

# The Citizen

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## LOCAL NEWS

### RCMP Detachment to Open in Niverville

■ Plans are currently underway to bring a dedicated detachment of RCMP officers to Niverville in early 2023.

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## LOCAL NEWS

### Truth and Reconciliation Major Theme of Niverville Museum Opening

■ The museum space at the CRRC is open to the public. On September 30, a ceremony was held to commemorate the exhibit, including remarks from a local Indigenous perspective.

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## COMMENTARY

### Storm and Stress

■ It can be hard to spot the early warning signs of mental illness in adolescents, but columnist Daniel Dacombe breaks down what to look for.

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## SPORTS & REC

### 2022 Manitoba Winter Games Cancelled

■ Although next year's Games have been called off, Niverville will have first right of refusal to host the next ones in 2026.

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# End of an Era

➤➤ READ MORE ON PAGES 3-4

## Niverville Grain Elevator Scheduled for Demolition

JOEY VILLANUEVA

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The

Citizen

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Caption.

JOEY VILLANUEVA

# End of an Era

## Niverville Grain Elevator Scheduled for Demolition

By Jennifer Lavin  
jlavin@nivervillecitizen.com

It's the end of an era for the town of Niverville. The former Manitoba Pool elevator along the railroad tracks will be coming down in the next month or two.

Grant Dyck of Artel Farms is the current owner of the property and is keenly aware of the elevator's significance. As a lifelong farmer, he respects and appreciates both the purpose and symbolism of grain elevators.

But he says the time has come for the building to be demolished.

**THE HISTORY OF LOCAL GRAIN ELEVATORS**

Grain elevators have a storied history in the prairies, and Niverville holds a special place in that history.

In 1879, William Hespeler built a grain elevator in Niverville and it

was the first in all of Western Canada. That original building was the first in a string of elevators built in the same spot, and it remained in use until 1904, although it wasn't demolished until 1923.

In 1904, a new elevator was built next to the one that stands today. This was used until 1938, at which time it too was taken down and a larger, more modern facility was built. Around 1942, an annex was added to this building to create more space, allowing the elevator to be used for another five years.

Manitoba Pool built a new elevator in 1966 and used the older one for storage. They later added an annex to this building as well. On November 26, 1980, the entire complex burned to the ground.

The current facility was opened on December 4, 1981 and served as one of the last of its kind.

"At the time of its creation, it was

among the largest of the wood-only, open-roof construction style elevators," Dyck says. "It was built by a crew of local men that literally nailed it together from the ground up... Someone who remembered the original building project mentioned to me that it had taken 27 rail car loads of lumber and one full rail car load of nails as building material."

Dyck purchased the Niverville elevator in 2001 and attempted to buy the elevator in Ste. Agathe as well.

But by that point, he says, the grain companies already preferred to see the buildings torn down than risk creating more competition.

At the time, he adds, the agriculture industry was in a consolidation phase. Many of the smaller elevators were sold off or torn down. Manitoba Pool alone got rid of 117 elevators.

(continued on page 4)



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(continued from page 3)

During that period, the rail companies were also trying to gain efficiency by focusing on larger high-throughput facilities with rail spots that could handle an entire train.

#### REASONS FOR DEMOLITION

Now, after 20 years of owning the Niverville elevator, Dyck says that there are three primary reasons it will no longer be used.

First of all, it's comparatively very small.

"One bin at our facility is actually the usable capacity of the entire existing elevator, consisting of 45 individual bins," Dyck says. "The Niverville facility is a 4,000-tonne, or roughly 160,000 bushels, building. The ones that you see along Highway 75 are around the million-bushel mark for capacity. Our rail siding can handle 16 cars. Those high throughput facilities have sidings that can handle 120. When a train comes, they often load them in 24 hours. Over the years, it has become increasingly difficult to get the CP rail to bring us cars, coming to a head in recent years when they made it financially impossible, pricing the option out of feasibility."

The second reason Dyck believes the elevator needs to come down is its access points.

Niverville has been growing rapidly over the past few years and this naturally means that there are more people, more buildings, more streets, and especially more traffic.

"For instance, there is no farm equipment going down Main Street anymore because as producers we are all keenly aware of the road safety concern," Dyck says. "It's much the same with the elevator. A facility like ours needs to be turned—which means to fill and empty or continually

use. The worst thing to do for these old elevators is to 'fill and forget.' At the height of Artel Farms' use of the elevator, there was a year where we turned the plant seven times. For perspective, that means almost one million bushels would go in and out of it within a year. Doing that required 700 to 800 trucks coming in just to fill, never mind the traffic going out if it didn't go on rail. All of that happened within a three-month window, presenting a safety issue with large trucks on Main Street and what is now a very tight corner to get to the elevator."

The final reason the elevator needs to come down is that there is a shortage of people who are knowledgeable in how to maintain it.

"I have spent many months 'bartending' grain in the facility," he says. "To be honest, I am a little sad to see it go as well. However, I have come to realize that even running a plant like this has become something of a lost art. There is so much to know, and it requires a bit of intuition with this style of building. It has become a difficult thing to train or teach. We have had some fantastic people work with us over the years who took that challenge on, but it is by no means glorious work. In fact, it can present some of the worst jobs at the farm when things go wrong."

#### WHITE ELEPHANT

Over the years, Dyck considered selling the elevator multiple times. He felt that its convenient rail access and relative rarity would make it saleable. But each time he considered a sale, he realized that it wouldn't be what was best for the town.

Dyck even considered the possibility of using the elevator for another purpose.

"With smaller sites, people have tried to turn them into restaurants, bed-and-breakfasts, etc.," he says. "However, the largest challenge is that it needs constant maintenance and presents a large safety concern if not used. The best way to keep it in good shape is to have grain going through it. Over the years, as the town has grown, we have come to use it less and less."

*"It becomes a bit of a white elephant. We can't continue to use it, and we can't sell it for its intended purpose."*

**Grant Dyck** | Owner of Artel Farms

The facility is, when not in use, a significant safety hazard. A massive wooden structure is clearly a fire risk.

Also, Dyck says it has become a rite of passage for teenagers to try to break in and climb to the top. Dyck fears for the safety of these children and doesn't want to even imagine what could happen to a child who tried to climb the structure.

Dyck says that it isn't even feasible to consider making the elevator a heritage site.

"The sheer cost to procure it and maintain it would not make sense," Dyck says. "Frankly, I don't think it would be the best thing for a booming community like ours. So it becomes a bit of a white elephant. We can't continue to use it, and we can't sell it for its intended purpose."

It isn't lost on Dyck that Niverville

had the first grain elevator in Canada, and now arguably it has one of the last of its kind today.

"The original one is gone and it is difficult to find any mention of that one's last days as things progressed and expanded," he says. "It seems fitting that this one gets a page in history now."

Dyck points out that his business, Artel Farms, has a regularly expanding footprint east of town.

"Our town will always have what it started with, a state-of-the-art grain handling facility," he adds. "The places we store grain may look different today, but only as the farmers using them have different requirements."

When this elevator was built in the early 80s, the corner it was built on was still quiet, on the outskirts of town. The noise and dust it

produced when it was in use weren't a problem.

Over the last 20 years, Dyck says the elevator has been used less and less, so he can only recall a handful of complaints about the dust or noise from loading rail cars. If the elevator were being used to its full capability, he believes there would have been many complaints as the corner is now a bustling one.

"Again, that is the reason we intentionally used it less and less over the years and chose to build our drying site not on our farm or at the elevator, but considerably further out of town," Dyck says.

#### WOOD PURCHASE

There has been some interest in the purchase of the wood from the building after it's torn down. Dyck says

there is a lot of good wood to be used, although it is held together with so many nails that he feels it may not be a worthwhile undertaking to get useful material from it.

He says there has also been some interest in procuring the wood for wood boilers.

There will be a specialist arriving in town to deal with the demolition of the site. Dyck says this expert is one of the last and best at taking down elevators safely and quickly. The specialist operates throughout western Canada and has done this job dozens of times.

#### PROPERTY'S FUTURE USE

Dyck is working with the Town of Niverville and the property's listing agent, Clarence Braun, to determine how best to use the site once the elevator is demolished.

Braun says that it's a large plot of land but rather long and narrow, over 550 feet long, so not ideal for just anything. He has begun showing the location to prospective buyers but is not yet aware of anyone's specific plans or thoughts for the plot.

The elevator is, of course, right next to the railway tracks, and the side line that is located there will continue to be a critical one even when the elevator is gone. Braun says that the side line in Niverville is the main area between Niverville and Emerson where CPR can park their trains while the railroad lines are serviced.

"Indeed, it is the end of an era," Dyck says. "However, I never would have thought our grain elevator would overlook a brand-new school and rec centre. It's all quite impressive, what's going on around us. Having a farm and elevator in the town has presented challenges, but also opportunity. We are trying to figure out our place in all of it."

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## Taste and See

He pushed his kitchen chair back and sat lightly on the edge. The spoon with the dab of yogurt was about to touch his lips, as he poised for the dash to the washroom. He hated yogurt and always had. The loathsome thought of that creamy substance left his gag reflex pulsating. "You have to be crazy to touch that stuff," my son-in-law would often say. Somehow earlier in that dinner conversation he had let the cat out of the bag and confessed he had never tried it. Now the challenge was on, and he became the winner that evening as he discovered what would now become his new go-to dessert – Flavoured Yogurt, Yoplait, Fruplait, and good old fashioned yogurt ice cream. It reminds me of the verse in the Bible which says, "Taste and see that the Lord is good" Psalm 34. I have been in plenty of conversations where I am told that the "religion" I claim to have is just an empty crutch – that religion creates an imaginary problem simply so that it can sell an imaginary solution – that religion frequently tears people down, creating an emptiness that must be filled. I suppose if all I had was religion, then that may be true, but the Bible doesn't offer a religion. The Bible offers Salvation which is a personal relationship with the Person of Christ. When you have God's Salvation, you'll know it and nothing can take it away, nor would you give it up for anything. With a little time, I could quickly compile a list of several hundred people whom I know personally that have God's Salvation. If Salvation were possible to lose (and it's not), you could call them and see what they would be willing to trade for it – a million dollars or maybe even sweeten the pot with a billion. I have every confidence that without exception, every one of their answers would reinforce what Jesus said in Mark 8:36, "What shall it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?" I think of all the blessings that I have received since the day I trusted Christ as my Saviour. I have fellowship with the God of Heaven. I have the knowledge of sins forgiven. I have inherited all things co-equal with Christ.

I experience Peace that Passes all Understanding. There awaits me an eternal home in Heaven. That's not emptiness, that's fullness that only God can provide.

One of my favorite songs has a chorus that says, "Now none but Christ can satisfy, none other Name for me, there's love and life and lasting joy, Lord Jesus found in thee." You can have God's Salvation today. You can't pay for it as God offers it free, and for the repentant heart, He invites you to taste and see. He's confident that you will not be disappointed. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life" John 3:16

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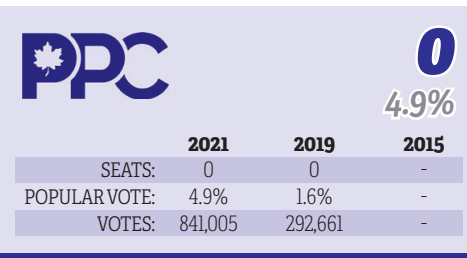
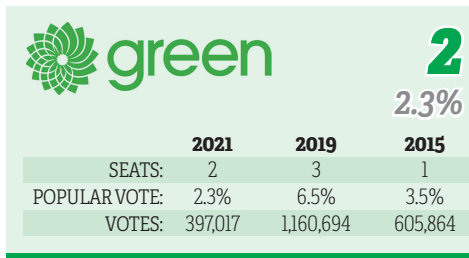
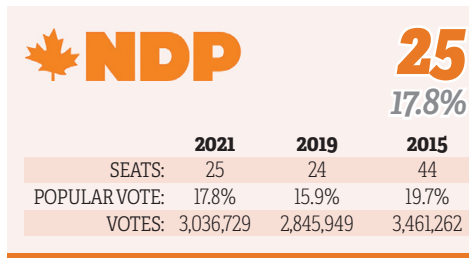
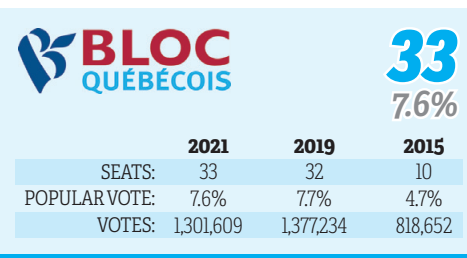
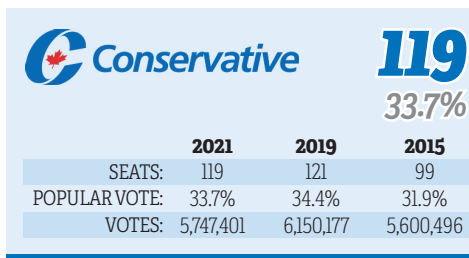
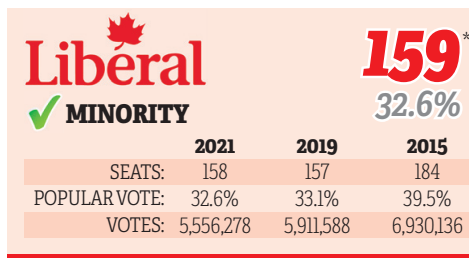


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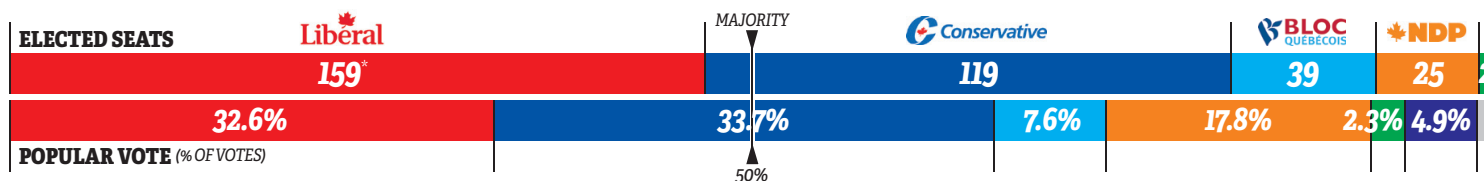
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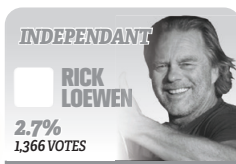
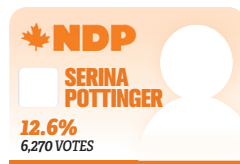
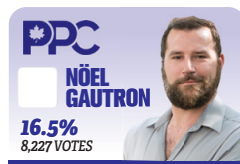
## NATIONAL RESULTS



\* This total reflects a seat in Ontario won by a candidate who has since been disabowed by the Liberal party.



## LOCAL RESULTS



# Liberals to Form Minority Government (Again)

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The Liberals will form the next government of Canada, returning for a third consecutive term and the second minority in a row. Justin Trudeau will continue on as prime minister.

Seat counts were still shifting into the early hours of Tuesday morning, making final totals

difficult to pin down. However, the parties all finished within a handful of seats of where they finished in the last election, resulting in little overall change.

Long lines at many polling stations across the country, especially in large cities, delayed the vote count in some areas. Also, hundreds of thousands of mail ballots received by Elections Canada were ineligible to be counted

until Tuesday, at which point they could go through a verification process.

Locally, Ted Falk of the Conservative Party won re-election with 49 percent of the vote, handily beating second-place finisher Trevor Kirczenow of the Liberals, who secured 17 percent.

The PPC's Noel Gautron finished narrowly in third place with 16 percent, with Serina

Pottinger of the NDP coming in fourth with 13 percent. Both independent candidate Rick Loewen and Janine Gibson of the Greens finished the race with three percent apiece.

In many ways, the electoral map in Manitoba has remained unchanged, with the Liberals and NDP taking the lion's share of seats in Winnipeg while the Conservatives fill in the rural map.

## IN BRIEF

## Church Avenue to Be Extended

By Jennifer Lavin

✉ jlavin@nivervillecitizen.com

At a regularly scheduled meeting of Niverville's council on the evening Tuesday, September 21, and after some standard housekeeping issues, council opened a public hearing to discuss a proposal concerning the creation of a new public road on the west side of town.

The proposal involves opening a portion of the property at 218 Ritchot Drive and using that land to facilitate the extension of Church Avenue to Ritchot Drive.

Consequently, the property in question would need to be subdivided into three lots—one that is 42 feet long, and two others that are 54 feet.

The current zoning in this area would allow for the construction of a single-family home or duplex on each lot.

A local resident in attendance asked if council would be able to provide an approximate timeline on the construction involved in this proposal.

CAO Eric King replied that it is too difficult a matter to provide a firm answer on this, as construction is always a bit hard to pin down.

King also pointed out that there have been significant slowdowns in receiving construction supplies and procuring the appropriate tradespeople and contractors since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

After a brief discussion, this motion was unanimously carried.

This was the first meeting to be held in person since council went virtual last year.



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**PROVIDENCE**





Timothy Falk was memorialized at this year's truck convoy in support of the Special Olympics.

ADRIAN BRUCE

# Truck Convoy Memorializes Local Special Olympian

By Jennifer Lavin

jlavin@nivervillecitizen.com

Timothy Falk was born with an intellectual disability, but it rarely held him back. His life was cut short when he passed away from cancer in 2020.

Falk was raised on a farm just outside of Niverville. Later in life, he lived in an enVision Community Living home in town. He loved helping his dad, Bernie Falk, on their farm. He also loved John Deere equipment and going along for rides on trucks or combines.

Falk was also active in the Special Olympics, where he competed in snowshoeing and track. He also participated for many years in the Steinbach Flames track and field program.

Natika Davey, one of Falk's past community support workers in his enVision home, worked with him for several years. She says they became friends immediately.

"There were so many

special things about him... more than you can imagine," Davey says. "We never had a quiet moment and often laughed until we cried! We laughed about his quirks, and about mine, and about what I may have done that day that he was going to tease me about. Tim liked to have a routine, yet there was never a dull moment. I miss him every single day."

In 2019, Falk was thrilled to ride in the local truck convoy in support of the Special Olympics.

This convoy is an annual event that brings together hundreds of truckers and trucking companies from across Manitoba to celebrate the accomplishments of Special Olympics athletes and raise funds for the next event.

Falk rode along with Adrian Bruce, the Manager of Recruiting and Development for REK Express Inc. Bruce says that the Special Olympics convoy is one of the largest annual events

on the Manitoba Trucking Association's calendar, and as a member of the MTA, the REK Express team is always pleased to have the privilege to support and promote such a very worthy cause.

In addition to his work at REK Express, Bruce also works as a community support worker for enVision. He worked with Falk for close to three years before Falk's death and says that he considered him a good friend.

"Tim was someone who genuinely made my life better simply by being a part of it," says Bruce. "He had a genuine appreciation for the opportunities in life and those around him. To see his excitement around participating in the Special Olympics convoy and the courage it took for him to step outside his comfort zone and try something new was very rewarding to all of us involved."

Falk was disappointed when the convoy was cancelled in 2020 due to the

pandemic. But Bruce told Falk that he would arrange for him to go along on the next year's convoy.

According to Falk's parents, "Tim asked 'You promise?' to which Adrian replied 'I promise.'"

Within weeks of that conversation, however, Falk was diagnosed with liver cancer—and he passed away on November 25, 2020.

"We laid him to rest on his birthday—December 1, 2020," says his parents, Bernie and Lillian. "In keeping with his promise, Adrian arranged for one of their drivers, Gary Cox, to honour Tim in this year's convoy by having Tim's personal memorabilia, including medals won in Special Olympics competition, ride in the passenger seat of his REK Express truck where Tim would've sat during the convoy... We would like to thank all those who made the truck convoy for the Special Olympics a very special memorial for our son."

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## IN BRIEF

## Hanover School Division Appoints Chair, Vice-Chair

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

With the start of the new school year, the board of trustees for the Hanover School Division has appointed its chair and vice-chair.

The board made their announcement on September 8.

"The board of trustees is pleased to announce that Ron Falk will serve as board chair and Rick Peters as board vice-chair for the upcoming 2021-22 school year," reads a press release from the school division.

These appointments are made on an annual basis, last one year, and are effective immediately. They are subject to a vote by the entire board.

Ron Falk is likely to be a familiar name to those who follow the division. He has served as board chair for 11 years, off and on. He first took on the position from 2002 until 2008, then resumed the role from 2014 until 2019.

Falk has served continuously as a school trustee since he was first elected to the board in 1992.

Rick Peters was elected to the board for the first time back in 2014. He served as board vice-chair from 2015 until 2019, then as board chair for the 2019-2020 school year.

"Hanover School Division congratulates Ron Falk and Rick Peters on their new appointments," the division says.



Heather Stefanson, who is running to be Manitoba's next premier, along with local MLA Ron Schuler.

▣ SARA BETH DACOMBE

## Candidate for Premier Stops in Niverville

By Sara Beth Dacombe

✉ sdacombe@nivervillecitizen.com

Heather Stefanson, a Progressive Conservative MLA from Winnipeg who is running to become the leader of the PC party and the next premier of Manitoba, made a campaign stop in Niverville back on September 1, stopping for a meet-and-greet at the Hespeler Park picnic shelter.

Stefanson recently resigned from her duties as Minister of Health to enter the leadership campaign.

Local MLA Ron Schuler, Minister of Infrastructure, presented at the event along with former Niverville mayor Gordon Daman, who gave Stefanson his endorsement.

Mayor Myron Dyck also attended the event, along with a group of approximately 50 members of the public.

Stefanson shared her vision for leadership in Manitoba and took a variety of questions from the

crowd, including questions on COVID-19 vaccinations.

One question was asked by a mother from the Niverville area.

"I know everyone has a different opinion, and mine is that these vaccines were rushed, they are experimental, and I'm not the only one," said the mother. "There are those of us that aren't comfortable with it yet and don't want to put our kids' health on the line, so I'm just curious as to what your opinion is on that."

"I hear people on all sides of this out there," said Stefanson in response. "It's a very, very personal issue—and it should be, frankly. I have said that I think there are those working on our frontlines who choose not to get vaccinated, who then, okay, we have to have some testing. So let's have testing then, not mandatory vaccines. We have got to be free to decide what we put into our bodies. It's up to us. We can't take that right away or force someone

to do something that they're not comfortable doing."

Schuler thanked the mayor and political representatives from the surrounding areas for being "decision-makers" and "influence-makers" and for coming out to meet Stefanson.

"I have known Heather for a long time, and Heather will always come across as being nice," said Schuler. "We have an individual who not only has political experience, but has experience in the Manitoba Legislature. We have an individual in Heather who doesn't need training wheels on her bicycle. She'll be able to get right into the race and pedal as hard as she can. And I think that is incredibly important."

Stefanson has been the MLA for Tuxedo for more than 21 years and has served in many appointed roles in the Legislature, including Minister of Justice, Deputy Premier, Minister of Families, and Minister of Health and Seniors

Care. She also has a background as an investment advisor and has federal government experience, having worked as an advisor in the offices of the Prime Minister and federal Minister of Agriculture.

While Stefanson continues her campaign tour around Manitoba, another leadership candidate has since joined the race, Shelly Glover.

Glover is a retired Winnipeg police officer and former Conservative federal cabinet minister.

Regardless of who wins the premiership, Stefanson or Glover, Manitoba is guaranteed to soon have its first female premier.

Other candidates who intended to join the race didn't make it to the final ballot, including Shannon Martin, who represented the Morris riding, which included Niverville, for several years.

The members of the Manitoba PC party will vote for their new leader on October 30, 2021.



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# Niverville to Get Dedicated RCMP Detachment

By Jennifer Lavin

✉ jlavin@nivervillecitizen.com

On October 5, the news broke that the Town of Niverville will be getting its own dedicated police detachment.

It will likely take approximately one and a half years before the new office opens and locally employed officers are patrolling the streets.

At the most recent council meeting, council awarded a contract to Calnitsky Associates Architects Inc. of Winnipeg to prepare a schematic and detailed design of an RCMP detachment for the town.

The detachment will be connected to the town's existing municipal office on Bronstone Drive.

Discussion at that meeting revealed that town officials have been meeting with RCMP officials for approximately one year to collaborate on a strategy to keep the town safe as it grows ever larger.

The question of how to

effectively enforce Niverville has been a growing concern in recent years, with property crime on the rise.

The last few years have also seen isolated but serious cases of violent crime.

Once the town officially breaks the 5,000-resident barrier, increased police enforcement becomes a requirement.

In the last census, Niverville fell just short of that figure, and continued growth since that time more or less guarantees the threshold will be met, and then some, shortly.

A census was held earlier in 2021, although the results of it have not yet been made public. Typically it takes several months for Statistics Canada to release official tallies.

Therefore, news of the local population growth is right around the corner.

Currently, the town is served by the St. Pierre-Jolys detachment, which is located approximately 23 kilometres away.

Not only is that detachment further away than many residents would like, given the reality of increased crime, but it also serves



DEPOSITPHOTOS

an enormous swath of southeastern Manitoba.

The perception of many locals is that the current enforcement is too spread out to provide timely service.

The St. Pierre-Jolys detachment covers an area stretching from Winnipeg's southern boundary in the north to St. Malo in the south. To the northeast, the region stretches all the way to Ste. Genevieve.

Niverville sits right in the middle of this enforcement zone.

The design, planning, and construction of Niverville's new RCMP detachment is expected to continue until the end of 2022.

The first half of 2023 should see the official opening of the building.

It is expected that at least four full-time officers will be stationed in Niverville, and potentially more.

There are also plans to add various administrative and public services related to the RCMP in Niverville.

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# Truth and Reconciliation Major Theme of Museum Opening

By Sara Beth Dacombe

sdacombe@nivervillecitizen.com

The museum feature inside Niverville's Community Resource and Recreation Centre (CRRC) was officially unveiled to the public on Thursday, September 30.

The ceremony, which coincided with Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and struck a sombre tone, was organized by the Town of Niverville and featured addresses by two local men, Roger Armbruster as well as Peter Yellowquill, who offered a prayer of blessing from an Indigenous perspective.

Armbruster, director of Canada Awakening Ministries, served on the committee of local historians responsible for the museum.

The committee worked on the exhibit under the guidance of Dr. Joseph Wiebe, professor of Religious Studies, Religion and Ecology, and Ethics at the University of Alberta.

On behalf of the committee, Armbruster commented that it was very interesting to open the museum on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

"Working with the people who know the history of this area, like Ernie Braun, Steve Neufeld, and the rest of the committee, we really realized that we need to acknowledge the fact that we are on a territory here, that there were people here before we ever just came as settlers," Armbruster said. "That's very important. And we commit to understanding our heritage... and we want to move from hurting to healing."

Armbruster then welcomed Peter Yellowquill to speak and say a blessing for the museum.

Yellowquill, from Long Plain First Nation, is a survivor of the residential school system and is a fifth generation descendent of Chief Yellowquill, a signatory to Treaty No. 1.

"When your people came amongst us, and the settlers and the men who represented Her Majesty and the crown of Great Britain, they wanted land and they wanted to do an exchange for it," said Yellowquill. "They wanted to make a treaty with us... As long as your plough is in the earth, that treaty is alive. You are part of that treaty. As long as the sun shines, as long as the grass grows, as long as the rivers flow. What that means is from as long as we come



The new historical exhibit at the CRRC in Niverville.

SARA BETH DACOMBE

from our mother's womb from the waters of life, the water flows and the treaty is alive. And that is our relationship," said Yellowquill. "And that is what we want to teach. Education and how the fundamental aspect of our new renewed way of life has changed forever."

Yellowquill described how the First Nations leaders chose to make the treaty because the arrival of white settlers had already changed the land so significantly, but they could not have foreseen how their people would be treated.

"We knew it was never going to be the same," he said. "The buffalo were gone, the land was being changed, and it was getting harder and harder to live off the land. But never in all of those discussions was there any talk about residential schools."

Earlier in the week, Yellowquill also delivered a presentation to Grade 10 students at Niverville High School about the history of First Nations people, what was taken from them, and what their future needs are.

After his remarks, Yellowquill invited everyone in attendance into a prayer of blessing for the CRRC, mentioning a specific thankfulness for the Mennonite people who settled in the Niverville area.

He mentioned the tradition of the Mennonite people to be compassionate, to feed the world, and to send their young people into the world to do good.

"I'm standing here an innocent victim," he said as part of his blessing. "Everyone standing before me is innocent of the crime. And it is in this relationship where we can reconcile."

## TOWN PLEASED WITH MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION

The museum had not been in the original concept of the building during its initial phases, but it was added as a condition for one of the grants awarded for the construction of the CRRC.

"To my thinking, when they said we needed to have a cultural centre in here, I was a little bit disappointed

at first," said Deputy Mayor John Funk. "I thought, what do you want a museum in a sports centre for? But this isn't a stuffy museum that's only open two hours a day. This one will be open to the public at all times the building is open. I'm happy to see that."

## INDIGENOUS BLESSING HAD BEEN POSTPONED

Funk thanked Yellowquill for his involvement and for sharing at the local school.

And although Funk said that the town itself had no official statement on Truth and Reconciliation, he did explain that it was originally suggested to have an Indigenous blessing at the CRRC grand opening back in July.

"Roger had been talking to us a few months ago about the grand opening, but we had strict orders from the province not to have any extra people there, so this was the next time that it had worked for him to come," said Funk.

Councillor Chris Wiebe added,

"We had originally wanted to do it at the opening of the building, which would have been nice, too, but this turned out to be almost more suiting to the times."

## MUSEUM FEATURES

The museum is located on the second floor of the CRRC, on the landing of the mezzanine that opens onto the walking track above the gymnasium. A bold orange accent wall denotes the entrance of the space, emblazoned with the words "Niverville Cultural Space: The land, the stories, the people."

A floor-to-ceiling map of the region immediately attracts the attention of visitors. It is the artistic contribution of Candace Lipischak, a multidisciplinary Franco-Metis artist from Otterburne who used locally recycled materials. The highly textural map illustrates the movement of both land, First Nations, and settlers in the area.

One side of the self-guided exhibit area allows visitors to explore historical benchmarks reached as the Town of Niverville formed and grew, each presented with written descriptions and on a section of accordion-fold panelled walls. From "Sharing the Land" to "Making a Home" and "Growing the Town," the story of the people who lived and continue to live where the Red and Rat rivers meet is thoroughly told.

A large wall-to-wall mural grounds the rear of the exhibit, depicting an artist's vision of what the original Niverville town site looked like around the time when the railroad came to the area.

A collection of quotes showcase a wide variety of local reflections. One quote from Gladys Christie contributes a memory she had about summer picnics on the John Church farm. A quote from Louis Riel, the first Member of Parliament for Provencher, is displayed on another.

The museum experience is an engaging and colourful, while also achieving an appropriately sombre and respectful tone. The spacious exhibit, although not overly large, leaves room for additional content to be added in the future.

The tour culminates with the words taken from the Niverville cemetery memorial marker: "Dedicated to all who with hardship and toil began to settle here in the late 19th century... May their memory inspire future generations."



## IN BRIEF



## Local Taxi Business Adds Party Bus, Teases New Services

By Jennifer Lavin

✉ jlavin@nivervillecitizen.com

Earlier this year, local businessman Paul Ghuman started his latest venture: the Niverville Party Bus.

Ghuman, who also operates Pizza 311 in Niverville, calls this “the ultimate in special occasion transportation.”

In addition to the restaurant, he owns Niverville Taxi Ltd. and added the Party Bus as part of that service in August.

The bus can carry up to 19 passengers and the cost of the rental also includes a driver.

As for what people can expect in the way of rental cost, Ghuman says the rate is necessarily variable and depends on the distance travelled and length of time it will have to wait.

However, special rates are available for concerts and sporting events.

The Party Bus, according to Ghuman, is available for any occasion. He sees it as being especially useful for socials, birthday parties, and weddings.

The bus is scheduled to attend some recurring events as well. For example, Ghuman is taking the vehicle to every Blue Bombers game this season for a fee of \$20 per person, which includes pick-up and drop-off.

Both Niverville Taxi and the Niverville Party Bus are available year-round and 24/7.

These services can come in handy, given that the town has grown to the point that walking from one end to the other is no longer the 15-minute jaunt it used to be in days gone by.

For those living in The Highlands at the west end of town, or Fifth Avenue Estates at the southeast end, the walk to Main Street is substantial and may not be possible for many people.

As for the Party Bus, it could offer a safe and secure ride for those who plan to drink alcohol at a special event.

Notably, Niverville is surrounded on all sides by event venues.

Ghuman adds that Niverville Taxi is also planning to start a daily service to and from Winnipeg, a service which will target people who are looking for other options to help deal with their daily commute.

# New Health Orders Target Unvaccinated Manitobans, Southern Health

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Although here in Manitoba we’ve more or less enjoyed blue skies, high vaccination rates overall, and low daily case counts throughout the summer, the last two weeks of September demonstrated that the COVID-19 pandemic isn’t finished with us quite yet.

Officials are now warning that, like Alberta and Saskatchewan before us, Manitoba is in the early stages of the long-anticipated fourth wave.

This is particularly true in Southern Health, where vaccination rates in many areas are much lower than the provincial average. These unvaccinated communities are seeing an increase in infections.

Although the Niverville/Ritchot health region has a relatively high vaccination uptake of 82.1 percent, in neighbouring Hanover the rate is only 50.3 percent—and that difference is being felt in the local numbers.

As of Monday, September 4, Niverville/Ritchot had nine active cases, whereas Hanover had 32. The nearby city of Steinbach, with a vaccination rate of 64.9 percent, had 39 cases.

“Our data shows that vaccination works, as the vast majority of hospitalizations and ICU admissions are in people who are unvaccinated,” says Dr. Brent Roussin. “But nearly 400,000 Manitobans are either unable or unwilling to get vaccinated and our healthcare system remains at risk from the delta variant of COVID-19 with case numbers and hospitalizations rising. Today’s announcements are the consequences of that reality.”

To combat the recent rise in cases and help secure the healthcare system, Manitoba has announced a series of new public health orders, some of which specifically target Southern Health, whose numbers are having a disproportionate effect on the province’s COVID-19 response overall.

Starting on Tuesday, October 5, the province as a whole has moved back to the orange level on the pandemic response system. Throughout the summer, the province had been at the yellow level.

That same day, new public health orders came into effect, mostly applying exclusively to those who have chosen to remain unvaccinated despite being eligible:



Dr. Brent Roussin delivers news of a new round of public health orders.

GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA

- limiting private indoor gatherings for households to guests from one other household when any unvaccinated person who is eligible to be vaccinated is present on the property (even if the unvaccinated person lives at that location).

- limiting private outdoor gatherings for households to 10 guests when any unvaccinated person who is eligible to be vaccinated is present on the property (even if the unvaccinated person lives at that location).

- reducing indoor public gathering group sizes to 25 people or 25 percent capacity, whichever is lower, for gatherings that include unvaccinated people who are eligible to be vaccinated, including weddings and funerals.

- setting indoor group sizes for faith-based gatherings to 25 people or 33 per cent capacity, whichever is greater, for gatherings that include unvaccinated people who are eligible to be vaccinated.

Fully immunized Manitobans and those under 12 who are not eligible for the vaccine may continue to gather without capacity limits. Household gatherings, weddings, funerals, and faith-based gatherings can occur for fully vaccinated individuals and those under 12 without any restrictions.

Additionally, the new public health orders will:

- reduce all outdoor public gathering sizes to 50 people.

- move retail capacity to 50 percent in the Southern Health-Santé Sud health region to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in this region.

Notably, these rules came into effect just prior to Thanksgiving, which would typically bring people together for larger than

usual gatherings.

A press release from the provincial governments notes that future changes to these orders may include requiring all those eligible to be vaccinated to provide proof of vaccination to participate in indoor recreational activities.

In the meantime, Manitoba’s healthcare system is gearing up in anticipation of having to once again handle high numbers of hospital admissions due to COVID-19.

Audrey Gordon, Minister of Health and Seniors care, has warned that steps will need to be taken to guard the province’s critical care capacity.

“COVID-19 has created a heartbreaking backlog of surgeries and other medical procedures right across the country,” says Gordon. “Every new COVID-19 patient that requires hospital or ICU care can delay needed care for someone else... If you want to keep children in schools and ensure that medical procedures people need are not postponed, please get vaccinated now.”

New protocols will be put in place to protect capacity at sites that support patients in intensive care units, as well as those in need of surgery.

Also, patients admitted to a hospital or healthcare facility for care will be assessed for their individual care requirements and may be transferred to the most appropriate facility in Manitoba with the capacity to meet their needs in order to maintain vital ICU capacity. This may mean patients are medically transferred at no cost to another Manitoba facility located outside their home community.

Staffing complements for ICUs are being intensified, with the addition of 137 nurses who have received ICU orientation training

since the spring.

At the moment, another 67 nurses are in the process of receiving this training.

## NIVERVILLE MAYOR PUSHES BACK AGAINST ORDERS

On Monday, September 4, a day before the new orders were to come into effect, Niverville Mayor Myron Dyck called for the province to reconsider their broad regional approach to the latest health orders.

He has called on Dr. Brent Roussin to meet with him to discuss what could be done.

Specifically, Dyck would like to see Niverville businesses exempted from the rule that lowers retail capacity in Southern Health to 50 percent.

Dyck is concerned that this rule will force local businesses to take a financial hit. He also cited the rule as being a hardship to the staff who are required to enforce them.

In media interviews, Dyck called the broad reduction in retail capacity an “overreach,” considering that Niverville/Ritchot has a vaccination rate above the provincial average.

He further argued that when Winnipeg had the highest case loads during the second wave and was the subject of special regional restrictions, Niverville and its surrounding communities were included in their enforcement since the area is part of the capital region.

Now, however, he says that Niverville is being unfairly penalized for being associated with its rural neighbours.

At the time of publication, there was no word on whether a meeting would be granted to discuss the matter further. On Tuesday, the orders went into effect as originally announced.



## CITIZEN POLL

## Should Niverville and the RM of Ritchot be subject to public health orders meant to target vaccine hesitancy in Southern Health?

- ☐ Yes. The whole of Southern Health should be subject to the orders. It shouldn't be piecemeal.
- ☐ No. Our region's high vaccine uptake should exempt us from the health orders.
- ☐ Have a more nuanced opinion? Leave us a comment online.

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### LAST MONTH'S RESULTS:

### Which are the most important campaign issues to you? Please choose up to three.

Economic Recovery  
**39%**

Healthcare  
**35%**

Vaccine Passports  
**35%**

Covid-19 Response  
**33%**

Budget & Spending  
**30%**

Cost of Living  
**29%**

Jobs & Employment  
**21%**

Climate Change & Environment  
**18%**

Reconciliation  
**8%**

Childcare  
**3%**

### YOUR COMMENTS:

Of all issues, reconciliation is the most important, because relationships are the building blocks of the universe, and without good community relations, the social, economic and environmental issues cannot be addressed unless people who are reconciled work together cooperatively and collaboratively instead of at cross-purposes as we see in the present politically partisan, confrontation-adversary approach in Canada. That non-relational system is just plain wrong.

The Conservatives are now claiming Trudeau has spent too much money. If he hadn't for the Covid response, then our country would be in a far worse situation than it is now. Has his response been perfect? No. How could it be when it is an ever-changing situation? The response to this pandemic, how we move forward, and how we plan for future pandemics is important. Is it the most important issue? Probably not, but it is one of the most immediate.

No to vaccine passports and mandatory vaccinations!

With the global pandemic a lot of people can think about these days, other issues end up taking a backseat, but the recovery from the pandemic, and our recovery from our over-dependency on fossil fuels should be priorities as well.

I like the PC party but not the candidate in my ward. Falk has done nothing but hide behind his personal religious beliefs when science has proven that it can help save lives and keep our ERs open so our family members can get the necessary operations when needed. Our wait times are long enough prior to Covid and he hasn't contributed to the problem... done the exact opposite and he is responsible for the lack of uptake in vaccines and hospitalization and death of more Manitobans.

We must get Canada's ballooning deficit under control!!!

Try to get rid of COVID 19 please (:



The Louis Riel Bridge in Ste. Agathe.

# Public Responds to Louis Riel Bridge Proposals

By Evan Braun

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

For a two-week period in early May, the provincial government sought public feedback into proposals for what should be done to address the aging Louis Riel Bridge, which spans the Red River along Highway 305 in Ste. Agathe.

The results of that public feedback are now in, and they will be used by the government in determining the next step.

"The existing bridge was built in 1959 and serves as a vital link to Provincial Trunk Highway (PTH) 75 that helps connect people, businesses and agricultural land on both sides of the Red River," says Ron Schuler, Minister of Infrastructure. He also represents the local constituency. "Our government has committed to investing in infrastructure across the province, and we

wanted to hear from Manitobans to better understand the effects of this project and to gather feedback from the affected surrounding communities."

A preliminary design study identified two potential courses of action to repair the deteriorating bridge.

The first option would require a bridge closure and see the replacement of the entire bridge deck and railings, wider lanes and sidewalks, and an increase in the load-carrying capacity of the bridge. This would require single-lane closures and approximately 16 weeks of full bridge closure over the construction period, which is estimated to take one and a half years.

The second option would require the replacement of the entire bridge deck, girders and railings, and an increase in the load-carrying capacity of the bridge, a wider total roadway

width, and a new separated sidewalk. This would require approximately two years of construction work, with a minimum of one lane open at all times.

In his announcement, Schuler says more than 200 responses were received during the public engagement process, of which 75 percent live in or near Ste. Agathe.

Approximately half of the respondents, 51 percent, indicated the first alternative would have more of a negative impact on their travel patterns than the second alternative.

About 68 percent were of the opinion that the wider roadway and separated sidewalk proposed in the second option would have a positive impact on pedestrian and cyclist safety.

The province is expected to make a final decision this upcoming winter, following additional stakeholder engagement.



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# Swift High Speed Undergoes Merger, Looks to Expand

By Sara Beth Dacombe

sdacombe@nivervillecitizen.com

On September 9, Swift High Speed announced it has been acquired by Xplornet Communications Inc. and re-organized its remaining staff to form a new business called Swift Underground.

Based out of New Brunswick, Xplornet is a broadband service provider specializing in rural customers.

Over the past seven years, Swift has rapidly grown their network of fibre optic internet, wireless towers, and customer connections, all of which has been sold to Xplornet while Swift Underground retains the staff and equipment necessary to continue to operate its Fibre-To-The-Home (FTTH) installation business. Swift Underground thus also becomes a local contractor for Xplornet.

Evan Schroeder, chief operating officer and partner at Swift Underground, credits collaborative partnerships and amazing staff for enabling them to grow so quickly.

The business expanded from a two-man operation, climbing on towers and rooftops, to a company with more than 60 employees and a passionate and comprehensive vision to bring fibre internet to underserved areas in south-east Manitoba.

"Fibre to towers was our initial strategy, but we quickly realized that FTTH was our future, especially rural fibre," says Schroeder. "Due to the density of southeast Manitoba, we were able to start deploying FTTH in towns that had never had this available, along with connecting our



Evan Schroeder of Swift High Speed at their new office/warehouse space in Steinbach.

SARA BETH DACOMBE

towers."

However, Schroeder says that they quickly realized that on their own they couldn't borrow and grow fast enough to keep up with the marketplace.

"This past spring we realized we were not successful in obtaining the funding we'd require to grow as quickly as we'd hoped," he says. "At the same time, several industry concerns became apparent outside of the financial lending piece. Access to fibre materials was tough, as many products were significantly backordered, and purchasing licensed wireless spectrum to fill in the areas in which building FTTH was well outside our capabilities... So we made the difficult choice to sell our internet business."

Xplornet was the top choice for Schroeder to sell his business to, and he says there were many reasons that made it a clear and sound choice. Xplornet had the ability to fund far more growth than Swift could raise on its own, allowing 7,000 new homes to access FTTH, with construction beginning immediately.

Xplornet had also selected

15 regions to invest in, and they were the same top 15 regions Swift had been interested in targeting. Additionally, Xplornet has ongoing relationships with big fibre suppliers and is able to secure materials at better prices and speeds than Swift could as a smaller company.

Overall, Xplornet was able to show Schroeder that they shared the same vision to reach rural locations with the best internet possible.

"We couldn't afford to grow fibre the way we are now," says Schroeder. "It just wasn't possible. We love what we're doing. We love being able to get out to people's homes and help them connect to what they care about."

Swift's FTTH operation has already been in place for more than two years and Schroeder saw the opportunity presented by Xplornet as the way to move his business forward in the direction he wanted.

"We just grew really fast in the area of installing fibre to the home, and we saw this as a way to grow. And now we can really do this a lot faster than we could if we had continued self-funded. That's the

big difference here. Our goal of getting fibre to this many homes just couldn't happen before. We couldn't get the funding and now we have the funding."

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

Schroeder says they've gotten a high volume of calls asking about account changes. Some customers have expressed concern about Xplornet's ability to provide good customer service.

Under the new ownership, customer accounts that were previously with Swift High Speed will be transitioned to Xplornet, but Schroeder struck an agreement with the New Brunswick company to ensure that Swift staff continues to handle all customer service for existing customers for at least three years.

"We still have our call centre staff. All the customer service calls, all the emails for our existing customers, will continue to come to us. Nothing's changing," says Schroeder. "We've become a subcontractor of Xplornet. Just like there are subcontractors under Bell or Shaw, we have brought Swift in under



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Xplornet in that way.”

Another thing that won't change is the infrastructure. Schroeder says that Xplornet had observed Swift's network and seen it working well.

“Xplornet doesn't want to change the service provided at this time,” he says. “They are not merging our networks. They don't want to rush customers off of our network and onto a different network when ours was working well. It's not necessary. So our networks aren't even merging. They'll stay separate and Swift will essentially stay running what we've always run.”

Schroeder says there will be no change to existing customers, and that a few areas may even experience an overall improvement in service.

“There are several towers that we had purchased in the Mighty Oaks acquisition last year. Those towers weren't ready to be climbed. Our staff wasn't safe on those towers, so we've decommissioned most of those customers by moving them to other towers. With this [Xplornet] acquisition now, we can move some of those customers onto the LTE plans from Xplornet, which are much better than what they're having right now. So that'll help those customers. But the rest of our customers won't experience a change. They're going to stay where they are and we're going to support them.”

Any transition comes with risk, but Schroeder says this move was necessary for the company.

Swift's business model was always to grow and that's what they've done.

And yet Schroeder is modest about their success.

“There are a lot of other good companies doing the same for other competitors on the wireless side and the fibre side,” he says. “And we're all here doing the same thing. We want to get these rural homes, which everybody else has forgotten about, connected to what we consider today's technology.”

Schroeder adds that they're very happy with the arrangement with Xplornet, which enables them to continue providing the services as they've been doing it.

“We'll stay running as we have been until fibre to the home is available to a lot of customers and the new 5G wireless service is available to the rest. And that might be in a year or two, or more.”

## NEW BUILDING, MORE STAFF

To facilitate the new business arrangement with Xplornet, as well as the creation and growth of Swift Underground, Swift moved its headquarters from New Bothwell to Steinbach, taking over the former Mid Canada Millwork building on Highway 52.

Design staff moved into the office space over a month ago, but front office staff only began operating from there at the beginning of September.

“We knew this would be part of the process. We knew we would need to be able to gear up and organize ourselves in a space, and this building allowed us to do just that,” says Schroeder. “It will also allow us to go from 55 to 60 staff to over 150 staff next year. We are currently hiring for construction tech position and build design positions. We will be hiring more and more... This is all part of that big process of, let's get ready to bring fibre to everybody in the area.”

The MCM building was in need of some office renovation, but was otherwise an ideal fit for the business. The building boasts almost 8,000 feet of office space, with another 5,000 available for lease.

“Swift is occupying the warehouse space in the back. We have room to spare there, so we have a few areas where we are offering warehousing to a few businesses to provide them a storage space,” says Schroeder. “As for the office space, we have room to spare there, too. We are only occupying about half the space, and we are looking for tenants for the other half. It is available for lease. We have ROC Eastman planning to use the space for a book fair in the near future, but that will be temporary so we are definitely looking for a long-term tenant.”

Schroeder wants to welcome customers who want to come see the new space where staff can process payments in person, arrange for installation or service work, or assist with router and wifi repairs.

The building had previously been vacant for about eight years and has generated a lot of local interest from the general public. In the spring of 2020, the price on the real estate was dropped by nearly \$1 million to finally attract a buyer.

Schroeder says he's very pleased with the location and

that they couldn't have asked for a better space for Swift.

“It's great to be in this space at this location. There's some good activity going on along this stretch and with taking on such a large space, it brings some revitalization to the area.”

## THE NEXT COMMUNITIES

Swift has a history of rapid growth and has previously acquired other smaller internet providers in order to increase its ability to specialize in bringing internet to smaller towns and rural areas in Manitoba's southeast.

Schroeder says their team is in the process of designing the final touches on the Kleefeld install and fibre install construction to approximately 7,000 homes, a process which will begin in about two weeks.

Planning for FTTH involves them working closely with local government infrastructure to secure permissions and appropriate routes for the safe install of fibre where there is often existing underground cabling.

Schroeder says their planning also includes routes for new developments.

“We send our plan off for permitting and work with the RMs so that they know what's in the ground, what's going to be in the ground, and make sure it works with their water and sewer plan and more,” he says. “There are so many layers of utilities, so we need to know where every gas line is; our cables travel along the same routes and same right-of-way, so that's important.”

Schroeder says that they are anticipating new and expanded developments in many communities.

“You don't want to be caught short if there are 800 homes planned, but then they up it to a 1,000,” he says. “We want to make sure they have what they need. It's more costly to come back a second time, so we make sure we put in what's needed on the first go.”

After Kleefeld and Grunthal, Schroeder sees the need for fibre in many more rural areas around Winnipeg, including Anola, Marchand, Woodridge, and Vita, to name a few.

“There's a lot on our radar for the future. We'd like to get to all of the places that everyone else has forgotten. That's our plan for the next three to five years and beyond.”

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# Commentary

## Storm and Stress: Early Warning Signs of Mental Health Issues in Adolescence

By Daniel Dacombe

Adolescence is, in general, a challenging time even for the most privileged of youths.

Hormones, physical and psychological development, and changing social relationships all contribute to a time of strong emotions, both positive and negative.

G. Stanley Hall, the first president of the American Psychological Association (APA), famously described adolescence as a time of “storm and stress,” which for many parents of teenagers must sound incredibly accurate.

Maybe even a little downplayed.

For some families, though, the storms of adolescence can be incredibly dark.

The teen years, more broadly defined as those between the ages of 13 and 21, are also the time when the first signs of mental illness generally appear.

In fact, approximately 70 percent of individuals who have a diagnosed mental health issue experienced the onset of symptoms prior to the age of 18.

It is estimated that right now in Canada, just over 1.2 million children and youth are living with a mental illness. And according to data gathered in Canada over the last decade, mental health issues among young people are on the rise.

Mental health issues typically present with recognizable symptoms. However, these symptoms can go unnoticed in the midst of normal adolescent development, which means that the disorders may go untreated until they have progressed to the stage where they present a significant impact on both the young person in question as well as their whole family.

Since parents already have so much on their plates, they typically don't have the time to become experts at recognizing the early signs of mental health issues.

Thankfully, many experts have given their advice on how to recognize these early signs.

Read on to discover some of the signs and symptoms of mental illness and how to recognize them in



DEPOSITPHOTOS

your teen.

1. Decline in personal care. More than just having a messy room or neglecting to brush their hair, a decline in personal care—such as refusal to shower, change clothes, or eat—or a significant change in weight can be an indication of depression, anxiety, or other psychiatric problems.

2. Withdrawal. I'm talking here about withdrawing from friends, family, and formerly enjoyed activities. People who are experiencing mood disorders, symptoms of psychosis (such as hallucinations or voices), or other problems often avoid people and hobbies they used to enjoy.

3. Change in school performance. Grades may fluctuate throughout a youth's educational career, but when a straight-A student begins failing their courses, it may be a sign of some personal struggles.

4. Flat affect. Everyone is familiar with the highs and lows of adolescent emotions. When a teen doesn't experience these highs and lows but instead shows little to no emotional expression, it may be the result of the onset of a mental illness.

5. Excessive sleep. While teens do need more sleep than they did in their younger years, if they can never seem to get out of bed to the point that it affects their regular functioning, no matter how much rest

they get, it could be an indication of depression or other disorders.

6. Disordered thinking. Is your teen having bizarre thoughts (such as strange beliefs about one's self or about the world), problems expressing their thought processes, or difficulty concentrating or remembering things? It could be a sign of a problem.

7. Unusual or uncharacteristic behaviour. I'm not just talking about listening to music that's obviously terrible. This is normal in every generation of teenagers. But rather, are they having outbursts, acting bizarrely, or showing aggression?

8. Talk of death, suicide, or self-harm. For obvious reasons, this

should always be taken seriously. It can be a life-threatening symptom.

9. Substance use. While some amount of substance use experimentation can be seen as a teenage rite of passage, we need to understand that sometimes substance use is used to mitigate the symptoms of mental illness. For instance, alcohol can temporarily suppress early signs of schizophrenia—like visual/auditory hallucinations. If substance use is going beyond occasional experimentation, it should always be taken seriously.

I have to acknowledge that any of the above signs, to some extent, could be a normal part of adolescence.

In the dozens of presentations I've given to parent groups about mental health and addiction in their teen years, there is almost always a moment when we acknowledge, usually with humour, and often sheepishly, that teens are often messy, or antisocial, or sleep excessively.

So are we pathologizing “normal” teenage behaviour?

One or two of these signs can be normal in the average teen. However, several symptoms appearing at once could signal a problem, especially when the symptoms are prolonged (long-lasting), recurring (the symptoms return over and over), and severe (they impair a person's normal daily function to a significant degree).

Finally, there is one more sign of mental health struggles that should not be ignored. Indeed, this is the most important sign: when your child or loved one tells you something is wrong.

Out of a desire to protect our children, we as parents often have the impulse to downplay symptoms or encourage our teens to just push through, try harder, and not be negative.

But by doing this we are ignoring valuable insights from our teens' own lives and perspectives.

More than anything else, when our teens ask us for help, we should listen. That way, even if we miss every other symptom, we can make sure they get the help they need.





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# Sports & Recreation



## 2022 Winter Games Cancelled

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The pandemic has claimed another victim: the 2022 Manitoba Winter Games, previously announced to be held in Niverville. The cancellation was made public in the afternoon on Friday, September 24.

According to a press release from Sport Manitoba, the decision was made “to keep Manitobans safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19.”

The Games, which would have taken place from February 27 to March 5, would have brought together upwards of 2,500 people from all regions of the province, including athletes, coaches, managers, officials, and volunteers. The

Games would have encompassed 12 different sports.

“Over the last 18 months, inconsistencies in competition and training opportunities had an effect on athlete development,” reads the press release. “Without regular training, conditioning, and recovery routines in this crucial stage, the risk of injury, mental fatigue, and overtraining were also factors in making this decision. Along with continued uncertainty about the pandemic, and public health restrictions, it became clear it would not be possible to host an event of this magnitude and execute a safe and successful multi-sport Games experience.”

The decision was not made lightly and was arrived at upon thoughtful consultation

between Sport Manitoba, the Town of Niverville, the organizing committee, the Hanover School Division, Public Health, and other Games partners.

The decision was also supported by the Games’ title sponsor, Manitoba Hydro, in addition to the presenting sponsors: Credit Unions of Manitoba, Calm Air, Konica Minolta, Travel Manitoba, and the Manitoba Dental Association.

“The host society remained committed and dedicated as it planned through so many unknowns over the last year,” the press release continues. “To give them an opportunity to follow through on some of the benefits of hosting a Manitoba Games, Sport Manitoba is guaranteeing \$150,000 for

capital projects. Some projects, like the cross country ski trails at Hespeler Park, have already benefited from this investment. The funds that remain will be allocated within the community to enhance sport infrastructure and equipment.”

The Town of Niverville has been offered the first right of refusal to host the 2026 Manitoba Games, which is the next Games available to host.

The Manitoba Games take place every two years and alternate between summer and winter sports. It’s the largest ongoing multi-sport event in Manitoba and represents an opportunity for young athletes to compete and prepare to reach national and international sporting stages.

### IN BRIEF

## ODR Men’s League Crowns New Champions

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Another year at Old Drovers Run is drawing to a close, and the time has come to crown a pair of new men’s league champions.

For the second year in a row, the league has first-time winners. After a competitive final round of golf on Thursday, August 26, the trophy and title went to Steve Fast and Collin Funk.

The playoffs started out earlier in August with 32 teams. In an upset, three-time champions Ray Dowse and Bryan Trottier were eliminated in the first round, falling to the team of Vince Ceccarelli and Jay Meyer in a match that went to an extra playoff hole.

They weren’t the only past winners to go down in the first round.

Defending champions Kurtis and Cory Funk lost their first and only playoff match to Rene Abgrall and Ryan Dyck.

“Steve and Collin started off their impressive playoff run with a win against Wes Dowse and Jayare Charron in the first round,” says Brad Poleschuk, ODR’s resident golf pro. “In round two, they knocked off John Schmitke and Cam Dueck. The pair then had one of their tightest matches in round three, notching a victory against Keith Bueckert and Paul Dufour, winning on the ninth hole.”

For the semifinals, the tournament came down to four teams: Steve Fast and Collin Funk, Steve Baete and Sean Dieno, Richard Muntain and Bryan Clark,



Steve Fast and Collin Funk.

and Ryan Loreth and Ryan Billey.

“The Fast/Funk duo came out on top against Billey and Loreth, moving on to the final round against Baete and Dieno,” says Poleschuk. “Fast and Funk continued their strong play and sealed the win on the eighth hole, with a timely birdie from Steve Fast.”

The 2020 champions, Kurt and Cory Funk, were on hand after the round to present Steve and Collin with their 2021 Men’s League Championship trophy.

“Congratulations to Steve and Collin on an excellent playoff run of well-played matches,” he adds. “A special thanks to all 80 men’s league players for their participation in a season that was very far from normal.”

In the consolation bracket, Rhett Schramm and Josh Koop emerged victorious in a tight match that went down to the last hole. In second place were Jarrod Firlotte and Shawn Williamson.

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## The Smell of Popcorn: Jets Players and Fans Happy to Be Back

By Dan Hoepfner

The Winnipeg Jets kicked off their 2021-2022 season this past weekend, taking on the Ottawa Senators in the first of three preseason tilts.

The Jets fell 3-2 in this initial matchup.

The game featured everything you would expect during a preseason game: sloppy play, mental and physical mistakes, and penalties that will drive a coach crazy.

Despite all that, there was something special about this game. For one thing, the smell of popcorn.

"You can smell the popcorn when you come out to the bench," said head coach Paul Maurice after the game. "It just feels so much better than it was even almost in the playoffs. I mean, it was an exhibition game, so there is not anywhere near the intensity of it. But having people in the building is fantastic."

At least one player agrees with his coach.

"I had goosebumps going out on the ice," said Pierre-Luc Dubois, sporting 15 stitches after taking a dangerously high cross-check in the second period. "The fans were great tonight. It just feels like real hockey again. It feels good."

It has been 564 days since fans last packed into the Canada Life Center—formerly known as Bell MTS Place—in downtown Winnipeg, and the atmosphere was electric. The fans were loud, and you could feel a sense of optimism surrounding the team.

Part of that optimism comes in the wake of the off-season, which was arguably one of the busiest and most impressive for Jets General Manager Kevin Cheveldayoff since relocating the team from Atlanta.

In the last few months, Cheveldayoff has addressed the team's defensive deficiencies by acquiring veteran defencemen Brenden Dillon from Washington in exchange

for a pair of second-round draft picks, in addition to getting Nate Schmidt from Vancouver in exchange for a third-round pick. Both defenders bring size and skill to a team that lacked the ability to cleanly exit their own zone last season, which routinely made games more difficult for goaltender Connor Hellebuyck.

Cheveldayoff also added forwards Riley Nash, Austin Poganski, Mike Eyssimont, and Luke Johnson in free agency to replace the slew of departed players.

The Jets decided to not resign forwards Matthieu Perrault, Dominic Toninator, Trevor Level, goalie Laurent Brossoit, and defencemen Derek Forbort, Jordie Benn, and Tucker Poolman. They also lost Mason Appleton to Seattle in the expansion draft and slammed the door shut on NHL hopeful and former AHL rookie of the year Sami Niku.



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# Niverville Welcomes New Female Hockey Teams

By Scott Stroh

Since the first sheet of ice was laid down in Niverville's new CRRC this August, the arena has hosted a number of different programs—from hockey schools to minor organizations and recreational leagues.

One new program making its home in Niverville is the Eastman Selects U18AAA female hockey club. The Selects belong to the eight-team Manitoba Female Hockey League (MFHL), which is the top developmental league for female hockey players aged 15-18 in the province. The league's aim is help athletes gain exposure at the collegiate and university level.

Each MFHL team is comprised of players who come from local minor hockey organizations in its region. Eastman is rostered with players who have come up through the minor hockey system in southeast Manitoba, a region that stretches from the U.S. border in the south to Kenora, Ontario in the east, and the southeast shores of Lake Winnipeg.

The Selects, now entering their fourteenth season with the league, have played out of the arena in Ste. Anne since 2015.

Eastman played their first official game at the Niverville CRRC on Saturday, September 4, as they hosted the Pembina Valley Hawks in an exhibition match. Pembina Valley, who for the most part had iced their final roster, played against a split squad of returning Selects players and new registrants looking to make the team.

The Hawks took an early 3-0 lead,



Niverville's own Ginger Fast scored both of the U18 Female Selects' inaugural goals.

SCOTT STROH

but the Selects were able to find a new gear later in the game, scoring a pair of goals and skating away with a close 3-2 loss to their southern rivals.

But there's another regional team for women calling Niverville home. In addition to the U18 Selects playing on local ice, so are the U15 Selects.

"Female hockey continues to grow and flourish with both Selects programs," says U18 head coach Trevor Hildebrand, who's in his first year as bench boss after taking over from Bill Bram. "Getting

things started in Niverville has been really exciting for me and our entire coaching staff on a number of fronts. Hopefully we've put the worst of the pandemic behind us, and of course it's exciting for everyone—players, parents, staff, fans, officials, etc.—to be back in the rinks in some sort of normalcy."

Hildebrand adds that it's particularly exciting for him to have the opportunity to coach many of the team's players again, having previously been given the chance to coach

many of them at the U15 level, and see them further develop.

He's also excited about the move into the brand-new facility.

"It's pretty special to be able to move into the new facility in Niverville and call the new CRRC home," he says. "This facility is a one-stop shop, so to speak, for the program and will enable us to hold all of our team programming under one roof. The entire staff has been outstanding and very welcoming, making the transition very easy... We also have

some great local talent right here in Niverville and nearby communities on both the U15 and U18 teams."

People don't have to look very far to understand the importance of the female hockey programs in the province.

Eastern Manitoba's very own Jocelyne Laroque, who hails from Ste. Anne, is a pinnacle of women's homegrown hockey. Laroque has won two Olympic medals, including a gold at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, and eight World Championship medals, two of them being gold. She's also helped her University of Minnesota-Duluth NCAA women's team win two national titles, first in 2007-2008 and then again in 2009-2010.

Speaking of which, Ste. Anne's Minor Hockey Association has the distinction of also having developed Bailey Bram, daughter of former Selects U18AAA head coach Bill Bram.

Bailey played in the NCAA for Mercyhurst University, capturing the Rookie of the Year award for her conference in 2007. She was a member of Canada's gold-medal-winning team during the 2011-12 Women's World Championships.

Both Laroque and Bram have had great careers in the now-defunct Canadian Women's Hockey League. Laroque hoisted the trophy for her Markham Thunder in 2017-18, and Bram for her Calgary Inferno in 2015-16.

Be sure to head down to Niverville's own CRRC to capture both the U15 and U18 Female Selects in action.

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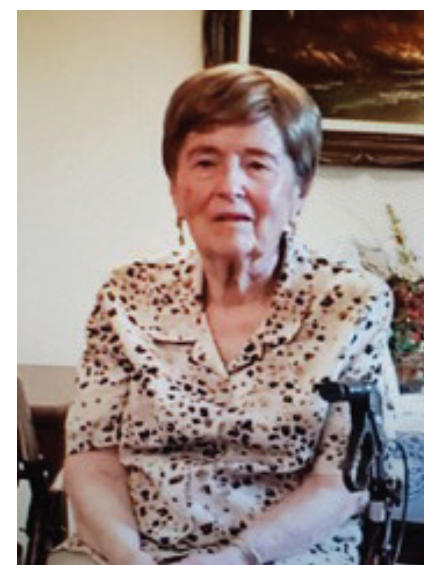
- attend and report on 4-5 local government meetings per month.
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## The Citizen

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The Citizen is a Niverville-based newspaper which is passionate about covering issues and events of importance to our community and our immediate neighbours. We primarily publish news pertaining to the towns of Niverville, St. Adolphe, Ste. Agathe, Île-des-Chênes, New Bothwell, Otterburne, and Tourond. We believe strongly in bringing our readers the most local and relevant news possible—in other words, the news that matters most to them and affects them in their daily lives.



**Betty Ann Frye  
(nee Doerksen)**

Betty Ann Frye passed away at the Menno Home in Grunthal at about 7:30 a.m. September 10, 2021 at the age of 97. She was predeceased by her husband Jim and her parents George and Elizabeth Doerksen of Niverville, as well as five of her siblings: George, Dorothy (Kroeker), Lilly (Lund), Roy, and Lorne. Betty is survived by 10 of her siblings: Mary (Wentzel), Irene (Wiebe), Bill, John, David, Edna (Neufeld), Jean, Allen, Alvin, and James.

The Doerksen's joined the Kroeker's in holding a private celebration of life at Hespeler's in Niverville and also placing the ashes of Dorothy and Isaac Kroeker at Oakgrove (next to the Mennonite Landing site.) Isaac passed away in the Morden Hospital on September 2, 2021 at the age of 96.

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