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## LOCAL NEWS

### Province Proposes to Radically Restructure Manitoba Education

■ The entire public school system is on the verge of enormous change, with the introduction of Bill 64, and educators, parents, and administrators largely aren't happy about it.

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## LOCAL NEWS

### Traffic Headaches at Busy Niverville Corner

■ Motorists in Niverville face long waits and high speeds at the busy corner of Krahn Road and Main Street.

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■ Our Western ideals of masculinity exact a heavy toll, says columnist Daniel Dacombe.

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### Local Woman Talks Elite Curling Career

■ Kate Cameron of New Bothwell is home from earning a bronze medal at this year's women's curling nationals.

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KEVIN MAMCHUK



# St. Adolphe in Kraft Hockeyville Final Four

Voting takes place April 9-10. **READ MORE ON PAGES 15-16**

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The realities of this past year have raised important questions for all of us:  
*How can we experience hope in the trials of life? Is there meaning and purpose in my life? What happens after we die?*

These questions are at the heart of Jesus' death and resurrection for us. *This time of year Christians around the world are focusing on this in a special way on Good Friday (April 2) and Easter Sunday (April 4).* Christians through history and today have experienced new hope, new meaning and purpose, and new life because of Jesus. We'd love to have you join us as we explore the meaning of Jesus' life and death for us in this season.

We, the churches of Niverville, are deeply thankful for you as our community. If you would appreciate prayer or would like to talk with someone, please give us a call. We would love to connect with you. And we'd love to have you join us for our Good Friday and Easter worship services.

May you experience new hope, new meaning  
and purpose, and new life in 2021!



all church contact info can also be found at <http://niverville.church>

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# Province Proposes to Restructure Education

*Despite the anticipated positive outcomes of the proposed changes, many educators, parents, and administrators share their concerns about the legislation.*

**By Sara Beth Dacombe**

sdacombe@nivervillecitizen.com

On March 15, the provincial government released its proposed strategy to restructure Kindergarten to Grade 12 education in Manitoba, under the Education Modernization Act, also known as Bill 64. The province has said the changes will remove top-heavy administration in order to shift \$40 million in funding to the classroom while giving parents and guardians more input.

However, many parents, teachers, and administrators see problems with Bill 64 and say it will cause more harm than good.

The changes outlined in the extensive 327-page document have been called many things, including "bracing" and a "nightmare," and has already sparked protests in front of Premier Brian Pallister's home in Winnipeg.

So what is Bill 64? It's important to know that it changes the way the education system is governed and delivered under the law in Manitoba. It introduces a new act, and through it several other acts are amended or repealed. The bill is in its second reading at the Manitoba Legislature, awaiting its public hearing, and amendments may still be made before it's passed into law.

## WHAT WILL BILL 64 DO?

Bill 64 is basically a reimagining of Kindergarten to Grade 12 education from the ground up. The proposed changes will have a large impact on parent volunteer involvement due to the elimination of elected trustee boards, as well as on administrative roles and offices due to the removal of school divisions.

As far as timeline goes, the government intends for the new model to be in place by July 1, 2022, meaning that the bulk of the work

needed to combine school divisions into their new regions will need to be done prior to or immediately following that date.

Parents and teachers would largely notice changes in place not for the upcoming school year, but the one starting in September 2022.

It's important to realize that the changes written about here aren't exhaustive, and more information can be found at the websites listed at the end of this article.

**School divisions replaced by regions.** The province is currently divided into catchment areas to facilitate administering the public education system by geographic area, but the Education Modernization Act would combine Manitoba's 37 school divisions and replace them with one provincial education authority with only 15 regions.

The only school division unaffected would be the DSFM (division scolaire franco-manitobaine), which provides French-language instruction in Manitoba.

The new regions would consolidate much of the existing administrative staff of the former divisions, cutting down on superintendent roles, human resources, accounting, and other support positions.

In our area, both Hanover and Seine River would remain intact as educational regions.

**Introducing a new governance model.** Among the most sweeping changes introduced in Bill 64 is the creation of a new Education Act, which establishes a new governance and delivery model for elementary and high school education. This replaces the Public Schools Act, the Education Administration Act, and the Community Schools Act.

The government agency created under this new act will be called the Provincial Education Authority. Under the Minister of Education,

the Provincial Education Authority will be run by an appointed (not elected) board of between six and 11 people, a minority of which (but at least two) must be parents of current public school students and who serve on the provincial advisory council.

**New provincial education authority board.** Under the Minister of Education, the authority board will determine regional catchment areas, curriculum and policies, arrangements for early learning programs and other specialty instruction, and student expulsions. This board will be responsible for reporting annually on the assessment results of education programs and student learning outcomes. The authority board will also appoint a Director of Education for each region.

**Directors of education.** The new directors of education would work with the school community councils in each region.

**Volunteer school community councils.** These councils will replace elected trustees boards. The way parents make their voices heard currently is through electing trustees, but under the new system trustees will be eliminated and parents will need to volunteer their time to form a community council for each school.

Every parent of a student will by default be a member of the school's community council and help elect executives to run the council. The school community council will review and recommend ways in which the school can meet the needs of the community it serves, including recommending the hiring of teachers and staff, undertaking capital construction projects, and assessing program effectiveness.

(continued on page 4)

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(continued from page 3)

One parent representative from each region will be appointed as the parental engagement officer and act as a representative of the region on the provincial advisory council, which will serve as a board to advise the Provincial Education Authority.

The DSFM will retain its elected board of trustees and one trustee will be appointed to the provincial advisory council.

**Principals, vice-principals, and teachers.** Each school will still have a principal, who must be a certified teacher. The principal will be the educational leader and manage the school and supervise the staff, including teachers.

The Provincial Education Authority will appoint the principal and serve as the employer of all public school teachers in Manitoba (apart from teachers in the DSFM).

Principals and vice-principals will be removed from the teachers union, the Manitoba Teachers Society.

**Funding through levy, not property tax.** Bill 64 introduces legislation that accomplishes a goal of the Progressive Conservative party's platform: phasing out the education tax component of property bills.

Currently, property taxes make up 42 percent of all education funding, but the model results in considerable fluctuations for school divisions, since some have much wealthier, revenue-generating properties in their catchment than others.

Instead of depending on property tax, Bill 64 would give power to the Provincial Education Authority to "determine the amount to be raised by special levy after it is informed by the minister of the amount of support that will be provided for the year." It will then be up to the local municipalities to collect the funds through a special levy.

**Changes to homeschooling.** A parent may still choose a home school arrangement, but Bill 64 would legally limit instruction "only to family members at the home."

## WHY ARE THE CHANGES NECESSARY?

The provincial government says that these changes are based on recommendations from the 2019 Com-

mission on K-12 Education and its resulting report, released in March 2020. The report made 75 recommendations covering a wide range of topics from school governance to curriculum to inclusivity.

The COVID-19 pandemic also had an impact on how our education system responded to the needs of students and families in the past year. The government says the lack of consistency across school divisions clarified the need for change.

Manitoba has struggled with many issues facing its education system, and the province says that Bill 64 is designed to target many of the largest of these issues.

**Curriculum and resource inconsistency.** The province lays the cause for systemic inconsistency on the school division system. For a long time, Manitoba has had the highest number of school divisions and trustees per capita in all of Canada, resulting in vastly different standards and resources for parents and students across the province depending on where they live.

**Poor student outcomes.** Manitoba also has one of the highest education administrative costs in all of Canada, and the province directly connects the high cost of administration with student test results and graduation levels, which rank among the lowest in Canada.

In particular, Indigenous students have a lower graduation rate compared to non-Indigenous students.

**Uneven funding.** As mentioned earlier, Manitoba's system of funding education through property taxes results in inequalities between school divisions. This is in part because of uneven population distribution.

For example, rural areas have fewer people with, typically, less expensive properties to tax.

Also, areas with high-value commercial properties pay higher amounts of property tax. School divisions even within the same city receive vastly different funds through the current model.

## DESIRED OUTCOMES

The Progressive Conservative government says that these changes will make education more consistent province-wide, effectively engage

parents, and put students first. They point to the financial benefits of removing trustee boards, reducing administration costs by combining school divisions, and revising the funding model by decoupling education taxes and property taxes.

The savings, according to the government, will add up to \$40 million per year.

The strategy is intended to produce measurable improvements for student outcomes, such as test results and graduation rates.

Another goal is for school community councils and the provincial advisory council to better assess the effectiveness of school programs and analyze student achievement and learning outcomes. These councils will also have a say in determining how and by when those outcomes are to be improved.

The emphasis on volunteer councils is intended to give parents more say in the education of their children.

However, the reaction to the Education Modernization Act has been swift since its introduction last month. Members of the general public and educators across the province have spoken loudly about their many and varied concerns.

In general, support for the proposal has been thin on the ground.

From parents, school administrators, and the teachers union, concern ranges from "not liking change" to thorough and exhaustive critiques of the ideological foundations of Bill 64 and its ability to effect change.

## PARENTAL PERSPECTIVE

Many parents have said that removing trustee boards removes an established body of elected officials who are supposed to represent them. Although the new system would deliver to parents a new level of responsibility with community councils, those councils wouldn't necessarily have the power to effect change.

A number of parents who agreed to the speak to The Citizen say they would prefer not to see trustee boards eliminated.

"Yes, not all elected officials are passionate about their job or do it well," says one parent. "But trustees are here for us and represent our needs and what is best for our kids. They have experience in education

and a bunch of issues that, in general, the average parent just doesn't have. And now we will be asked to do their jobs, but as volunteers."

Critics of the school community council model point out that most parents don't have the time or energy to do what trustees do, and the ones who do are going to be disproportionately scarce in areas with higher concentrations of lower-income families, single-parent families, and immigrants. Parents in these demographics typically work more or longer hours and immigrant families often face a language barrier to community involvement.

They say that the new school community councils will create undue burden on busy parents and new inconsistencies across regions.

Parents we spoke to raised other reasons for why student test scores in Manitoba are low compared to the rest of Canada—and those reasons, they say, are socioeconomic.

Some parents point out that schools have been asking for more teachers, lower class sizes, and more in-class support for years. So if the \$40 million saved through this proposal were to be reallocated to provide more frontline support for children, that would be a good thing. These parents want more money to be funnelled toward school resources that directly help kids, such as more teachers, in-class support for special needs students, school psychologists, and addictions and mental health supports.

## REACTION FROM THE HSD

The Hanover School Division recently released a letter to parents from superintendent Shelley Amos.

"Given the scope of the report and proposed changes, it will take time to review and understand the implications for Hanover School Division," Amos wrote. "We look forward to participating in the provincial consultation process and learning more details in the months ahead. HSD will continue to work and communicate with our stakeholders while focusing on creating student success in each of our schools."

Ron Falk, chair of the HSD board of trustees, says that the Progressive Conservative government is making a power move that actually limits the

ability of local parents to have a say in their children's education.

"For all of Hanover, you'll have one person on an advisory board that makes a recommendation to the provincial authority. Somehow that's supposed to mean there's more of a voice," says Falk. "Removing trustees removes the local voice and local accountability. They're saying that parents will have greater voice in their schools, but we were elected by them and we already have parent councils and we listen to them. We know we have needs in our school divisions and the province hasn't listened to the trustees about them. Why would people think the government is going to listen to a parent-led council differently?"

Falk says there are school divisions that are doing a fantastic job engaging parents, with active parent councils, and no good argument could be made that parents will be better served through volunteer-led school community councils.

"As it is in Hanover, which I can speak to, we have fantastic parents," he says. "Parents are engaged, certainly, in the schools. The government wants parents to have a say and be listened to, which is exactly what we are doing right now."

Unfortunately, trustees acting as parent advocates doesn't mean they have been successful in securing more resources for schools.

Falk acknowledges the difficult situations of high-needs family, saying that in the last five years he's seen school divisions specifically ask for more resource help, more mental health supports, and more psychologists. He says, in his experience, the amount of specialized help needed by children would not be able to be met by hiring professionals even with the cost-saving measures of eliminating trustee boards and administration support positions. Instead the province is directing cuts at the education system when the focus on helping children and families should come from an entirely different department for social helps.

"We have to realize, in Manitoba, that our communities are not as stable as they used to be," Falk says. "There are a lot of high-needs families, for many various reasons, and families going through a lot



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of high-stress situations in the families. From Grades Three and Four, we have kids who have anxiety and stress and high needs. So eliminating some of these admins and using those resources to put in place the professionals we need? Let me tell you—there aren't enough resources to fill the needs. Yes, the schools must continue to provide a learning environment even while faced with such a wide variety of needs. And our educators do this. But the education must be the priority."

Falk says that government officials are being too vague and it just isn't possible to show how Bill 64 will save the government \$40 million.

"They've been saying that they're going to save \$40 million by eliminating school boards, trustees, superintendents, and the like," he adds. "Cutting the cost of trustee positions and running the boards, that will cost \$4-5 million. So where is the other \$35 million savings coming from? Eliminating school superintendents and admin positions doesn't add up to \$40 million."

He also points out that some of the savings will be a one-time burst of funding during the first year when the removal of trustee boards and administrative

positions is first enacted, but that many smaller school divisions are already struggling to maintain administrative support for schools on an already-reduced staff.

"Removing trustees, yes, this means cutting down on people delays, communication delays. And the perceived 'middle management' is seen as unnecessary; people cost time and money. But the government has installed administration caps for the past few years. If you're a smaller school division, there's no longer room to get rid of positions. They keep saying administration costs are too high, but we've already done what they have said each time they've mandated we need to lower admin. Some of these divisions are already really, really struggling with their admin and resource positions being so low."

He also spoke to the issue of socioeconomic factors that influence both comprehensive test scores and graduation levels.

"At first glance, yes, Manitoba is on the lower side of Canada, but we do need to remember that Canada is in the top handful of countries in the world," Falk points out. "So why is Manitoba doing worse than other provinces? There are a number of reasons. The reason

Manitoba's stats may be a little lower is that our socioeconomic standing is lower than other provinces. Our regions to the north do not have the resources and supports and our poverty issues are more significant than our neighbouring provinces even. It's also important to know that with testing of students at a certain grade level, not all of the students are tested. Different provinces select specific geographical areas to conduct their tests. If Manitoba would do that, our scores would be better. When you factor in those reasons, it explains our test scores."

Falk explained that while Hanover receives an unfairly low amount of funding compared to the number of children in its schools, there is already a measure used by the government to address that inequality, one that offers additional funding to low-assessment divisions. It's called Additional Equalization.

"In Hanover, we like to think we have a pretty great place to live," he says. "But if you look at the number of children we have, we are actually only on the receiving end of a comparatively small commercial base of property taxes, making us the eighth or ninth in the province for funding. This means

the amount of tax revenue we can glean is not as high per child. And further still to regions in the north, they won't have as much tax base to pull from in any way. There just isn't that assessment base to pull from. That's what the government is saying they are trying to address. But there is already a standard in place, called Equalization, to try to balance the discrepancy."

As to inconsistencies in the province-wide curriculum, Falk points out that curriculum comes from the Department of Education, so while there may be discrepancies in the implementation of the curriculum, there are no differences in the subject material itself.

#### EDUCATORS WEIGH IN

Multiple past and present school administrators were consulted for this article, but none were willing to go on the record with their comments, fearing repercussions.

The general assessment of Bill 64 among the experienced educators we spoke to was universally negative. However, some did acknowledge that it may be too soon to tell the full impact of the proposed changes.

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Many educators are concerned over the legislation's focus on budget-balancing and the virtues of smaller government with greater concentrations of power, which they point out are ideological preferences of the Progressive Conservatives. They worry these ideologies could be prioritized over the true needs of Manitoba children.

The Manitoba Organization of Faculty Associations (MOFA) includes the faculty associations of Brandon University, Université de Saint-Boniface, the University of Manitoba, and the University of Winnipeg.

The organization, representing approximately 1,600 Manitoba educators, is concerned that some of Bill 64's wording appears to be plagiarized from an American right-wing lobby group.

"Both the language and intent of bills submitted by this government borrow heavily from American open source legislation prepared by a corporate lobby group: the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC)," reads a statement on the MOFA website. "Academics are trained to spot plagiarism, and here the spotting was easy. MOFA sees this legislative plagiarism as another step toward remodelling Manitoba after Tennessee, Alabama, Oklahoma, and Mississippi... MOFA strongly believes that the elimination of our school boards is fundamentally undemocratic and reduces crucial democratic input from both parents and Manitobans at large."

One teacher from the Hanover area did offer a comment on the condition of anonymity. They believe the community will have less say in education and it will be even more difficult for schools to have their needs met.

"This is an extremely top-heavy plan, as in government control," they say. "Initially when I heard rumours about getting rid of the school boards, I wasn't too concerned. But this plan is essentially cutting out elected and informed officials and replacing them with voluntary committees that are predicted to have no power. I don't feel good about this bill and through conversations with my colleagues I don't think any teachers are feeling good about it."

This teacher acknowledges that the trustee system isn't perfect, but they believe a parent-led voluntary committee will not be as well informed about education matters, nor be able to effectively represent the needs of the entire community.

"Yes, kids with stable homes and parents available to advocate for them will be well represented," they say. "Kids who need a voice—minorities, kids in care, and at-risk youth—will not be represented and will disappear even further into the background."

From a teacher's perspective, this educator feels that principals being removed from the teachers union is going to create new barriers between teachers and principals, creating a workplace environment more typical of a corporation than an education system. They say the move will weaken the collective bargaining strength inherent in the union, which is a known goal of the Progressive Conservative government.

"This bill gives the government a lot of control. It reminds me of how you would set up a mega corporation. Top heavy," says the Hanover area teacher. "This government has a history of treating educators poorly by illegally freezing our wages, delaying contract bargaining, and increasing class sizes. Ever year they pat themselves on the back because of all the money they give to education, not mentioning the fact that it doesn't even keep up to the rate of inflation. Over and over again they throw us under the bus and it makes educators very uneasy about giving them even more control. Our system is not perfect, but changes need to be innovative, with teachers and students in mind."

They also see Bill 64's changes, with its focus on outcomes, as part of the right-wing ideology in the United States and American Republicanism. It focuses on budget and test scores as measurements intended to project people's economic potential, but it doesn't take into consideration basic needs and quality of life.

"The [Conservatives] see testing as a way of holding the system accountable," says the teacher. "This is very common in the States where standardized testing is rampant. They use the testing to

judge teachers and schools on their effectiveness. Standardized tests show you a very small part of a very big picture. As MTS [Manitoba Teachers Society] has stated many times, the child poverty rate, and children in care in our province, is out of control. How can we expect kids to excel in math and reading when they don't have their basic needs met? Kids show up in your classroom as they are, and you do what you can while you have them there."

Even though they're not yet sure how these changes will affect the day-to-day duties of teaching, they are bracing for changes while still focusing on how to help kids learn to the best of their ability.

"I think as a teacher I just have to keep coming back to the reason I do this job. I really care about the kids, and I really believe in teaching the whole child. No matter what happens, I'll just have to keep coming back to that."

#### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Bill 64 is now awaiting hearings where the public will be invited to speak either in favour or against its provisions.

If parents, educators, or members of the public are concerned, Ron Falk suggests that they talk to their local MLAs and consider registering to speak at the hearings, which will be held virtually.

"Parents should be concerned," says Falk. "They are being promised a bunch of stuff that is still vague, not based on a foundation that points to the actions they are proposing, and that will not come to fruition as the government is projecting. These are sweeping changes that will not be easily undone."

To further his point, Falk brings up a recent encounter with a member of the community who was worried about what was going on.

"I had a grandmother phone me last night," he says. "She was very concerned and, even though she's not involved in the school system right now, she says she sees what's going on and knows it's terrible. She says, 'How can we be heard?' I said, 'Even grandmothers can be heard.' You need to email your MLA and email your premier. You have a premier who is very autocratic, between the premier and the former Minister of Education, this deal was done and people need to be aware of that. So send an email to

your MLA. That doesn't take much, but it's something. You can also register to speak at the public hearings via Zoom, so it will be actually less intimidating than going in person and being in front of a room full of dignitaries."

The Manitoba School Board Association (MSBA) has also been working to raise awareness of the risks of removing local democratic accountability from public education. The MSBA has launched a website called [www.localvoices.ca](http://www.localvoices.ca) where Manitobans can learn how to engage directly with their MLAs and with the legislative committee on Bill 64.

"With the announcement, our advocacy doesn't stop," says MSBA President Alan Campbell. "The awareness of Manitobans has clearly been heightened given the immediate outpouring of frustration and anger that we've seen... It's time for MLAs and Minister [of Education] Cliff Cullen to hear from Manitobans about his plans to cut their voice out of public education."

In the Hanover and Seine River School Divisions, life will continue to run as per normal until Bill 64 officially passes into law and committees are struck to implement the transition to the new governance model.

Each school division will release information to parents as the next action steps are made official.

"We have told our staff in Hanover that for the next year and a half things will run as per normal," says Falk. "We have to continue to educate students and do the work we are called to do. Education is important and between now and then, we need to keep moving."

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Read the full provincial news release: <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=51001&post=2021-03-15>
- Read the full Manitoba K-12 Education Review: <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/educationreview/docs/public-discussion-paper.pdf>
- Read about the government's plan of action: <https://bettereducationmb.ca>
- Read the MSBA response to Bill 64: <http://www.mbschoolboards.ca/localVoices.php>
- Read Bill 64: <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/42-3/b064e.php>
- Provide feedback about the bill, by April 6, 2021: <https://engagemb.ca/better-education-starts-today>

#### CITIZEN POLL

### Are you in favour of the proposed restructuring of education in Manitoba, as laid out in Bill 64?

- ☐ Yes. Manitoba's education system needs a reboot and we should give this proposal a chance to succeed.
- ☐ No. The changes proposed in Bill 64 will negatively affect students and families and fail to achieve its intended outcomes.
- ☐ Have a more nuanced opinion? Leave us a comment online.

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#### YOUR COMMENTS:

More housing for single people on assistance.

A tiny house subdivision with smaller lots would be perfect for retirees, or as a starter.

We need to create affordable options for students and young people transitioning into the work force post-education.

I know people who would love to live in Niverville, however they are unable to afford the house prices on top of the cost of commute to the city for work. Plus there are so many younger folks just starting out who could benefit from lower housing prices so they are not stuck with huge mortgages for many years.

We need smaller detached homes aimed at low income earners.

More places such as Vista Cove. This particular age group is very much being overlooked in this community.

Im a single mother actually looking right now. Would love to see something newer around 200-230,000 mark. It's hard to buy and do fixer uppers on a tight budget! But I do love a good reno.

Need more Multi family rentals.





# AMM Complete Tour of Local Municipalities

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

On March 5, the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) brought to a conclusion a series of one-on-one meetings with municipal councils throughout south-eastern Manitoba. This is a key tour for the AMM, one they accomplish at least once every four years.

Normally these meetings happen face to face, but this year they were conducted virtually.

The meetings are an opportunity to identify the priorities of each municipality and gauge how the AMM can advocate on their behalf at the provincial level.

“During the discussions, several members raised concerns about the federal government’s proposed legislation regarding new firearms measures,” says AMM President Kam Blight. “The AMM will be raising these concerns with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) next week since any new measures should be based on a nationwide approach to improving public safety.”

The delegation included President Kam Blight, Vice-Presidents Brad Saluk and Chris Ewen (Mayor of Ritchot), Eastern District Directors Stan Toews and Melanie Parent, and Executive Director Denys Volkov.

“As the new provincial legislative session started this week, many councils expressed support for the AMM’s call for amendments to Bill 37,” says Stan Toews, Reeve of the RM of Hanover. “It is essential that the scope of appeals be clarified and mechanisms to mitigate frivolous appeals be developed to not delay municipal land use decisions.”

Bill 37 is the Province of Manitoba’s Planning Amendment Act, introduced last November to improve the efficiency and transparency of land use planning.

The bill is the result of a review process that took place back in 2019.

“Municipalities are also leaders

when it comes to waste diversion and recycling,” says Melanie Parent, Councillor for the RM of Piney. “Our members welcomed the provincial review currently underway as it aims to modernize programming frameworks and supports to local communities.”

As part of the tour, the AMM met with the members of Niverville’s council, as well as the council of the RM of Taché. Other councils include the RMs of Alexander, East St. Paul, Piney, Springfield, St. Clements, Stuartburn, Victoria Beach, and the towns of Lac du Bonnet and Powerview-Pine Falls.

There are 137 municipalities in Manitoba, all of which are represented by the AMM.

## IN BRIEF

### Double Homicide Near Lorette Rattles Community

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Early in the morning on Thursday, March 25, the RCMP were called to investigate a disturbance along River Road near Lorette.

The call, alerting authorities about a break-and-enter in progress, came in at 1:15 a.m. When officers arrived, two people were discovered deceased, later identified as Dennis and Bernadette Lidgett, both in their 70s, in a double homicide.

While officers were still at the residence, they received an additional report of a suspicious man travelling on foot some distance away, along Highway 59.

The man, 27-year-old Karlton Dean Reimer of Steinbach, was arrested.

One kilometre away from the site of the arrest, south of Île-des-Chênes at the corner of Highways 59 and 210, a stolen vehicle was located that was linked to the crime.

Reimer was charged with two counts of second-degree murder.

Subsequent reports have revealed that Reimer has been out on bail since last September, has schizophrenia, and has a history of drug addiction. He had been ordered to undergo treatment and take medication.

At the time the charges were filed, no known connection had been discovered between the victims and the accused.

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## Service to Seniors Partners with Local Eateries

**By Sara Beth Dacombe**

 [sdacombe@nivervillecitizen.com](mailto:sdacombe@nivervillecitizen.com)

Starting April 1, Niverville Service to Seniors will partner with Bistro 290 to provide low-cost meals for seniors, Monday through Friday.

Meals will cost \$7 for a healthy, freshly prepared hot lunch delivered to Niverville's many senior residents by local volunteers.

Niverville Service to Seniors Coordinator Damien Gagné says the meal program is one of the things they do

to support seniors going through health challenges.

He calls it a tangible way to support people by easing the burden of daily cooking.

"The Service to Seniors program is designed to assist seniors from Niverville and the surrounding area maintain their independent living status," says Gagné. "The low-cost meals, arriving hot and nutritious, are a way to fulfill our mission."

Starting in mid- to late-April, Service to Seniors will also be selling frozen meals

available for pick-up from Hespeler's Cookhouse & Tavern.

The prices for these frozen meals will vary per meal.

Orders can be made through Service to Seniors at 204-388-9945 or email [sts@heritagecentre.ca](mailto:sts@heritagecentre.ca).

Follow Service to Seniors on Facebook where you can find more information about the Bistro 290 hot lunches and see when the frozen meals from Hespeler's will be available.

## Whitetail Meadow Spring Market Still Good to Go

**By Evan Braun**

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

Despite some uncertainty created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Whitetail Meadow Spring Market is still on the books. As of this writing, unless public health orders substantially change, the event

will kick off on Sunday, May 2 at Whitetail Meadow, located at the corner of Highways 311 and 200.

The market will open at 10:00 a.m. and close at 4:00 in the afternoon.

"Based on guidelines from Public Health, we are approved to operate the same as retail, which would allow us 50 percent capacity

inside, not including vendors," says organizer John Falk. "We will also have outside vendors in the large tent in the meadow."

Falk seeks to reassure guests that the event will be fully in compliance with all public health orders.

"As long as restrictions don't change, we hope to have a great event!" Falk says.





The high-traffic intersection of Main Street Niverville and Krahn Road.

EVAN BRAUN

# No Traffic Projects on the Horizon for Krahn Road Intersection

By Sara Beth Dacombe

sdacombe@nivervillecitizen.com

Traffic concerns have been reignited after a head-on collision at Krahn Road and Main Street last month. The accident occurred on March 2.

Back in 2018, the Town of Niverville held an open house to seek public feedback on traffic solutions to problem areas throughout the community.

At that time, the town's engineering team recommended a one-lane roundabout with right lane cut-offs at the Krahn Road intersection.

Town planners, as well as the public, accurately predicted that the intersection would be subject to ever-increasing traffic with the residential development in The Highlands growing every year, as well as the still-expanding commercial development along Drovers Run.

The province's most recent traffic review for Niverville in 2019 resulted in the decision to decrease speed limits on Highway 311 west of Niverville and install a crosswalk at Mulberry Avenue.

Changing the railroad crossing at Main Street and introducing traffic roundabouts at Sixth Avenue and Krahn Road were also discussed, but to date no plans are in place to proceed with these projects.

Melissa Gladue, owner of

Niverville Pizzeria in the strip mall on Drovers Run, was a witness to the accident on March 2 and says that since their restaurant has opened, they've seen three bad accidents on that corner.

"The traffic is heavy, which yields impatient drivers not wanting to wait their turn. I also have seen many people speeding in that area," says Gladue. "And thinking of the near future, with the expansion of Fifth Avenue West coming with a big housing development, additions to The Highlands, and the other 75 acres of land for sale on the southwest side of Krahn, traffic is only going to increase as development continues."

Gladue wants to see increased traffic measures at the intersection.

"I truly believe if a light or roundabout were added, it would force people to be more patient and slow down," she says. "We have two young kids ourselves who regularly walk around the area with us, and I believe a slower speed limit as well as a light or some sort of traffic addition to regulate slower traffic would help immensely with speeding and impatience."

Following the March 2 accident, both the Town of Niverville and Province of Manitoba have responded to the concerns raised by residents.

"Manitoba Infrastructure

continuously monitors intersection operations and assesses the need for traffic control revisions," says Ron Schuler, MLA for Springfield-Ritchot and Minister of Infrastructure. "In response to increased traffic generated by developments located southeast of the intersection, improvements were made at the intersection of PR 311 and Krahn Road [in 2019]. Future projections from traffic impact studies commissioned by the town and by developers will be under consideration, which may include upgrades to the intersection at Mulberry to provide access to the south."

Mayor Myron Dyck of Niverville confirms that all improvements to Main Street are the jurisdiction of the province, but the town has the ability to bring projects to the province's attention.

"As a town, we bring things to their attention and help bring things front and centre in our opinion," says Mayor Dyck. "We need to practice safety and be mindful and careful. We will try to do the best we can to bring our needs forward."

Regarding the Krahn Road intersection specifically, the mayor says that since the 2019 study was completed, no further improvements have been scheduled.

"When it meets their criteria for traffic count and budget and priority

and all that, then they will do it," Dyck says. "Because of the accident, we will keep it at the forefront when we have those conversations."

He also highlights the constant backlog of infrastructure projects that make it a challenge for administrators to prioritize according to both the need for public safety and genuine urgency.

"On the one side, if we would call the province and say [we] would pay for it, they would say go for it. But that's not the way it works. We all pay our fair share of taxes and [highway improvements are] one of the things we look for from the money we give them. They always have many more asks for their time and money than resources allow, but Minister Schuler has always been good at letting us know what their priorities are and what they can do in our area. He always listens."

It is natural for residents to see a need before it's brought to the attention of the province, but Mayor Dyck says there is always a delay from seeing the need to planning to project actualization.

"It's not that the province or the feds don't see the needs here," Dyck says. "But it is the backlog of existing needs that is the challenge. Despite all the money we pay in taxes, it still pales in comparison to the infrastructure backlog that we are facing

as a province and as a country."

The reality of government funds being diverted to the COVID-19 response also creates a challenge that will have an impact on the ability of every level of government to meet needs for years to come.

"The province has just shoved themselves in debt \$2 billion because of COVID, so that impacts things," the mayor adds. "COVID relief, small business loans, vaccination rollout, that has taken priority. From a budgeting standpoint, from the province to do all sorts of things they want to do, and balance the budget, it's going to be challenging."

Town CAO Eric King has checked into any further specific projects the town plans to undertake in the near future, such as curb improvements, snow-clearing, boulevard creation, and turning lanes.

But King also points out that the role of municipal government is to bring things forward to the province and not to move on them independently.

"The intersections along 311 will require the town to continue to work with Manitoba Infrastructure and see what improvements are warranted by the data," says King. "As an example, Krahn Road intersection improvements were recommended in the 2027 timeframe based on development of Fifth Avenue West."



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## IN BRIEF

## Annual Garage Sale Announced

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Preparations are currently underway for the annual town-wide spring garage sale in the Town of Niverville.

For one weekend every spring, residents of the town are invited to host sales in their garages and driveways.

It's a great opportunity to declutter and allow your possessions to find new homes and be diverted away from landfills.

This year's event will start on Friday, April 30 and conclude the following day.

To make sure bargain-hunters know about all the garage sale locations, the town office will produce an official map which will be available around town and on the town's website.

Homeowners can register their sales with the town office and select the times that their sale will be operating.

In the course of conducting and visiting garage sales, everyone is reminded to respect provincial guidelines regarding physical distancing and any other public health orders that are in effect.

To register, call 204-388-4600 EXT 115 or send an email before April 27 to recreation@whereyoubelong.ca

# Local Clothier Plans to Open New Shop

By Jennifer Lavin

Brittany Froese of Niverville started out with a very different plan for her career. She began by earning a bachelor's degree in criminology and psychology and went on to spend most of her working life in that field.

Then, a few years ago, she made a switch.

Froese, a 30-year-old mother of two, began selling thrifted clothing in 2018 and realized that she had a passion for it.

"I have always had an interest for fashion and loved the opportunity to be able to find clothing that other women would enjoy at a lower price point than it would cost to buy new," Froese says.

"This way, they get the opportunity to wear clothing they may not be able to afford or wouldn't want to pay full price for at a lower cost. It also contributes to sustainability, as so much clothing is thrown out and sent to the landfill either directly by the retail stores or after

it doesn't sell in a second-hand store."

Froese has one employee, and together they've had so much success selling both second-hand and new-with-tag clothing and accessories that she is working on plans to open a brick-and-mortar store in Niverville within the next couple of months.

Although Froese isn't yet ready to disclose the name of her trendy new boutique, she says it will be located at 229 Main Street, in the same strip mall which is home to Foodie Panda.

Not only will the rapidly growing town be getting a new store, but Froese also intends to hire at least one more employee to round out her staff.

"I'm so excited to finally be able to have a brick-and-mortar location to offer women the opportunity to buy on-trend clothing pieces at a lower price point," she says. "It's a dream I've had for a long time and I... can't wait to be able to offer this service to the town."



Brittany Froese of Niverville.

BRITTANY FROESE

## Ritchot Institutes Lawn-Watering Restrictions

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

The RM of Ritchot has introduced some new lawn-watering restrictions that will be in effect throughout the summer.

These measures will be in place beginning on May 31 and lasting until September 30.

Put simply, the days on which you can water your lawn will depend on your house number.

Those with even-numbered addresses will be allowed to water on even-numbered

calendar days, whereas those with odd-numbered addresses will water on odd-numbered days.

According to the RM, the purpose of the restrictions is to ensure that the municipality continues to have a clean, reliable, and sustainable drinking water supply.

"Water usage increases substantially in the summer months, mostly due to lawn-watering," reads a notice on the RM's website. "In efforts to conserve water during peak demands,

the Water Services Department is implementing restrictions on lawn-watering on all properties."

These rules will apply to all properties, whether they're zoned residential, commercial, or industrial. Schools, churches, and other non-profit organizations are also included.

Further, the RM notes that watering one's lawn during the morning and evening, instead of in the heat of the afternoon, reduces the amount of evaporation that occurs from lawns, sprinklers, and soils.

Therefore, watering is recommended between the hours of 5:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and between 7:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

"Newly planted sod, grass, or seed may be watered for the next 24-hour period, and on each of the six consecutive days immediately thereafter between the hours above," the notice reads. "Watering trees, shrubs, and flowers is permitted any day, or any time if hand-watering or using drip irrigation."

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Culinary Camp	July 19- 23, Ages: 6- 12
Olympics Camp	July 26- 30, Ages: 6- 12
Girls Adventure Camp	July 26- 30, Ages: 6- 12
Boys Adventure Camp	July 26- 30, Ages 6- 12
Kinder Camp	August 3- 6, Ages 3- 6
Volleyball Camp	August 3- 6, Ages: 6- 12
Jr. NBA Youth Basketball Camp	August 9- 13, Ages: 5- 12
Kinder Camp	August 16- 20, Ages 3- 6
Imaginarium Camp	August 16- 20, Ages: 6- 12
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# Commentary

## What Does It Mean to “Be a Man”?

By Daniel Dacombe

A few years ago, I was sitting on a park bench in Niverville watching my two daughters play. The park was busy but not crowded, and the children were playing together with friends both old and new.

Like most of the parents present, my children were mobile and self-motivated, and they no longer required their father to provide hands-on assistance to use the play structures. Being able to sit and relax with a good book while my children played was an exciting new stage, and one I was determined to enjoy.

I was paying enough attention, though, to notice a young boy—six or seven years old at most—execute a truly dizzying faceplant into the packed surface of the park. A collective wince went through the audience and a few people glanced around expectantly, waiting for a comforting parent to rush in as the boy began to cry.

The father revealed himself, stepped forward to the boy, and crouched down... however, instead of offering comforting words, he spoke harshly in a voice that carried across the park: “Stop that! Everyone is looking at you! You don’t want everyone to think you’re a little girl, do you? Stop crying! Boys don’t do that!”

My heart sank as the boy cried harder and insisted that, no, he wasn’t a girl, but it hurt, and when he was unable to compose himself, the father gripped him by the upper arm and steered him towards the cars.

It has been years since that day in the park, but I clearly remember the helpless shame in the boy’s eyes—not shame for being hurt, I understood, but shame for failing to live up to his father’s expectations of him as a male.

A clear standard had been set—boys don’t cry—and he had failed to live up to it.

The standards that we men have to live up to are, for better or worse, at the centre of our lives. They are also a matter of considerable interest to the psychological community.

Male mental health and male gender role expectations have been the subject of research, discussion, and debate in the social sciences for decades. Some of the more interesting dialogue, in my opinion, can be boiled down to a few questions.



DEPOSITPHOTOS

What are the consequences men experience for failing to live up to standards of masculinity? And, more importantly, what are the consequences of succeeding?

In Western culture, the phrase “be a man” carries a variety of social roles, expectations, and stereotypes. Masculinity is typically associated with behaviours and attitudes such as personal resilience, leadership, decisiveness, and physical strength.

As positive as these traits may be, however, an examination of male mental health in North America paints a stark picture. Men in Western society are impacted by social issues at disproportionate rates compared to women, including social isolation, substance use, incarceration, gambling, violence (both as perpetrator and victim), and related mental health problems.

Despite these figures, males seek help for mental health issues at rates far lower than women. In fact, one study found that one of the most common male responses to symptoms of depression was to hide those symptoms from their closest relationships.

The consequences of hiding these

symptoms are dire. In Canada, 80 percent of completed suicides are males. For males between the ages of 15 and 24, suicide is the second leading cause of death.

These rates are at odds with the rates of depression diagnosis. While males receive only half as many depression diagnoses as females, males die by suicide at a rate four times higher.

This is the dark side of those so-called positive qualities of the Western male. Resilience and strength are not only encouraged, they are expected. We are to be self-reliant and not admit to any weaknesses. We are expected to handle problems, both internal and external, on our own, which may make us less likely to seek assistance when we do experience mental health problems.

Frequently, these resilient and self-reliant behaviours are cast in sharp contrast to more expressive emotional states, which too often in Western society have been seen as traditionally “feminine.”

These standards have historically been enforced by the world around us. From a young age, we are

taught—by our fathers, by our classmates, and by media aimed at male audiences—to avoid the appearance of being even remotely feminine. This includes not only crying but any expression of emotion that doesn’t fit into the standard of what we’re told it means to “be a man.”

The motivation for discouraging males from expressing “feminine” emotions is often misguided. Sociologist Dr. Emily W. Kane’s landmark research in 2006 found that fathers who enforced these unhealthy versions of masculine emotion did so out of a fear that their sons would become homosexual if they did not. These fears are as misguided as their consequences are so often tragic.

For all the work done in the social sciences related to male psychological health, it was perhaps said best by a British comedian.

“I feel like part of the issue is this idea that [men] are meant to be resilient,” said comedian Josh Thomas Ward. “Up until the age of eight or nine, boys cry the same amount as girls, and then they get taught to stop. They’re not allowed anymore. And it’s ridiculous! And this fear of looking weak or looking feminine

or looking gay is stopping men from talking about their feelings. And then they kill themselves.”

It is important to note that masculinity, even here in the West, has been evolving for some time. Men are being encouraged to express their emotions, to set healthier expectations for their resilience, and to seek help when necessary.

The way fathers raise their sons has been changing as well. For instance, unlike the boy I observed in the park, I was raised by a father who did not expect me to avoid expressing “feminine” emotions, and who encouraged me to seek help when I need it (an upbringing I am increasingly grateful for).

Many more men in these upcoming generations have likewise been raised not to sacrifice their mental health for the sake of living up to some masculine ideal, though the effects of centuries of unhealthy expectations may not be so easily undone.

Fortunately, times change, and more resources are being made available to help men speak up about their struggles.

In 2018, the American Psychological Association released a document of clinical practice guidelines for counsellors and psychologists working with men and boys. These guidelines provide support for clinicians working with males who may be experiencing the strain of unhealthy expectations and who avoid seeking help for their struggles. The field of psychology, as a whole, is taking the mental health needs of men more seriously than ever before.

At no point should it be said that males as a whole are bad or unhealthy, nor is masculinity somehow “wrong.” Public discourse about masculinity often gets derailed around that point.

We can acknowledge that some of the ways in which traditional Western masculinity is enforced, though, can have consequences for our mental health as men.

If you are a male who’s experienced depression, anxiety, or other issues that you have found difficult to talk about, you aren’t alone. Your feelings aren’t wrong. Please reach out. Please seek and accept help.

Because sometimes being strong means acknowledging your weakness, and sometimes being a man means letting your tears fall.



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# Sports & Recreation



The St. Adolphe Kraft Hockeyville rally committee.

KEVIN MAMCHUK

## St. Adolphe in Kraft Hockeyville Final Four

By Sara Beth Dacombe

sdacombe@nivervillecitizen.com

On April 10, 2021, St. Adolphe hopes to become the first Manitoba community to win the Kraft Hockeyville grand prize of \$250,000 in arena upgrades, as well as the opportunity to host an NHL preseason hockey game.

St. Adolphe was entered by local hockey mom, coach, player, and manager Lorrie Stade.

Stade, who is also a teacher, nominated the St. Adolphe Community Club and Arena after their ice plant broke

down in January and mould was found in one of the building's walls.

"I'd seen advertisements for the Hockeyville contest in years past and thought, if anything ever happens and we need some money for our arena, it would be a cool community-building experience to do," says Stade. "Then I was watching a Jets game at the end of January and I saw another ad for Kraft Hockeyville. And our ice plant had just broken. And then we heard about the mould in the wall and how the wall was crumbling. So we had no ice

and no use of the building and I knew we needed to do something."

Stade says she is relatively new to the area, but since she and her entire family are involved in hockey, she wanted to try to do something to help.

"I've been a hockey manager for years, organizing games, organizing equipment and jerseys, and ice time, and the 50/50," she says. "I play hockey in the hockey moms league and both my kids play. My son plays in the Atom age group and my daughter in Novice. And my

husband plays, too. There's so many that play hockey in our town. There's even a grandpa league."

Learning about the mould problem just a short time after the bad news about the broken-down ice plant was almost too much to take—especially in a year compounded by so much loss due to COVID.

"We had begun doing socially distanced use of the arena in the fall, with separate entering and exits and cleaning and more. We got almost a month of use, from September to October, and

then in November COVID shut it down completely," says Stade. "In February we were supposed to return to play, but we couldn't because we learned we had no ice. It really disappointed a lot of people. It even screwed over a lot of city teams and other city groups, because they use the ice. We've got many groups from the south side of Winnipeg who utilize the ice."

The pandemic has already made it difficult enough to cope with these sorts of problems.

"This town just loves hockey and we could really

use the funding this year especially," she adds. "Of course during COVID, a lot of our other ways of fundraising have been severely limited. So I had to be creative and had the idea of joining the contest."

The contest began in January with participants submitting stories and photos to earn points for their community. To start the nomination, at least one community member needed to submit a story about why the community loves hockey and what they would do with the prize money.

The committee says they

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plan to use the money to rebuild the walls and repair the ice plant instead of purchasing a new one outright.

If there is any money left over, it will be applied toward general arena upgrades.

"An ice plant is quite expensive," Stade explains. "We think we can repair the one we have, even though it is rickety and old, but a replacement would be hundreds of thousands of dollars. So if we can effectively repair, we will. Then we'll do the supports in the wall. General arena repairs are something you plan for and fundraise for anyway, so we've got quite a list going. We've been trying to make the building more accessible over the last few years. We've installed ramps and an elevator. Soon we'd like to expand our change room offerings to make a female change room. Our scoreboard and sound system also need updating."

After Stade got the nomination going, others from the community chimed in to submit their own stories and pictures. Before too long, there was an outpouring of support—a true community

effort.

"First I interviewed the people who originally built the rink and I wrote up the answers into a story and I submitted it," says Stade. "It was the neatest thing, going through all of the responses from our town. Then the general community helped by submitting their own posts, and liking or responding to the stories and photos. All of those interactions turn into points and you needed a certain amount of points to progress. So we put up a sign at the gas station and put it up on the community club website and started a Facebook group."

After the town achieved a significant number of points, Kraft announced its four finalists.

That announcement came down on March 20, and to everyone's delight St. Adolphe was among them. The other three are Bobcaygeon, Ontario; Elsipogtog First Nation, New Brunswick; and Lumsden, Saskatchewan.

Kraft has been running the Hockeyville contest for 14 years, but to date a community in Manitoba has never won. Stade feels this makes

the effort even more special, as it's an opportunity for the entire province to put their communal love of hockey behind the St. Adolphe bid.

Indeed, St. Adolphe is the smallest community still in the running.

"I love that about Manitoban communities," says Stade. "We always help. We ask, do our neighbours need help? And we just go and do it. We say yup and we get it done."

Stade points out that surrounding communities and even the south end of Winnipeg all benefit when one town's arena is improved, because other leagues rent ice time when they can't find it closer to home. And neighbouring teams will benefit from having a nice place to come and play against the home team.

So she is asking all surrounding communities to vote online at [krafthockeyville.ca](http://krafthockeyville.ca) on April 9–10.

"It's a short window," Stade says. "And it's unlimited voting, which is an interesting way to do it. You can vote as many times as you want."

The community is

continuing to rally behind the contest committee, who has been generating more and more ideas of how to include as many people as possible in the experience.

"Our restaurants in town are also joining in the fun by doing Kraft-themed food," she says. "The Pi will be doing Kraft Dinner flavour on their wings on April 5, and then Friday the 9th will be Kraft Dinner poutine. The St. Adolphe Drive-In will be doing a Kraft burger; they're doing peanut butter and bacon on a burger. They've been so awesome. The whole premise is they'll cook for you so you can spend the day voting."

Even the RM of Ritchot is celebrating all the community involvement surrounding Hockeyville. Amber Mamchuk, Director of Recreation Services, says she's really excited about all the participation so far.

"We heard they were doing this and then it really took off," says Mamchuk. "I was amazed to watch it unfold and see how many people got behind rallying for St. Adolphe, telling stories from previous years and activities at the arena. As

time went on, we saw so many people were posting, but we weren't sure where we were in the standings. Then we saw we had made the top four and it became even bigger."

Mamchuk says the credit should all go to Stade and the committee behind putting in the rallying effort.

"The way our facilities operate in Ritchot is they are run by not-for-profit boards, so in a sense they're a bit more independent from the municipality," Mamchuk adds. "We do offer a budget for operating support, but the community really puts their heart into the place. There's a really great team behind all of this. They've done a phenomenal job of engaging the community and everyone would just be elated if they won."

When asked if the RM building will be decorated prior to April 9, Mamchuk says, "We haven't thought up anything yet, but the committee is ordering a bunch of signs, so we are looking forward to show our support by putting up some signs and encourage everyone to get the word out and especially give of their time to vote on April

9 and 10."

Even though the entire push has been done virtually and Manitoba is still under public health restrictions that limit group sizes, the committee members are determined to help everyone feel involved.

"Even though this is a virtual thing, we're doing what we can," says Stade. "We are all over social media and right now we're asking people to decorate their windows, doors, and lawns. And we're giving away prizes for those who have decorations. Take a picture between now and April 7 and we'll enter you for a prize. Decorate your lawn and snap a picture and send it to us in some way!"

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ Pictures of home decorations can be sent to [hawkeyville2021@gmail.com](mailto:hawkeyville2021@gmail.com), and share online by mentioning "St. Adolphe Hockeyville" on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or TikTok.

■ Communities are encouraged to go online to vote starting at 9:00 a.m. on April 9. Voting closes at 5:00 p.m. on April 10, at which point the winner will be announced.

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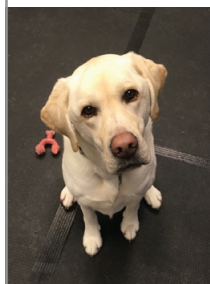


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# Stanley's Stock Continues to Rise

By Dan Hoeppner

Winnipeg Jets defenseman Logan Stanley scored his first NHL goal in a 4-2 loss on Saturday, March 27 against the Calgary Flames. The goal was a thing of beauty. Stanley found himself alone in the slot with the puck on his stick during the second period where he went bar-down on Flames goaltender David Rittich.

The roar from Stanley and the cheers from his teammates told you everything you needed to know. This goal meant a lot for the rookie.

"It's a pretty good feeling to get that one," said Stanley after the game. "Something you dream of as a kid, playing your first NHL game and scoring a goal in the NHL. I've had some chances to score that haven't went in. I try not to think about it that much. My primary job is to keep the puck out of the net. Just nice to get one past



the goalie."

The goal was long overdue for the 22-year-old defenseman. He was drafted eighteenth overall in 2016 and many watchers of the game wondered if he would ever turn into a full-time NHL player.

Stanley has been viewed as a long-term project because of his size. Towering at six-foot-seven and weighing 231 pounds, he's known for his physicality and ability to clear the crease. He's already

demonstrated his offensive abilities with 36 shots on goal this season in only 23 games while averaging just over 12 minutes of ice time.

His stock has continued to climb since training camp. At that time, Stanley seemed to fall back on the depth chart and had nearly zero chance of making the team. He didn't practice with any of the top players and was virtually a lock to be reassigned to the Manitoba Moose.

Then he caught a break.

When Luca Sbisa was claimed off waivers and several key defenders were injured or taken out of the game due to COVID-related protocols, Stanley squeezed into the lineup. Since that time, he has grabbed the attention of head coach Paul Maurice, earning every minute of ice time he has received.

"Pleasant surprise," said Maurice when asked to describe Stanley's play this season. "Enjoy watching his confidence grow and the quality of game. There are not a lot of big men that can go bar-down like that. We think we have a really good find here and we are really happy with where he is at."

Stanley and the Winnipeg Jets would have preferred a different result in the loss to Calgary, but the game will nonetheless be one Stanley remembers for the rest of his life.

# Niverville Council Sets Rental Rates for CRRC

By Sara Beth Dacombe

sdacombe@nivervillecitizen.com

Niverville's town council, at a meeting on March 16, discussed and approved access and rental rates for the Community Resource and Recreation Centre, as well as rental rates for the outdoor field.

Determining factors for the rates include whether the space will be used for local or non-local residents, as well as by youth or adults. For example, ice will be available during its prime times starting at \$120 for youth use and \$154 for adult use (for local residents). Various multipurpose rooms will be available for \$45-\$80 per

hour, or \$180-\$320 for nine hours plus.

The community kitchen space will be available for \$15/hour, or \$50/day. Baseball diamonds, soccer pitches, beach volleyball courts, track, and playground areas are all also available to rent.

Elsewhere, at the Niverville Curling Club, ice time for curling ranges from \$23.33 per sheet per hour, whereas renting the full basement and ice for the whole day will be \$200.

The full list of spaces and rates will be available on the town website soon.

Councillor Funk commented that the rates seem

low but that if approved they will be subject to review after one year.

"We've done a lot of research of the areas around us and of what our competitors and like-minded facilities are offering," said King. "The town is comfortable with the rates to meet our financial goals."

Councillor Dueck spoke to the benefits of having a community kitchen, but he asked what the operational costs would be for additional cleaning.

"Typically, walking into a kitchen means walking into somebody else's mess," said Dueck. "If we're charging \$15/hour, and it gets left as a

disaster for the next person, how do we assure that does not happen?"

King said that the rental agreement will include a provision that renters must return the space to the original condition upon exit. Council discussed if a reasonable damage deposit could be stipulated, which would include a cleaning fee.

Mayor Dyck also asked if the town would need to have any staff members on hand to provide cleaning services.

A discussion ensued about how the town could ensure they have sufficient time for cleaning between groups using the space.



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## IN BRIEF



TOWN OF NIVERVILLE

## Renos Spruce Up Niverville Curling Club

By Jennifer Lavin

There is a passionate group of curlers in Niverville and for the first time in a long while they have a newly renovated space in which to slide their stones.

The Niverville Curling Club was opened in 1978 and after more than 40 years was beginning to look very dated. But Warren Britton, the Town of Niverville's Recreation Facility Manager, says the town was able to work some funds for much-needed renovations into last year's budget.

The lobby of the curling club has been opened up to create a larger, more inviting space. According to Britton, this is especially important because they hope to be able to rent the space out.

"We focused on a more open floor plan, removed some walls, added new lights and flooring, and gave it a new coat of paint," Britton says.

He feels that the rink's most important function is as a home to Niverville's curlers, but there are other clear opportunities for the facility.

"[W]e want to be able to continue to use it as rentable space," he adds. "Even with the CRRC opening July 1, we want to have a good range of options for our community."

The Niverville Curling Club curls on natural ice, which means the facility is dependent on cold weather. The league season will start again at the beginning of January 2022.

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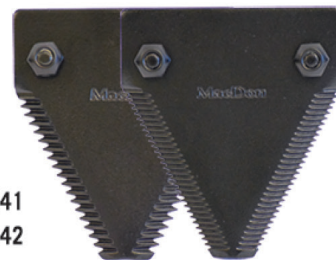
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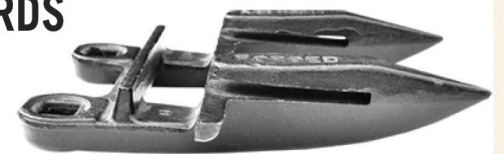
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# Winter Games One Year Off

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

In just 11 months, the Town of Niverville will officially host the 2022 Manitoba Winter Games, and in that time a lot of work will be done to get ready for the town's week in the spotlight.

The Games will open on February 27, and run until March 5.

The Niverville Host Society, under the direction of more than 70 lead volunteers, is in the process of developing operational plans for every aspect of the Games, including food services, transportation, signage, technology, and venues.

Hosting the Games requires a great deal of coordination. There exist about 40 different planning committees to help ensure that all the athletes, coaches, officials, spectators, and volunteers have a good experience. In total, there are expected to be about 1,800 athletes and coaches, and 800 volunteers.

"The Manitoba Games powered by Manitoba Hydro is the largest ongoing multi-sport event in the province," says Janet McMahon, Interim President and CEO of Sport Manitoba. "Thorough planning is necessary well in advance for an event this size, where athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and sponsors from across the province work together to provide a safe and memorable experience for everyone."

An added wrinkle, of course, is the COVID-19 pandemic, which isn't expected to



The 2022 Manitoba Winter Games co-chairs help announce Niverville's successful bid last spring. TOWN OF NIVERVILLE

go away any time soon. Even though the Games are nearly a year away, preparations are underway to ensure that the event is made as safe as possible with enhanced safety protocols.

"As excitement grows and preparation continues for the 2022 Games, we also understand and recognize the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and that public health orders will ultimately determine whether these Games will take place," McMahon adds. "Participant safety is, in the end, the highest priority. We'd like to thank everyone for their ongoing efforts and commitment and look forward to Niverville hosting the 2022 Manitoba Winter Games."

The organizers have also unveiled a new tagline that they feel embodies both the spirit of Niverville and everyone's anticipation of bringing people together after a particularly tough couple of years.

The tagline, which will be used in the event's advertising and signage, is "United Through Play."

In late February, the Host Society took an important step forward by signing a multiparty agreement that formalizes the partnership between the Town of Niverville, Sport Manitoba, and the Host Society.

As part of the agreement, the Host Society is guaranteed a capital grant for local sport facility and equipment upgrades of up to \$75,000 from Sport Manitoba, which the Host Society can match dollar-for-dollar, creating a potential total of \$150,000 of long-term legacies for the community.

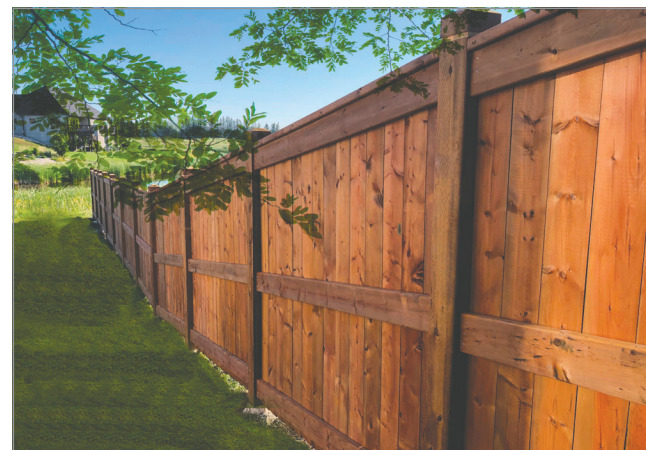
Among the legacies of the 2022 Games will be a cross-country ski venue. And of course the new Community Resource and Recreation Centre, which is expected to open this summer, will serve as a hub.

"The Manitoba Winter

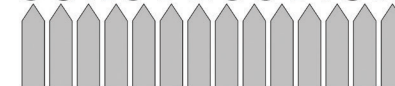
Games will be in our hometown of Niverville very soon," says Niverville Mayor Myron Dyck. "While 2020 has been a year most of us would rather forget, our Manitoba Games staff and volunteers have been hard at work ensuring that the Games in 2022 will be an experience that will bring great memories for all who attend. Our staff, our many wonderful volunteers, our residents, and our great business owners are busy preparing to make this the best experience for the athletes, the coaches, and all the supporters including family and friends. We look forward to seeing you in February 2022, here in Niverville—you know, where you belong!"

## SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER

Volunteer recruitment launched at the beginning of March. People interested in volunteering can apply by visiting [www.sportmanitoba.ca/niverville2022](http://www.sportmanitoba.ca/niverville2022)



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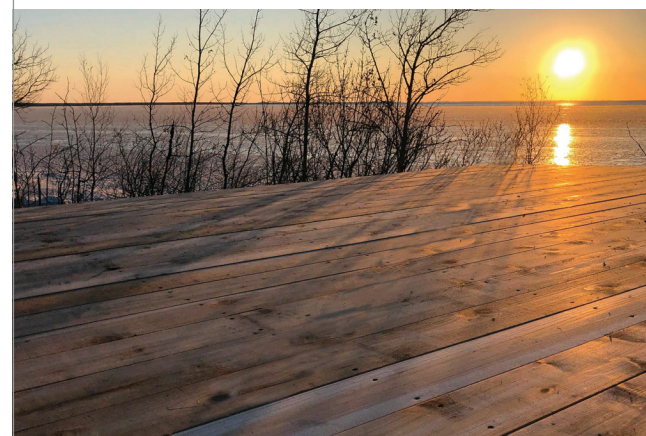


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## THE PANDEMIC'S CURE

With considerable alarm we have witnessed a new and dangerous disease race around the globe. Looking at death tolls, we take measures to try to protect ourselves and others. There is, however, a danger far greater and more pervasive than COVID-19. The Bible records the words of an unnamed "wise woman" in 2 Samuel 14:14, who approached a king for a favor and among her lengthy request was this short statement, "We must all die." The question is not if we will die; the question is only when, and how. Why must we all die? The Bible gives us the reason: "By one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Not only are we born with the tendency to sin, but each of us has also become guilty of deliberate acts of sin.

Handwashing and disinfectant regimen will not halt the spread of sin. The entire human race is already infected, and what's worse, the mortality rate is 100%. Physical death is only part of the result of this "disease" called sin. The far greater consequence extends throughout eternity. Hebrews 9:27 tells us "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." God is absolutely holy, and any sin is unacceptable to Him. Anyone who dies with their sin unforgiven is forever separated from God, and consequently from all that is good. Jesus Himself repeatedly warned about the great danger of eternal punishment. Dear friend, this is real! God has provided a remedy, but if you haven't received it yet, you are at this moment still in tremendous danger.

COVID-19 has experts racing to prove an effective vaccine—and other medical treatments—which we hope will prevent the loss of many lives, but God has a plan in place to combat and ultimately cure the sin pandemic. John 3:16 in the Bible says, "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." 1 John 4:14 says, "the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world." Jesus Christ came to this world to provide the cure for our sin. His miracles and His gracious life were proof of His divine power and merit, but these were not the solution. Our sin requires death, and so He intentionally went to a Roman cross, and there willingly died. As He suffered there, we learn from the Bible that God was punishing Him for our sins. "The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Jesus never sinned, but took our place to endure the judgment we deserve. He died; He was buried; He rose from the dead. "Whosoever believeth in Him," John 3:16 says. God loves you and longs to save you from your sin and from eternal death. He offers every guilty, sincerely-repentant sinner the gift of salvation, simply through fully trusting Christ alone. Trusting yourself or any other way of salvation will never work. "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Yes, the danger of judgment for our sins is very real, but you can have forgiveness and cleansing from all those sins through the Lord Jesus Christ. Rom 6:23 says "The wages of sin is death," but the good news is: "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." **[www.sermon4u.com](http://www.sermon4u.com)**

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Every year, CN is required to clear its right-of-way of any vegetation that may pose a safety hazard. Vegetation on railway right-of-way, if left uncontrolled, can contribute to trackside fires and impair proper inspection of track infrastructure.

For safe railway operations, CN will conduct its annual vegetation control program on its rail lines in the province of Manitoba. A certified professional will be applying herbicides on wand around the railway tracks (primarily along the 16 feet graveled area/ballast). All product requirements for setbacks in the vicinity of dwellings, aquatic environments and municipal water supplies will be met.

The program is expected to take place from April to October 2021.

Visit [www.cn.ca/vegetation](http://www.cn.ca/vegetation) to see the list of cities as well as the updated schedule.

For more information, contact the CN Public Inquiry Line at [contact@cn.ca](mailto:contact@cn.ca) or 1-888-888-5909.

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## Old Drovers Run Announces 2021 Programs

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Spring has come early in southern Manitoba, and although the weather at this time of year can change at a moment's notice, many golf courses are looking forward to welcoming players. In Niverville, Old Drovers Run is starting to gear up for their spring opening.

Old Drovers Run doesn't yet have an official opening date, noting that the forecast could still slow things down.

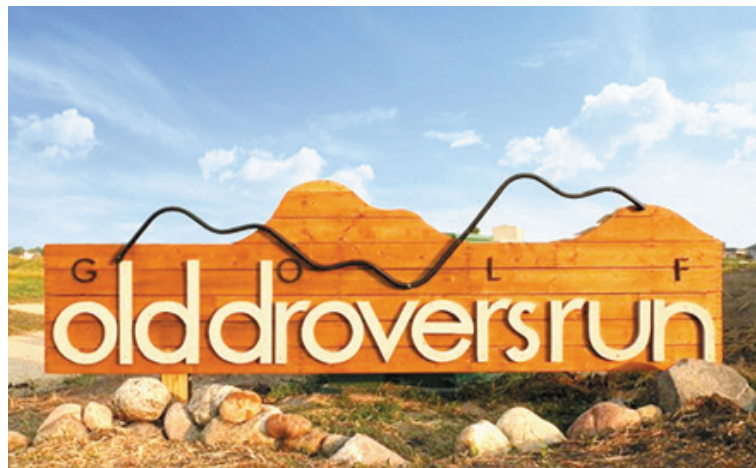
The course hosted an open house on Saturday, March 20 at the St. Vital Golf Centre in Winnipeg.

The pro shop will be open beginning on Wednesday, March 24 at 2:00 p.m. Season passholders can drop by to pick up their passholder cards, and players, both old and new, can register for the course's upcoming courses.

### MEN'S LEAGUE

The men's league will begin play in the second week of May. It's a two-player team format, with play on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, tee times between 5:00–7:00 p.m. All players must register individually. Preferred night and tee times will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis.

The entry fee for men's league is \$450 and includes nine holes with the power cart. There will be ten weeks of league play, with the top



32 teams qualifying for the playoffs.

Players without teammates are encouraged to contact Brad Poleschuk, the course's golf pro (see contact info below).

### LADIES NIGHT

Throughout the 2021 season, the course will host a ladies night on Monday evenings. Individuals and groups are welcome to register. Play will begin Monday, May 31, and tee times will start at 5:30 p.m.

As with men's league, the entry fee will include ten weeks of play and the use of a power cart. Players have the option of registering to play all ten weeks of the season, or paying \$25 per night.

Each evening of women's play will feature different games, weekly

fun prizes, and drink specials.

### SENIOR MORNINGS

New this year at Old Drovers Run is their Senior Morning program. Entry is open to men and women. Play will take place on Monday mornings beginning at 10:00 a.m., with individuals and groups welcome.

The entry fee of \$25 per game will include nine holes and a power cart, with play kicking off on Monday, May 31 at 10:00 a.m.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ To learn more about this year's programs, or register, contact Brad Poleschuk at [brad@golfmentor.ca](mailto:brad@golfmentor.ca).

## New Delegate to Crow Wing Trail Association

By Sara Beth Dacombe

✉ sdacombe@nivervillecitizen.com

At a council meeting in Niverville on March 2, Warren Britton, Recreation Facility Manager, was appointed to serve as the town's delegate on the Crow Wing Trail (CWT) Association, with provisions for the Niverville Recreation staff to attend in his stead when necessary.

Niverville residents Elena Borisova and Tomás Yebra Vega had previously volunteered as representatives on the association since 2018.

"I'd like to say a sincere thanks to the couple who had been serving on this committee for us in the past while," said Mayor Myron Dyck. "We always enjoy it very much when our residents look to get involved and are willing to take on some of these volunteer positions. So a genuine heartfelt thanks to them for their service."

Niverville has been an active member of the CWT Association, providing representatives for the CWT board and creating historical signage along the trail's path through Hespeler Park and past the Niverville Heritage Gardens.

The trail's local maintenance and signage enables fitness and heritage enthusiasts alike to enjoy a meaningful connection to the topography and history of our region of Manitoba.

Town councillors expressed their appreciation for the couple's participation.

"They were on there for about three years, and I know that they were not backbenchers," said Councillor Kevin Stott. "They were an integral part of any of the annual meetings I did go to. They were usually doing presentations or running a portion of the meeting."

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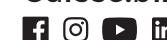
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# Home from the Bubble: Local Woman Talks Elite Curling Career

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Manitoba has long been a powerhouse in the world of curling, with elite teams cropping up here that go on to compete at the highest level in Canada and the world. In recent years, this has been especially true in the women's game.

Case in point: at the 2021 Scotties Tournament of Hearts, held every February to crown a new national champion, five teams from the key-stone province managed to qualify, setting up seemingly one Manitoba vs. Manitoba bout after another.

There is indeed no shortage of locally grown talent.

Kate Cameron, one of those curling stars, has become a familiar face to fans over the last few years. And she may not only be familiar to you from watching the TSN broadcasts; she may also be familiar from just walking down the street or visiting the local grocery store.

That's because Cameron has settled down very close to home. She and her fiancé have lived in New Bothwell for three years.

"I grew up in Winnipeg, and my fiancé was a miner up in Thompson," Cameron says of their journey to the rural southeast. "He was born and raised there, and he has a son that lives up there. So I went up to Thompson for about four years or so, but it wasn't the place for me and he accommodated to move south."

She says he wasn't interested in living in a city, which is why they began looking to the communities around the south side of Winnipeg, where they would have plenty of open space and still be close to her family.

In fact, even a community like Niverville was a bit too crowded for her fiancé's tastes.

"We had no intention of living in



Kate Cameron throws stones at the 2021 Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Calgary.

📷 COURTESY OF KATE CAMERON

such a small community, with very limited resources actually in town," she adds. "But everything's kind of expanded, and it seems more so even since we moved here. We've had tons of friends relocate to Niverville from up north and from in the city since we've been here... So yeah! It works here. We enjoy it."

## BUILDING A CAREER

Coming back to southern Manitoba also made it easier for Cameron to pursue her professional curling career—a career which has seen some big highlights in the last few years.

In 2017, Cameron threw third rocks for skip Michelle Englot, alongside teammates Leslie Wilson-Westcott and Raunora Westcott. The team had a fairy tale season, winning a provincial final to represent Manitoba at the Scotties. That year, they were number one after the round

robin with a bye straight to the final.

They lost that final to Rachel Homan out of Ontario and had to settle for a silver medal.

"After losing that final, it was extremely heartbreaking, because we were in a position where we could have won," she says. "We finished first overall that week, and we were riding an extreme momentum wave. And that was my very first Scotties!"

Cameron played one more season with Team Englot, when due to a quirk in the system they were able to return to the Scotties as Team Canada. Homan's rink was unable to attend because they were representing Canada at the Pyeongchang Olympics in South Korea.

"After I had played with Michelle and she kind of decided that she wanted to retire from extremely competitive curling, I had to sit down and re-evaluate what I wanted,"

Cameron says. "We had chatted on Team Englot about if we wanted to continue, and just not put our all into it anymore, like take a little bit of a step back and still compete and hope we do well... I was only 26, and kind of still in my prime. I hadn't really hit my max playing capacity, so I was ready to put that next step in and find some teammates who were in the same age range or life situation as me."

The following season, Cameron was instrumental in forming a new team with skip Allison Flaxey. Flaxey was originally from Manitoba but had been competing in Ontario since 2011. So Kate Cameron and teammate Raunora Westcott joined forces with Flaxey and Taylor McDonald, an import from Alberta.

"We played in Manitoba that year, and unfortunately that didn't go according to plan," Cameron says.

"We just didn't have the chemistry with Team Flaxey, and we kind of folded right after that season and had limited success—like, very limited success."

## TEAM WALKER

However, it wasn't a complete loss. Cameron and Taylor McDonald really enjoyed playing together, and the two of them teamed up to form yet another team, this time with Laura Walker from Edmonton.

"Laura was at the point where she was ready to start a family, and she was willing to step back from the game and focus more on life and playing mixed doubles," says Cameron. "We told her, 'We're totally in for you having a family. We support that. It doesn't mean you can't compete and be a top-level athlete still.' That conversation kind of stuck with her and she realized she didn't have to choose."

And that's how Cameron began playing for Team Walker in Alberta.

Playing for a team in one province while living in another has become an increasingly common phenomenon at the elite level of curling in Canada. In order to maximize their chances for success, players have been crisscrossing the country to form new superteams. Each team is allowed one import player, someone who lives outside the province.

Although this has led to amazingly talented teams in the last decade or so, Cameron can speak from firsthand experience to say it complicates the process of training and practicing for big events.

"I don't really know of very many teams where all four players live in the same place anymore," she says. "Before I had played with Michelle, I was playing with Kristy McDonald and all of us lived in Winnipeg. So we trained together all the time. Every practice was the four of us... I've



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been playing on teams for the last five years that haven't all resided in the same place, and I didn't realize at the time how fortunate teams are to live in the same place. Having that in-person practice is something that is extremely overlooked now."

In early 2020, Team Walker swept to victory at the Alberta provincial playdowns, earning themselves a berth at last year's Scotties. Although the team missed the playoffs, they were given a second chance when they were invited to return to the national event in 2021.

There was some question about whether the 2021 Scotties would even happen, until a plan was introduced over the winter to hold a series of curling events in Calgary, using a bubble format that would keep players isolated from the general public.

Because most provinces weren't able to host their own playdowns to determine who would represent them at the Scotties, most of the qualifying teams from 2020 were invited back, including Team Walker.

### THE SCOTTIES BUBBLE

And so it was that Kate Cameron made the trip to Calgary in February, to vie for Canada's top women's curling prize. It was her fourth trip to the Scotties, and it was totally different than anything she'd experienced before.

"Not a whole bunch other than the actual playing was even remotely the same as to what we would be used to," she says. "I feel for any Scotties participants who have never gotten the chance to be at a Scotties prior to this year, because so much was taken away from the experience. The crowd, for one, is usually huge. And we were the hometown team,

but you would have had no idea. I've played against hometown teams and the crowd is such a crucial part and really can amp you up in so many different moments. A big shot will be made a sheet over and the arena explodes. As a team on a different sheet of ice, there's been times when you had to pause the game because you can't hear or there's like some chant going on in the crowd, or someone's yelling something to you in the middle of a game and it's funny and you crack a little laugh. So that was really weird, not having a crowd."

Part and parcel with banning spectators meant that the players didn't have their families on hand to share the experience.

"Normally most people's families will come out to the Scotties. For some, it's kind of a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It's just such a social atmosphere for fans to be at. There's the Patch, where they have live music and dancing and drinks and all those kinds of things every single night... that part was missing. And just being able to go out for dinner with your teammates. It sounds so silly, but we weren't allowed to eat with our teammates at all, even in our hotel rooms."

Finally, Cameron mentions the lack of fan engagement between games.

At previous Scotties, she looked forward to talking to people, answering questions, and attending autograph-signing sessions, some of which would last 30 to 45 minutes after a game.

"That's why I feel for the people who were newbies and didn't get that opportunity, because that really is such a fun part of the Scotties—to be a little celebrity for a week and kind

of step away from your normal life and live this fun life."

Team Walker had a solid run at this year's event, earning a 5-3 record in the round robin and sneaking into the championship pool. That's when the team really came alive, winning four straight games against the toughest opponents in the field to earn themselves a tiebreaker to the playoffs.

In the tiebreaker, Team Walker edged out the Jennifer Jones squad (representing Manitoba) to get to the semifinal, where they ultimately fell to Kerri Einarson. Einarson skipped Team Canada and was defending her 2020 title, which she went on to do.

Coming home to New Bothwell with bronze medal in hand, Cameron had to go into a mandatory two-week isolation period.

During that time, she passed the time by watching every game of this year's Brier, the men's championship. She's also been following the mixed doubles championship, where Laura Walker rose to the playoffs in the midst of a crowded field.

### EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER

Competing at the highest level of curling in Canada is a grind. The field gets tougher and tougher every year, especially in an Olympic year when teams are gearing up to qualify to represent Canada on the world's biggest stage.

"The rest of Canada is so suburb right now," Cameron says. "Curling has grown so much, especially in the last few years, and I think all the other top teams are just pushing each other to get better. I think that we're all kind of learning from each other in that aspect. And the fitness, the mental goals, the nutrition, and

everything else leading up to that has become so crucial. It's not just about the game on the ice that day."

To compete with the best of the best, Cameron points to the time commitment that's required, and the resources players need in order to train and develop.

"It can be kind of deflating to be playing against all these high-calibre teams, and having to perform so well," Cameron reflect. "For instance, at last year's Scotties we didn't get the results that we wanted. We didn't even make the championship round. I think it's been hard to manage. It's something I work with, with a mental trainer. You know, at my very first Scotties I walked away with a silver medal, and I thought that was cool. But then every year thereafter until this year I've actually decreased my results a little bit. So I think you have to go in and have no expectation, but still have a goal for your team to perform. Every time it's like, can you do that? Can you set your mind to know that it's okay if you lose a game, but how do you win the next one? Can you not focus on long-term results but focus one game at a time, or one end at a time? I think those are the teams that are successful right now."

### THE FUTURE

Team Walker worked hard for their bronze medals at the Scotties this year, and now they've got their eyes trained on the future—particularly, trying to qualify for a chance to represent Canada at next year's Olympics in Beijing.

"Curling Canada is still planning on putting on the Olympics trials," Cameron says. "I don't know for certain, but I can imagine that if they put on the Scotties in a bubble format,

if worse came to worst they could probably do that for the Olympic trials as well."

So far four women's teams have earned a place in those trials, including Rachel Homan from Ontario and three teams from Manitoba—Kerri Einarson, Jennifer Jones, and Tracy Fleury.

The remaining spots will be determined at the pre-trials. Because of the pandemic and lack of regular season play, Curling Canada is also planning a pre-trials event. Five more teams will be able to make it into the trials, and Cameron and Team Walker are hoping they will make the cut.

"Luckily we're in a position to play for that pre-pre-trials event," Cameron says. "And if we were not to be successful there, we would compete in the pre-trials, which was just announced will be in Nova Scotia."

### GROWING THE GAME

Although the 2021 Scotties was in many ways an altered and unusual experience for Cameron and other Canadian curlers, she says there are some silver linings.

"It seems like everyone has just missed curling," she says. "We noticed at the Scotties, the fanbase seemed to be more than just those people who were curling fans before, the regulars who always look forward to watching the Scotties. So that was kind of nice to see, that more people are getting behind the sport to inquire or flip us messages. Maybe it's that their kids all of a sudden are realizing they have a desire to want to curl, or just general questions from newbies who have never really curled or watched it before. So that was really nice, to grow the game."

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PLYC5232	LED BR30 11W/2700K	\$5.99	\$4.19
PLYC5732	LED BR40 17W LIGHT BULB	\$13.99	\$9.79
PLYC1412A	LED A19 15W/100W 2700K DIMMABLE	\$6.99	\$4.89
PLYC1415A	LED A19 15W/100W 5000K DIMMABLE	\$6.99	\$4.89
PLYC3722	LED R20 7W/2700K DIMMABLE BULB	\$4.99	\$3.49

INSTANT REBATE APPLIED AFTER TAXES.

OFFER IN EFFECT FROM APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2021 TO MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2021.

VISIT [www.encyencyMB.ca/savenow](http://www.encyencyMB.ca/savenow) FOR MORE INFORMATION.



# EFFICIENCY MANITOBA

TERMS AND CONDITIONS. REBATES PROVIDED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. LIMIT 10 ITEMS PER CUSTOMER FOR SINGLE PACK. 5 ITEMS PER CUSTOMER FOR MULTI-PACK. RETAIL SALES ONLY. NOT INTENDED FOR RESALE PURPOSES. NO CONTRACTOR/BUILDER SALES PERMITTED.

REBATES PROVIDED BY EFFICIENCY MANITOBA.



**STORE HOURS:**  
MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
SATURDAY: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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