught a ninth-grade Media Arts class and worked on the yearbook at a different school, brings some experience to the News Club.

The club has written about a different school in Kenya, one that they found about through one of NES's fourth grade teachers, Mrs. Pauls, whose relative recently visited Africa for a missions trip.

"The topics for the stories are all chosen by the students," says Thiessen. "They were also very excited about the I Love to Read events and so wrote about those as well. They have already generated a list of ideas for their next paper and have some big plans!"

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Commentary

The Intent and Consequence of Taxation

By Greg Fehr

Mark Twain once said, "I shall never use profanity except in discussing house rent and taxes." As a satirist, he understood the special level of frustration that taxation can bring to the masses. Raise the price of anything, and you will invoke people's ire; raise or create a tax and the ire will turn to loathing.

We must accept the basic principle that at the end of the day, taxation is nothing more than a redistribution of wealth. Virtually all taxation is "unfair," in that it isn't equally applied. Rather, taxation takes into account a person's ability to pay. Income taxes are levied in increasing percentages as a person's income rises, and lower income earners receive corresponding benefits.

"This is unfair!" cry the libertarians in our midst.

Yet our entire system of democracy depends on this redistribution.

So for the bulk of us, the question is less about the equity of taxes and more about their effectiveness.

Enter the carbon tax, the latest bane to the taxpayer's wallet. Yes, our wallet—because any tax levied, whether it's on consumers or producers, ultimately hits the end user.

I won't wade into a discussion on carbon impacts, as most reasonable people understand that the human race is impacting our climate in a negative way. Rather, if we focus on the tax itself, we can discuss whether this is the most effective way to create a positive impact.

As presented—and I offer no apologies for the oversimplification—we will all receive a credit back



DEPOSITPHOTOS

that in theory equates to the whole of the taxes collected.

What does this mean? If you are Joe Average, with average expenditures, you can expect to see the entire tax you paid returned to you on your annual tax return. Low-income earners and those who spend little on fossil fuels will get back more than they spent. High spenders will get back less.

That's not much different than many other types of taxes. It's not entirely fair, but it's based on a reasonable frame of logic.

As the public, we must be watchful for two potential pitfalls.

The first is the growing complication of the tax, which history has shown is almost inevitable. If we consider the history of income tax,

we'll learn that the original returns were single-page documents that anyone could complete.

But as endless exceptions and incentives were created to address various anomalies and outliers, a system developed that now requires people to hire firms in order to meet the expectations of tax law.

Does the same potential exist for the carbon tax? Absolutely it does.

If I can afford to drive a Hummer 50,000 miles per year, at ten kilometers per the gallon, I can likely afford the extra tax I'll pay on fuel. But what about the guy driving a taxi the same number of miles, who earns barely above the poverty line and is now seeing increased costs without the increased benefit?

As these exceptions catch

political attention and gain the will of lawmakers, the simple "cost-neutral" return will become more complex.

The second pitfall is likely the most dangerous, and that is the tendency of government to slowly erode the tax's intended purpose through shifting priorities. Often this second pitfall is tied to the first and the system becomes complex.

When Canada's federal finance minister introduced the income tax during World War I, it was described as a move of necessity, and its continuation was supposed to require a mandatory review. What started as a revenue source for a specific purpose—fundraising for the war effort—has since become a general revenue for government expenditures, both prudent and otherwise.

Seldom can we have a discussion where the opposing parties are both correct, but perhaps with this latest tax we've discovered just such an argument.

You see, there may be some merit to both points of view.

In principle, based on its current iteration, this tax may have some of the intended impact. Consumers will alter their decisions to the benefit of the environment through reduced fuel consumption and/or the purchase of more efficient vehicles, such as hybrids and electrics. Yet consumer transportation has a small (and declining) impact on our overall carbon footprint.

It could be argued that the burden of the tax ultimately falls on the wrong sector—namely, consumers—since the impact of freight hauling, for example, is considerably larger than that of the average consumer.

The tax is applied to the large-scale producers, too, of course, but will it impact their decisions? Only when consumer choices dictate that it be so.

As someone who believes that environmental and economic stewardship must be bound together, I would suggest that the benefit of the carbon tax may not lie in its actual impact, but rather on the discussion it creates. The tax itself is potentially a small step in the right direction. If its resources are properly utilized, it may even take us further down the correct path.

But ultimately it has us all focusing on the correct end goal: working towards a sustainable economy in a world that's still around for us to do business in.

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The Great Outdoors

Organizing and Decluttering

By Brenda Sawatzky

✉ bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Many homeowners understand the frustration of overcrowded garages and sheds, particularly when the item you're looking for is buried behind and beneath things, or when you can't get your vehicle into the garage anymore.

While it may seem like a garage is either dedicated exclusively to excess storage or a vehicle, two Niverville businessmen say there's no reason you can't have both.

WM. DYCK AND SONS

Rod Reimer of Wm. Dyck and Sons says they have everything you'll need to help clean up and organize your garage and garden shed this spring.

The company carries a wide variety of wall and ceiling hooks for bikes, hoses, and extension cords. As well, they carry overhead hangars for ladders and an adjustable Stud Track wall unit for all your long-handled yard tools.

They also carry sturdy wall shelving options in both coated wire and solid Melamine. The Fast Track shelving system comes in lengths of up to 12 feet and is great for storing spare lumber, totes, and everything you can't hang on the wall.

"You can add however many you want... and adjust your spacing," Reimer says. "That's what's nice about this [system]."

Their Sterlite totes come in a variety of sizes and are strong, stackable, and durable enough for garage use. And once the garage floor is clear of all the things you've collected over the years,

Reimer says do-it-yourselfers might want to consider patching up those concrete floor cracks. Wm. Dyck and Sons carries easy-to-apply crack filler for small cracks and hydraulic cement for bigger ones. When you're done, a floor sealer can be applied for a protective finish.

Knowledgeable staff are always available in the store to offer advice on the use of all the products they carry.

Once the garage clean-up is done and you're ready to tackle the outdoors, Wm. Dyck and Sons also carries a wide variety of garden and yard tools, power tools, men's and lady's garden gloves, and everything you'll need to get the yard in tip-top shape for summer.

ZONE GARAGE

If you're looking for the ultimate in garage floor and storage solutions without all the work, then Shawn Williamson is your man. Williamson is the Manitoba supplier for Zone Garage, a company which has made garage beautification their business.

The company specializes in applying polyurea and epoxy coatings to a variety of surfaces including concrete, wood, and even metal surfaces.

This highly modified floor coating system provides a strong, abrasion-resistant finish. It also has flex, which typical coatings do not, allowing it to absorb blows or seasonal shifting which causes cracking and chipping.

"The [fact that] it's protected is one of the hugest things," Williamson says. "After road salt gets into

any cracks in pavement, it just deteriorates. We go into some garages where we've been told that they have to rip the floor out, but we can fix it and then coat it and it's protected."

Coating your floor, he says, means saying goodbye to annoying concrete dust. It's easy to clean and non-absorbent, protecting the floor from salt, water, oil, fuel, and rust.

"The clean-up is just a bit of water and a squeegee," Williamson says. "It's just beautiful. It can't stain. I've seen oil sitting on it after a winter and it just wipes up with a paper towel."

The product also comes with a 20-year guarantee and is quite affordable at a cost of \$6 per square foot. The average two-car garage can typically be completed in a single day.

"Five hours after we leave, you can walk on it," Williamson says. "Forty-eight hours after, you can park on it. Any-one that does it just loves it."

The application is done in a multi-stage process with nominal drying time between steps. First, the Zone Garage team grinds down the surface of the floor to open the pores. Then a flaky polyurea finish is applied from corner to corner, and finally the epoxy topcoat is added for a complete seal and finish.

The flooring comes in 12 standard colours, although custom options are available. The application of custom graphics beneath the epoxy finish, Williamson says, has become very popular.

"We've done Honda logos, Harley logos, we've done lots of Jets logos and business

logos."

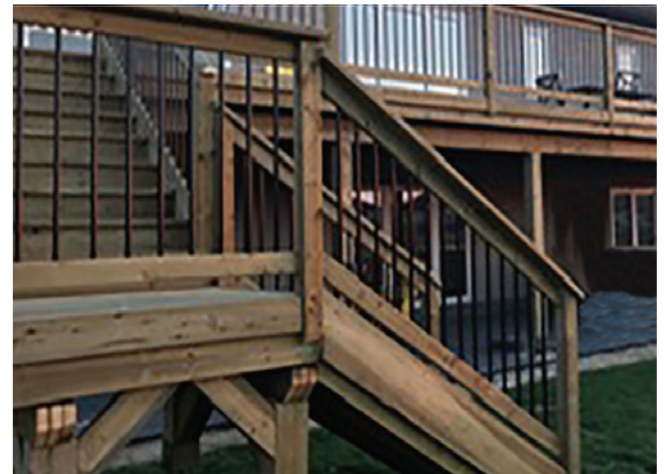
And due to the product's versatility, they don't stop at garage floors. It's also the perfect solution for basements, laundry rooms, offices, front steps, and patios. The product is VOC-friendly, meaning it contains no volatile organic compounds that leach into the air and cause negative off-gassing for humans and pets. It's also Canadian Food Inspection approved, making it useful in home or commercial kitchens.

"When we first come in, it basically makes you get everything off the [garage] floor," says Williamson. "That's the worst part, but then [you have] a brand-new floor and no one wants to put anything back on it after because it's so nice. So then we provide other systems so that you can get everything on the walls. It forces you to keep things tidy and uncluttered."

Zone Garage is a supplier for everything you'll need to keep that new garage tidy. The slat wall includes full coverage PVC plastic slats that snap into place and hold up to 70 pounds per square inch. Colour options include white, grey, and wood tone.

A wide variety of attachments are available, including tire racks, bike hooks, baskets, and cabinets. Ceiling sliders can also be installed, providing high-up storage for bins and totes.

"Who doesn't want a nice garage?" Williamson asks. "It always starts out with the guys wanting it... but then after the fact, the wives see it and then they're like, 'This is amazing,' because it's clean and tidy."



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Creating Safe and Chemical-Free Yard

By Brenda Sawatzky

bsawatzky@nivervillecitizen.com

Whether it boils down to our kids or pets, the natural ecosystem or the environment, more and more people are looking for ways to create chemical-free outdoor spaces to live in. And with court cases arising over the prolific use of popular weed-killers, it begs us to question the safety of these toxic chemicals and look for natural alternatives, for the sake of our health and that of the planet's.

Dave Hanson is the owner of Sage Garden on St. Mary's Road in south Winnipeg. For the past 25 years, Hanson has dedicated himself to helping people create sustainable and natural gardens and lawns. He's also a garden educator, author, and columnist for a popular CBC Radio Manitoba gardening call-in show.

As a steward of the environment, Hanson has worked hard to provide his customers with locally made organic solutions in every corner of his full-service nursery.

"There's a lot of eco-solutions that are not only smart but they make life better for the gardener," Hanson says. He speaks to the many ingenious fully organic products cropping up on the market due to public demand.

PLANTS

But it's not just about the products for Hanson; it's about the plants. Sage Garden grows all of their retail plants in 100 percent certified organic soil.

"We go out of our way to source seeds and cuttings that are certified organic," says Hanson. He doesn't think other greenhouses in Manitoba can say that, and it's important not only for plants that produce edibles but for ornamental plants as well. "Many types of seeds are treated [at the manufacturer level] with a wide variety of pesticides or herbicides that are right on the seeds themselves."

When the plant grows,

these chemicals remain in the plant, which can have an impact on bees, butterflies, and pets. As well, the ecosystem is made up of a huge variety of burrowing and flying creatures that are integral to the health of the entire system and are negatively impacted by the use of unnatural products.

Many nurseries use plant-cuttings which are shipped in from places around the world which have different regulations when it comes to spraying. Long-distance shipping, too, creates an impact on the environment. For this reason, Hanson and his team are very careful in sourcing their cuttings, seeds, and other products from reliable local sources whenever possible.

WEED AND PEST CONTROL

As for weed and pest control, Hanson encourages gardeners to grow with diversity, planting in such a way as to encourage the arrival of birds and bugs that take out the undesirable pests waiting to eat our garden produce and plants.

Many people tend to forget, he says, that applying chemicals to fight one insect or bug will harm them all, including the birds that come to perch.

FERTILIZER

A variety of natural garden, lawn, and flower pot products fill the Sage Garden shelves. Hanson's top pick for 2019 is Wild Farms Valley wool pellets, a product that is perfect for flower baskets and planters and will be used in every one of Sage Gardens hanging baskets on sale this year.

"It has very good slow-release fertilizer qualities about it," Hanson says. "There's two aspects to it: lanolin, which breaks down very quickly so your plants get a quick boost, and then the rest of the wool breaks down over about six months."

He adds that it provides a great source of nitrogen and has excellent water retention capabilities, meaning

hanging baskets don't need to be watered as often.

COMPOST

For garden beds and lawns, everything starts with nutrient-rich soil and compost. In our clay-heavy Manitoba soil, it's difficult to achieve a good balance without additives. If the weather is wet, the clay soil is soggy. And if it's dry, the soil becomes hard and cracked.

Sea soil is a high-quality compost made of fish products and forest waste. For lawns that experience patches of winter kill, sea soil can be spread on top. It also provides a more conducive growing surface before spreading new seed. Hanson says that most regular top soils ordered from soil companies in Manitoba are sourced from agricultural land which isn't organic. He suggests adding organic materials to assist in balancing the soil.

Sea soil and worm castings are excellent compost additives for flower planters when coupled with an organic soil mix, all available at Sage Garden.

Garden Straw is Hanson's top pick of 2018 and continues to be a favourite this year. The organic straw, sourced from Blumenort, Manitoba, is ideal for garden beds with its water-retentive and weed-suppressing qualities.

"Conventional straw from farmers' fields is known to contain herbicide residue that can actually cause your [plants] to fail if you mulch with it," Hanson warns.

One bag of Garden Straw covers 30 square feet of garden space, which makes it an extremely affordable mulch product. Last summer, Hanson experimented with planting potatoes inside pots filled mostly with Garden Straw.

"Potatoes need very little in the way of soil," Hanson says. "They need phosphorous, so you could add bone meal, put some compost in so you have nitrogen, and other than that you've got some good space to grow."

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The other benefits, he says, is that straw provides an environment that deters weeds and potato beetles and, at the end of the season, the potatoes are completely free of mud and dirt.

LAWNS

Eco-Lawn grass seed is a unique product made by Wildflower Farms in Ontario and is becoming sought after by golf courses around the country. Most regular turf-grasses are laterally rooted, so their roots are shallow, making them more susceptible to browning and die-off in high temperatures. Eco-Lawn grass seed develops vertical roots that sink nine inches into the soil.

Deeply rooted grass is drought-resistant, requiring less watering since the roots can grab moisture and nutrients from deeper in the soil. Eco-Lawn grows more slowly than traditional grass, too, requiring less mowing. It also grows well in both sun and shade and is hardy enough to grow in almost any kind of soil base.

"When it comes to organic lawn care, the idea of it is to

try and overcome the idea of using herbicides to control weeds," Hanson says. "Another one is trying to not use excessive fertilizer on the lawn because that can have negative effects with fertilizer that ends up in the waterways. It can also cause several disease problems in your lawn if you're over-fertilizing."

Sage Garden carries a variety of natural fertilizers from the Evolve line of products made in Stonewall, Manitoba. Hanson says they are affordable and easy to apply.

Other lawn products include corn gluten, which is high in nitrogen and free of phosphorous and potassium, and clover, which provides a comfortable, cushiony feel to a lawn and, when mowed regularly, blends right in, leaving it barely distinguishable from regular grass. Clover is a natural weed suppressant and provides an excellent source of nectar for bees.

"Bees, of course, are foundational to how pollination takes place," Hanson says. "Fruit crops and vegetable crops are dependent on bees

for healthy development... So if we have spaces that are short on bees, then we tend to have poorer success with those things... Paying attention to the bees is vital to ongoing success as people on earth."

SEA MINERALS

Sea Minerals FA is an all-natural mineral product derived from the sea. It contains up to 95 different minerals which help get the microbes within soils working again, making for healthier lawns, gardens, flowers, trees, shrubs, and household plants.

Rex and Nancy Pettyjohn of Ste. Rose du Lac, Manitoba were the first to bring this unique product to the Canadian market.

"We have a ranch in Missouri with our son Kerry and we have to fertilize," says Nancy. "Rex found an article in [a] cattle magazine about Sea Minerals FA, and it was cheaper than regular fertilizer, so we thought, 'What do we have to lose? We might as well try it.' Two months later, our son called and told us what it had done. There were less weeds, we had no

Canada thistle, and the grass came back. The cows just love that area to graze [now]. So we got [in touch with] the CEO of the company in Arkansas and bought a semi-truck load and brought it to Canada."

The product is easy to use by simply dissolving the sea minerals in water and spraying it directly onto a plant's foliage. The minerals absorb into the plant, assisting its growth, and move down into the soil, providing much-needed mineral support.

The couple has seen astounding results on their own yard and on those of their clients, including reversing winter kill on lawns and cedars. Potted plants and gardens grow more prolifically with healthier, larger blossoms and fruit. It also neutralizes pet urine.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Sports & Recreation



Black Venom, the SEC Junior Level 1 team that placed third at the Canadian Finals.

NATALIE BATKIS

Local Cheer Teams Return from Successful Trip to Nationals

By Lorelei Leona

lleona@nivervillecitizen.com

At the beginning of April, Scorpion Elite Cheer (SEC), featuring athletes from across southeast Manitoba, appeared at national competitions in Niagara Falls.

The Junior Level 2 team, Green Venom, and the Senior Level 3 team, Immortals, performed at the Canadian Cheer Evolution National Championship.

There, Green Venom earned bronze in the Junior 2 Small Division. The Immortals, whose athletes are aged 11 to 18, earned fifth place in the Senior 3 Extra Small Division after performing a strong first run. They received deductions in their second run that cost

them the third-place spot.

The championship requires teams to perform two runs of their routine over the course of two days.

Tiffany Recksiedler, who owns SEC with her husband Andrew, explains that the cheerleading season is typically nine months long, with practices starting in September. Teams learn their competition routines in October and November.

"In the past we only had two teams attend," says Recksiedler. "Our program only brings teams that we feel are strong enough to do well at the event... Currently anyone can choose to go to Nationals. However, our Junior Level 1 team had to win a bid to

be eligible to compete at [the] Canadian Finals. There are only 30 bids available to win for this competition, [in order to] ensure only the top teams in Canada get the opportunity to compete against each other."

With only nine teams in the Level 1 Division, SEC's team, Black Venom, needed a strong performance to earn a medal during the weekend competition. The team features athletes aged 10 to 14. This year's team was made up entirely of returning athletes.

After a solid routine on the Saturday night, the team earned themselves a bronze medal.

SEC is based out of Steinbach and is in its eighth competitive season. Its teams compete five

to six times per year, according to Recksiedler, allowing them to improve their routines and increase the level of difficulty throughout the season. SEC prides itself on evaluating each athlete's skill level and placing them on the appropriate team where they can be challenged and grow in the sport.

"We are currently practicing for our last competition this season," says Recksiedler. "After that, we offer summer classes where new and returning athletes can come out and improve skills before the next competitive season."

Tryouts for next year will take place in August.

IN BRIEF

Old Drovers Run Introduces New Golf Pro

By Evan Braun

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Old Drovers Run in Niverville hosted a meet-and-greet on Wednesday, April 24 to introduce members of the community to the golf course's new management team. The event kicked off at 5:00 p.m. at the course, located at the corner of Krahn Road and Highway 311, and it ended at 7:30 p.m.

The Golf Mentor Management Group, owned by Adam Boge and Glen Sirkis, took over the Niverville golf course in March and are currently in the process of implementing some changes that will improve the course's traffic this season.

"We hired a new golf professional and superintendent," says Boge, who adds that they will also be looking to add more personnel in the future.

The new golf professional is Brad Poleschuk, who was on hand to answer questions about the course's slate of development programs in the coming year.

Boge has also noted that the course intends to develop a juniors program in Niverville by working with the elementary and high school, in order to get more kids involved in the sport of golf.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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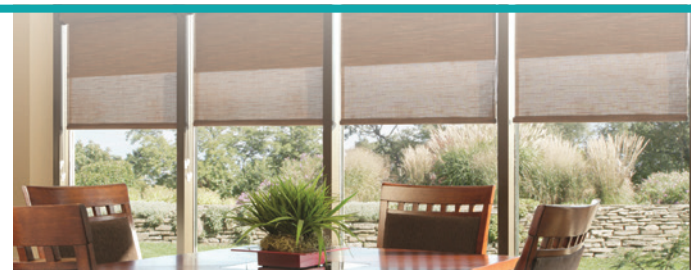
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Ste. Agathe Committee Fundraises for Park Improvements

By Lorelei Leona

lleona@nivervilledental.com

A park in Ste. Agathe is entering phase two of its fundraising efforts to improve the outdoor space and make it a meeting spot for the entire community.

The second phase of improvements at Parc Belle Rivière started in April with their Sponsor a Tree program, through which people can sponsor a tree for \$100, with all proceeds going towards the park. For every tree sponsored, one name will be recognized on the donor sign at the park, making it a unique way to recognize or honour a loved one.

"We wanted to find a way to get individuals involved in phase two of our project," says Danielle Robert, who sits on the Parc Belle Rivière committee. "It's amazing to see community members not only show personal support, but also financial commitment

towards our community projects."

The park's goal is to have 100 trees sponsored and raise \$10,000 through this fundraising effort by June 30.

So far, the committee has collected donations for approximately 40 trees and have received pledges for numerous others. They aim to start the improvements in 2020.

Phase one of the project was completed in 2015 with the addition of a play structure and swing set. They held fundraising efforts, such as events at the town's Cheyenne Days festival, as well as bud, spud, and steak dinners.

Proposed improvements for phase two, which is estimated to cost \$45,000 in total, include general landscaping to improve the park's overall aesthetic, a ninja-style obstacle course, an asphalt bike path, as well as the addition of a picnic shelter.

"We decided to add the

picnic shelter to provide families with a great place to gather, the obstacle course to attract older kids to the park, and the bike path to add something completely new that the town doesn't offer at any other park," explains Robert. "We want to enhance the natural beauty of the park by doing additional landscaping work. Overall, we want the park to offer something for everyone to enjoy for years to come. The changes to the park will positively impact the community as they will improve our local park to become a better gathering place for the community. There will be something for everyone."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.facebook.com/Parc-Belle-Riviere-Playground-437797800309358
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The Jets salute their fans at a home playoff game.

MEAGHAN GRAY

Jets Head into an Uncertain Offseason

By Nicholas Anderson

What a disappointing finish. After a year of ups and downs and battling the injury bug, the Jets were knocked out of the first round of the playoffs in six games by the St. Louis Blues.

It was a hard-fought

series that saw the Jets climb back from trailing 2-0 early on, then winning two games in St. Louis, only to then blow a 2-0 lead in game five, allowing a goal by Jayden Schwartz in the dying seconds of the game.

But while many factors played into the demise of

the Winnipeg Jets, including their late-season struggles and inability to seize the division crown (or close out a game in the final minutes), the Jets just couldn't find that next gear that led them all the way to the conference finals last season.

For the second offseason

in a row, Kevin Cheveldayoff will find himself one of the busier men in the league. The Jets have seven pending unrestricted free agents, and eight restricted free agents due for contracts, including the likes of Kyle Connor, Patrik Laine, and Jacob Trouba.

Trouba set a career high with 50 points this season, but as expected he failed to meet defensive expectations after Josh Morrissey succumbed to injury.

The two logged 909 minutes together at even strength and were by far Coach Paul Maurice's most used pairing. They were on the ice for 43 goals for, and 40 against. The two had a Corsi percentage (shot attempts for/total shot attempts) of 51.12 percent, and goalies had a save percentage of .917 when they were together.

Without Morrissey, Trouba's underlying numbers took a hit, but perhaps what's most concerning is the drop in save percentage, which fell from .917 to .906.

What the future holds for Trouba is unclear. After heading to arbitration last summer for the first time, after coming off a two-year

bridge deal, there's a sense that Trouba would like to avoid returning to arbitration.

And the Jets organization should, too. It was reported that last season the two sides were more than \$3 million dollars apart on a new deal, with Trouba seeking somewhere in the range of \$7 million. After a career season, it's hard to imagine him not getting more than the \$5.5 million he was awarded last offseason.

Another worry I would have about going to arbitration is the risk of getting a short-term deal, severing the team's relationship with the player. Trouba is no stranger to requesting a trade. In 2016-17, it was reported that he asked to be traded, only to rescind that request later in the season. He has since stated that he would like to be a part of the organization in the long term.

Trouba isn't the only member of the Jets' backend due for a new deal. Joining him are Tyler Myers, Ben Chariot, Nathan Beaulieu, and Joe Morrow.

While it may be a little early to begin speculating about who stays and who

goes, it's believed that Myers will get more money elsewhere, and with only so much money to go around in Winnipeg he may be the odd man out.

Ben Chariot, on the other hand, played a key role this season, and his chemistry with Byfuglien is something no other defenseman on the current roster really has. The 27-year-old set career highs in goals, points, and games played this season, and he will likely be in line for a deal worth more than \$3 million.

Kevin Hayes, Brandon Tanev, Matt Hendricks, and Par Lindholm are all unrestricted free agents at the end of the season.

It appears unlikely that Hayes will return, as the numbers he put up in New York may have earned him the type of deal the Jets can't afford. Tanev led the Jets in hits this season with 278, and he plays a huge role in the bottom six, as well as on the penalty kill.

It's safe to say that Cheveldayoff once again has his work cut out for him, with Laine and Connor being top priorities.

But there are a lot more moving parts than that.

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Arts & Entertainment

Olde Tyme Country Fair Has Something for Everyone

By Lorelei Leona

✉ lleona@nivervillecitizen.com

Although our spring temperatures have been hit and miss—mostly miss—at the time of this writing, the calendar assures us that summer is just around the corner.

And that means so is the Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair.

Heading into its twenty-fourth year, the fair is making changes in 2019 to its pricing structure, hoping to entice younger families to come out and enjoy the weekend.

“Last year we added the youth ticket, which was \$5 per day for those 12 and under,” says organizer Dustin Krahn on behalf of the fair committee. “In the past, it has always been two and under for free. This year, we’ve expanded the free admission to those under the age of five, so hopefully that makes a good difference to some of the young families.”

In addition to the pricing changes, the fair will also offer an early bird deal with savings for adult and youth weekend passes. As part of the deal, adult weekend passes will cost \$25 (a savings of \$5) and youth weekend passes will cost \$8 (a savings of \$2)—that deal is set to expire on May 1, but it will be extended until mid-May for those who haven’t had a chance to take advantage of it.

Something new the committee is trying this year is offering



Visitors to the Olde Tyme Country Fair in Niverville.

BRIGITTE SIMARD

a family pack. While the details are still being determined, the fair committee hopes it will help make this year’s event more affordable to more people.

One of the biggest reasons the fair is able to run successfully every year is because of its hard-working volunteers.

In previous years, the volunteer base has remained pretty consistent, but with a number of those volunteers now stepping down, the committee is looking to the next generation to step up and take the reins.

“This year we’ve made the move to provide all of the volunteers free admission for the day

that they are volunteering, in the hopes that it will promote a few more people to step up,” explains Krahn. “In the coming years, we will very likely be needing to fill more and more spots as some of the older volunteers step aside.”

There are exciting additions coming to the entertainment side of things as well, including a partnership with the Great Canadian Dollar Store. This partnership will result in a new Kids Zone, with more hands-on activities for kids to participate in. The petting zoo and bouncers will be returning as well.

The Kids Zone is still in the planning stages, so more updates

will be released on the fair’s website as they become available.

For the adult, the fair is amping things up this year by adding a karaoke party following the blackout fireworks on Friday night. The event will take place in the beer gardens tent, where the fair has partnered with the Trans Canada Brewing Company.

The beer gardens will also feature local bands, just as it did last year. The committee is in the process of booking bands, so local artists are encouraged to reach out if they are interested in playing at the gardens over the weekend.

A 1980s cover band will get things going on Friday evening for the folks who are looking for a genre aside from the annual Saturday country concert.

The fair will also have a dog show, featuring rescue dogs turned performers, courtesy of Canines in the Clouds. Friday and Saturday will additionally feature a hypnotist.

For those who have made the fair a staple of their summer, or for those who are perhaps going to experience it for the first time, the Olde Tyme Country Fair definitely has something for everyone.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ www.nivervillefair.com

IN BRIEF

Third Annual CRC Fundraising Gala Set for May

By Lorelei Leona

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The third annual Community Resource Centre fundraising gala is quickly approaching. The gala comes on the heels of the CRC receiving a major grant, totalling \$16.3 million from all three levels of government. The Government of Canada is contributing up to \$7.8 million to this project through the Investing in Canada initiative. The government of Manitoba is providing up to \$3.5 million, and the Town of Niverville is contributing up to \$8.2 million, according to the CRC press release.

Of the Town of Niverville’s portion, \$5 million has already been set aside. This still leaves a \$3 million deficit that needs to be raised in order to complete the centre.

The Sparkle Spring Gala is the first in a series of community fundraising events scheduled for 2019, including a fundraising barbecue, the continued use of Bigway Bucks, and the redeployment of the block party wagon.

The gala will take place on May 10 at the Heritage Centre and will feature a prime rib dinner, live and silent auctions, samples of craft beer by the TransCanada Brewing Company, as well as live music by Last Call as attendees dance the night away.

A future hub for the community, the remaining cost of the CRC depends on the community’s support. The spring gala has been one of the top-performing fundraisers over the past three years, allowing members of the community to have a direct hand in building a project that will support the future sustainability of Niverville.

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By Lorelei Leona

✉ lleona@nivervillecitizen.com

A black and white photograph of a young man with long hair standing in a wooded area. He is wearing a dark jacket with a large 'V' logo on the chest and dark pants. He is holding a white electric guitar. The background is filled with trees and foliage.

A 17-year-old musician from Niver-ville is using his music to connect with listeners on a more emotional level. The artist, who goes by the name Valac, is currently in his final year at Niver-ville Collegiate and produces music in a style he describes as progressive metal, usually instrumental. He says he wants to place more emphasis on the melodic and qualitative aspects of the genre.

The artist has dabbled in music



With his newfound appreciation for progressive metal and metalcore, he was able to work on his musicality and production skills. He recently recorded an album entitled *Our Hazy Future* in his parents' basement, demonstrating that it doesn't always take expensive equipment to explore your artistic abilities.

Valac hopes to make the move out of Niverville soon after graduation, although he wants music to remain a part of his life—in whatever capacity that might mean.

Dayna Wiebe has been painting since she was a little girl and has recently started showcasing her work in local shows.

"Before I entered high school, art was the thing I did for fun," Wiebe says. "I just painted or drew because I wanted to or thought a picture was cool, and I really had no idea about how much I could learn. But once I got into high school, a lot changed. I have learned so much and still have a lot to learn."

aesthetic of teens and people her age, as well as painting female faces and figures. She recently participated in the Steinbach Arts Council Open Judged Art Exhibit, where she won first place in her age group.

As she has gotten older, the tenth grader has learned to appreciate the ways in which she can manipulate paint to create different pieces.

"I would say painting is my favourite medium, but some days I have to be in the mood to paint, or I just prefer pencil or another medium some days because it's just less messy," she says. "There are a lot of good things about acrylics that I love, like how it blends, ease of use, coverage, pigmentation, etc."

Although she hasn't had any formal training other than art class in school, the 15-year-old is hoping to continue her craft by attending art school in the future.

Joel Harnett, a young artist in Niverville, is discovering the power of storytelling through his comic strips.

The eighth grader has been drawing since he was able to hold a pencil, starting out with small illustrations before progressing to larger drawings as he's gotten older.

Still, like most artists, he has found a style that speaks to him, and tends to create characters and storylines within that genre.

"He has created his own superhero over time," says his mother Joyce Harnett. "So he's found some styles he likes drawing and has refined his drawings over time."

Now 13 years old, Harnett has used his comics to tell stories of topics he relates to: moral principles and God's truth are often present in his work, tied in with a bit of humour.

Every year as a Christmas gift he creates a comic book for his relatives, says his mother, and he adds to the story every year.

While he's still young, Harnett is enjoying honing his craft and creating drawings and comics as a hobby right now. However, he already hopes to work in animation or with Adventures in Odyssey when he gets older.



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Music by local Live Band "Last Call"

**Beer tasting during cocktails
provided by Trans Canada Brewery**

For \$1,000, residents can sponsor a "builder's seat" in either the field house or the new arena of the Niverville Community Resource Centre. Your name will be featured on a donor wall along with other community builders! Limited supply, with details being announced at the Gala.

In support of



NIVERVILLE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

INVESTING IN YOU

resourcecentre@whereyoubelong.ca

Thank you!

Our hearts are full of gratitude, as we have received outpouring support from the Niverville community in the passing of our dear wife, mom and grandma Janice Keam on Feb 20, 2019.

Janice loved her community deeply and it has been a comfort to know that so many people loved her and appreciated her. We knew how special she was to us but we never realized just how much she touched the lives of so many people.

From the bottom of our hearts we say thank you dear friends and neighbors of Niverville Community for all your acts of kindness and sympathy. For the prayers, food, flowers, donations to Niverville United Church Prayer Shawl Ministry, cards, visits, chats on the streets and hugs.

Your support has helped us to cope with our loss, it will never be forgotten.

With Blessings The Keam Family - Reg, Stacy, Sheldon & Peyton, Riley & Danick

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- Must demonstrate competent English skills.
- Must be deadline-driven.
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Apply to Evan Braun (editor@nivervillecitizen.com) for further details. Please include resume and cover letter.

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