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LOCAL NEWS

Niverville Releases Its 2021 Financial Plan

■ Niverville's town council has unveiled the budget for the upcoming year, and The Citizen has all the details.

Details on Page 12



LOCAL NEWS

Ste. Agathe to Put Citizens on Patrol

■ Crime is up in the last year, and residents of Ste. Agathe have grown concerned. Plans are now underway in the community to launch a new Citizens on Patrol program to help keep an eye on what's going in town after dark.

Details on Page 16

COMMENTARY

Vulnerable: Religion and Misinformation

■ Columnist Daniel Dacombe dives into the intersection of religious belief and vaccine misinformation.

Details on Page 19

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Local Authors Release New Books

■ Books are on the way from two local authors—from Christian non-fiction to an imaginative new children's story.

Details on Pages 22-23



Developer Announces Construction of Niverville Hotel

» READ MORE ON PAGES 10-11

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Conceptual drawing and site plan for new Blue Buffalo Wash Factory. COURTESY OF HARSIMRAN SANDHU

Introducing Niverville's New Car Spa

By Evan Braun
editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Niverville is getting a new car wash—and not just any old car wash, but a state-of-the-art car spa. The venture comes from Winnipeg-based businessman Harsimran Sandhu, who is also part of the ownership group of Niverville's upcoming cannabis shop, Urban Flavours.

"I have owned and operated three car washes in the last five years, including a similar self-serve wand wash in Winnipeg called Mississippi Jacks Car Wash located in Southdale," says Sandhu. The Niverville car wash will be called the Blue Buffalo Wash Factory, and it will include 12 self-serve wand wash bays, in addition to one or two automatic touchless laser washes.

There will also be a convenience store on site geared towards vehicle-cleaning accessories. A propane fill station may be part of the final design.

Sandhu says that customers will also be able to take advantage of an auto-detailing centre which will be designed to clean every type of vehicle, including full-size RVs and boats.

Like a few other recently announced businesses, the car wash will be located on Drovers Run—in this case, on the street's easternmost lot.

So far Drovers Run hasn't been extended that far, which will soon

change as the time of construction nears.

"We are looking at beginning construction in late summer, with the opening in late fall," says Sandhu. "We are definitely looking to be open before the winter season hits."

According to Sandhu, the car wash will come equipped with all the latest technology to bring customers the best possible experience.

"The car wash will have the latest technology when it comes to self-serve wand washes, including tap-and-go in-bay payment options, with the option of using cash as well," he says.

The wand wash will include all the usual options—soap, rinse, foam brush, wax, as well as in-bay vacuums. Other options will include tire and engine cleaner, and an in-bay air system for drying locks and filing tires.

"We have added some very exciting options for car enthusiasts or for anybody looking to add that extra touch," says Sandhu, "with in-bay low pressure pre-soak, turtle ice wax, spot-free rinse, which reduces water spots, and a triple-colour spray foam system."

He explains that the automatic laser wash will be just as exciting.

"It utilizes the latest technology, including a vehicle positioning system called Virtual Treadle, which eliminates drive-on floor-mounted mechanisms, creating a wide open and inviting bay for customers. The virtual treadle process begins

as the vehicle enters the wash bay. Ultrasonic sensors accurately measure the vehicle's width, and bridge sensors signal the driver to stop or back up, by activating easy to understand audible LED signs. The wash system is then activated with an electronic safety envelope surrounding the entire vehicle, allowing the laser wash to maintain an optimum cleaning distance."

He and his partners believe Niverville is the perfect market for a new car spa like this one. With this being his second business investment in the community, he feels the time is right.

"Being in the car wash business, I am always on the lookout for growing communities that lack that high-volume premium car wash," he says. "During my first few visits to Niverville, I had noticed that there was no automatic wash options and the project grew from there."

He adds that he is interested in leasing out the detailing centre to a local businessperson who might be interested in running their own shop.

"We ask everyone to follow our Instagram page for all updates on the project. We are still working on our final design."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- All inquiries can be sent to nivervilleautospa@gmail.com.
- For social media updates, you can follow the business's Instagram account: @bluebuffalowashfactory

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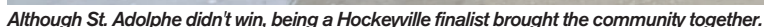
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HSD Trustees Publish Official Response to Bill 64

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

One month ago, the provincial government proposed a dramatic restructuring of Manitoba's education system, changing the way education is administered and delivered to students across the province. The legislation is known as Bill 64.

At the time, *The Citizen* published a comprehensive breakdown of the bill and its proposed measures. We also interviewed many local educators, administrators, and parents about the bill and what it means for them. Almost everyone interviewed had large concerns.

On April 21, after reviewing the legislation, the Hanover School Division board of trustees released their official response to Bill 64, and they too are worried.

Here is that response, in full:

Dear Community Members,

On March 15, 2021, the provincial government issued tentative plans under Bill #64 (Education Modernization Act) for significant changes to the Manitoba school system. As outlined on the government's newly launched Better Education website, Bill #64 is a response to the K-12 Education Review.

Although we affirm the work of the K-12 Commission members and agree that improvements to the K-12 education system are needed, the Board of Trustees is deeply concerned that Bill #64 (as proposed) may negatively impact our communities and schools. The government has proposed structural changes that will



The Hanover School Division offices in Steinbach.

GOOGLE

affect all education stakeholders, including students, parents/guardians, teachers, staff, and community members. These changes are significant in scope, create a new governance model, and extend far beyond the Commission's final report.

Once implemented, the proposed changes outlined in Bill #64 will eliminate community elected representation. We anticipate programming to be directed by regional administrations that will follow province-wide curricula. As we have stated in the past, the HSD Board of Trustees strongly opposes eliminating locally elected school boards. Our view on this matter remains unchanged. School boards are grassroots democratic institutions. As partners in education, school boards are invested in their communities and the education of our children. Rather than appointed government representatives, we believe that locally elected school boards will always understand and envision their communities' needs in a better way. In this regard, we

continue to advocate for school division autonomy. Additional information regarding Bill #64 governance changes can be found on the Manitoba School Board Association website.

The Board of Trustees fully supports a plan of action to build an education system that is classroom-focused, student-centred, parent-friendly, and accountable for results. We believe this can and should be done collaboratively with existing school boards and education stakeholders (view our recommendations submitted to the Commission in 2019). Building a system that puts students first has always been a priority for the Hanover School Division. We are, and always have been, a student-centred school division.

Bill #64 has the potential to transform education and build a brighter future for students across Manitoba, but not in its present legislative form. If you value education and your ability to help shape local schools to meet community needs, we encourage you to voice your concerns. Please

call 204-945-3636 and register to speak to Bill #64 (Education Modernization Act). You can also reach out to your local Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) to voice your concerns or support. If you would like to learn more about the K-12 Commission Final Report and Bill #64, visit our website at HSD.ca.

The HSD Board of Trustees will continue to work with diligence and integrity for as long as we serve in our positions. As your locally elected representatives, we will also seek out opportunities to advocate for our school communities. If you have questions regarding Bill #64 or would like to engage in further dialogue, please contact your HSD Ward Trustee(s).

Respectfully,
HSD Board of Trustees

Ron Falk (Chair), Rick Peters (Vice Chair), Lynn Barkman, Sue Doerksen, Jonathon Driedger, Shannon Friesen, Danielle Funk, Carisa Klassen, and Brad Unger.

IN BRIEF



More Lights Coming to Hespeler Park

By Jennifer Lavin

Hespeler Park in Niverville will soon be a more well-lit space. Town council recently approved the addition of more lights to the park.

The installation of these lights has been completed in phases, the first one taking place about four years ago. At this point, lights run from the Fourth Street North entrance all the way through the park along the walking paths to Crown Valley Road. Lights have also been installed from the Fifth Avenue entrance to the picnic area.

The next set of lights, which will form a line from the baseball diamonds through the south parking lot and up to Crown Valley Road, should be installed before winter hits. The specific timeline, however, will be up to the contractor.

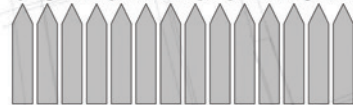
Mayor Myron Dyck says that lighting is an important feature for the park.

"The lights in Hespeler Park were done to provide a safety feature to residents who walk in the park," he says, "to attract more people to the park, and overall to promote wellness and active living by encouraging people to walk, bike, rollerblade, etc."

The mayor adds that conversation is ongoing about future park improvements.

"In terms of more development to the park, some additional items to be considered in the next two to ten years would be lights for a ball diamond and soccer field and a potential RV park."

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2019 Award Winners: RuffMutts, done hair, skin & nails, Henry Friesen (Alex Fast award)

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The Niverville Chamber of Commerce started its business recognition program in 2015 with two categories: Business of the Year and Outstanding Customer Service.

The nominees for the 2020 Outstanding Customer Service award are:

- Bistro 290
- The Community General Store

The nominees for the 2020 Business of the Year award are:

- MCC Thrift Shop
- Niverville Bigway

Due to COVID restrictions, we will be switching from a Judges Panel to a public vote to choose the award recipients. Everyone is eligible to vote!

Visit www.niverville.com (Activities/Business Awards) for details - or on Instagram @nivervillechamber - link to the bio - to cast your vote.

Voting closes Friday, June 4, 2021.

Winners will be announced at our AGM to be held on June 22, 2021.

Congratulations to all our nominees!

Save the Dates:

Niverville Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting
• June 22, 2021 – 7 PM – location pending

Niverville Chamber of Commerce Texas Scramble Golf Tournament
• August 19, 2021



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This condo building on First Street North in Niverville caught fire early in the morning on April 8.

by DUSTIN KRAHN

Fire Breaks Out in Niverville Condo Building

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Early in the morning on Thursday, April 8, a fire broke out at a 12-unit condo building at 139 First Street South in Niverville.

The Niverville Fire Department responded and was able to quickly confirm that all residents of the structure were able to get out of the building without incident.

The call initially came in at 2:17 a.m., and crews quickly arrived on the scene at 2:25 a.m.

"The building fire alarm was activated and everyone was able to self-evacuate prior to our arrival," says Niverville Fire Chief Keith Bueckert. "It worked out very well. Very quickly we confirmed with our search and fire attack that we had no residents still in the building."

Bueckert says that the initial call came in as a grass fire, and that it wasn't until the first crews arrived that they realized they

were dealing with a structure fire.

That's when the decision was made to call in help from the local municipalities.

Upon activating Mutual Aid, additional crews arrived from the RM of Ritchot and the Landmark station in the RM of Tache.

"The fire started on the outside of the building and got up into the attic space," Bueckert explains. "So we had to get in there and pull down a lot of ceilings so we could get at the fire. Our guys did an unbelievable job, including our Mutual Aid partners. They worked seamlessly together."

Because the building is located in the older part of town, which doesn't have fire hydrants, Bueckert says they were fortunate to be able to access a hydrant on Main Street.

"That was a game-changer," he says. "We're in an area of town there where we don't have water sources all over. Having the ability to use the fire hydrant significantly

contributed to our ability to get this fire under control in a timely manner."

He adds that the fire was very hot, since it was trapped up in the attic with a tin roof.

"Our people were in there busting their butts so we could cycle crews through," says Bueckert. "We didn't get our members fatigued, so we could keep a good cycle of getting people in and out and keep the fire attack rolling. It worked extremely well."

The fire was extinguished sometime between 4:30 and 5:00 a.m.

Bueckert says that fire crews remained on the scene through the morning and early afternoon, mopping up hotspots and engaging in clean-up. They also tried their best to tarp the lower suites to prevent water damage from above.

"I just want to say that I'm thankful for our neighbouring departments and to all of their

members who were able to attend quickly and we did a really bang-up job," he says. "I'm really proud of them."

Once the fire was extinguished, an investigator was dispatched from Brandon by the Office of the Fire Commissioner. No information about the cause of the blaze has yet been divulged.

"On behalf of myself and council, we are very thankful that no one in the building was hurt!" says Mayor Myron Dyck. "We are also thankful for our fire chief and our entire emergency volunteer fire and response team for their quick action and professionalism displayed in getting the fire under control in a timely manner, and also that none of them were injured. For those of our Niverville family who have been displaced by this fire, we are thinking of you at this time and are here to help you."

IN BRIEF

Ritchot Awards New Garbage/ Recycling Contract

By Evan Braun

Changes are on the way for the RM of Ritchot's garbage collection services, which have been a topic of frequent discussion of late.

Last December, the municipality switched service providers, awarding a new garbage and recycling contract to GFL Environmental.

The biggest change for residents will be the introduction of a new tote system. Each tote is capable of handling up to 65 gallons of garbage, and their design will allow the municipality to move to an automated system.

One potential downside is that residents no longer will be able to throw out an unlimited amount of garbage. A household's garbage must be securely inside a closed tote.

The upside is that the cost of collection is going down as a result of the new system—a better service for a better price.

Although there has been a delay in the delivery of these totes, owing to the pandemic, they are expected to arrive by the beginning of June and be distributed to properties throughout the municipality.



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BORN TWICE—DIE ONCE**

My first career was in the building trades serving an apprenticeship in Victoria. My journeyman was Edward, a kind man, thoroughly knowledgeable in the trade and a good teacher. Edward had the habit of smoking and up to 3 packs a day. At times other tradesman would warn "Edward, your going to kill yourself" to which Edward always replied "You only die once". This was his common response for the warning he got often. Edward was not one to read his Bible, for if he had, he would have discovered a curious paradox that a great majority of people have not understood. Jesus described a physical birth that every person will experience; and a second spiritual birth that is necessary to obtain eternal life. Jesus said that because of our sin and sin nature, we are all already under the condemnation of God and dead in our sins. (Read John 3:16-19) Once we understand who Jesus is and the reason that He came into the world, we have the opportunity to be born again a second time. At that moment, our spirit within that was formerly dead, comes alive. For those who have been born twice, they can only die once. There is no future judgment, and they will never die again.


The second category of persons are those who have experienced a physical birth but reject Christs offer of pardon for their sins. These individuals will die in their sins and forfeit the opportunity to obtain eternal life. Having rejected God's offer to remove their sins, these persons will stand before God at the Judgement that is described in the Book of Revelation, chapter 21. All those who die in their sins, will be found guilty and die a second time. This "Second Death," can only be experienced by those who have rejected Jesus' offer to take away their sins. For those born once, they will die twice. Revelation 20:15 "And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." All of Jesus' suffering upon the cross was because of our sins and greatly magnified because He was paying for the sins of the whole world. Jesus did all of this because of His great love. It is God's desire that you are saved and inherit eternal life He has planned for you. You can receive Jesus as your Savior right now and settle the issue of where you will spend eternity. Jesus wants you to be saved. He died to make this possible. All that is necessary is that you decide to trust by faith Jesus Christ, and the death He died on the cross for your sins and receive Him as your Savior.

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Manitoba Issues New Public Health Orders

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

Starting in late April, Manitobans headed back into broad lockdowns.

Recent case counts and modelling have shown that the province is in the midst of a third wave, and the new measures have been brought in to prevent the situation from spiralling out of control as has happened elsewhere in the country.

Among the points mentioned by Dr. Brent Roussin in his briefing on April 26 is the fact that the average age of people in the ICU is 56, a substantial drop from the second wave and an indication that many younger people are ending up in hospital due to variants of concern.

He also pointed out that more than 700 new cases had been reported in the last week, with hospitalizations up 50 percent during the same period.

“Despite our best collective efforts and having some of the strictest public health orders in the country, Manitoba’s case numbers continue to rise, which threatens the ability of our healthcare system to care for those in need,” says Premier Brian Pallister. “We are at a critical point in the third wave—it is a race between the variants and vaccines, and right now the variants are winning. We need a few weeks in order to allow our accelerated vaccine efforts to catch up and change the course of that race.”

The new public health orders, which will remain in force for four weeks, are wide-ranging:

- no visitors will be allowed to private households either indoors or outdoors with certain exceptions including allowing one visitor for people who live alone.

- no indoor gatherings will be permitted and outdoor gatherings of up to 10 people will be allowed in public outdoor spaces only.

- faith-based gatherings will be limited to 25 percent capacity or a maximum of 10 people, whichever is lower, with indoor mask use required at all times.

- patio dining will be restricted to groups of four people only with no household restrictions.

- food courts in malls and shopping centres will be required to close.

- gyms and fitness centres continue to be limited to 25 percent capacity, but individuals, patrons, and staff will be required to maintain physical distancing of three metres (nine feet) from others.

- spectators at outdoor sports and recreation facilities will be limited to one parent/caregiver spectator per youth participant, if physical distancing of two m (six feet) is maintained.

- dance, theatre, and music schools will continue to be limited to 25 percent capacity, but the new orders will limit the maximum number of people on site to 10 with one parent/caregiver spectator per youth participant, if physical distancing of two metres (six feet) is maintained.

- personal service business will be able to continue to operate at 50

percent capacity, but appointments will be required.

- day camps will be permitted to have up to 10 children indoors and outdoors.

- retail stores must be limited to 25 per cent of the capacity of the store or up to 250 patrons, whichever is lower, and malls will be limited to 25 per cent of the facility’s capacity.

Pallister also announced that enforcement measures are being stepped up to ensure that these new rules are followed.

Check-ins will be used to make sure that people who have been told to self-isolate do so, and some surveillance will take place in malls and other retail outlets.

“Public health orders are a foundation for action, but we need all Manitobans to do a little bit more and take personal responsibility for following the orders, staying home as much as possible, reducing the number of contacts we have and wearing masks when we are around others from outside our household,” says Dr. Roussin. “I am also calling on business and organizational leaders to help ensure people are staying apart in their facilities, staying home if they are sick and self-isolating if they are a close contact to a case.”

Both Roussin and Pallister reiterated the need for all Manitobans to get a vaccination as soon as one is available. They remind us that the best vaccine is the first one that becomes available to you.

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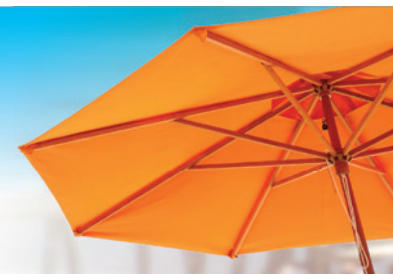
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Developer Announces Construction of Niverville Hotel

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

For years, speculation has run rampant about when Niverville might be getting a hotel, and that speculation only got louder as first a golf course opened, then the community became surrounded on all sides by busy wedding venues. Then the 99,000-square-foot Community Resource and Recreation Centre began construction and Hespeler Park saw significant improvements, cementing Niverville as an attractive prospect for hosting sports tournaments.

And speaking of sports, next February visitors will be pouring in for the 2022 Manitoba Winter Games, of course.

Finally, the speculation can end. We have a definitive answer: the hotel is coming right now.

"We have been working on this deal for almost three and a half years and it's exciting to be moving forward," says Trevor Rempel of Steel Creek Developers, the company behind the hotel project. "For a new business like this, there are thousands of little details to look at to get it off the ground properly, and then thousands more to get it built and operating."

Steel Creek Developers is a rural-based, family-run development company focusing on opportunities in small towns exactly like Niverville.

"Originally being from a



The signature split room design used in Blue Crescent Hotel properties.

STEEL CREEK DEVELOPERS

small Manitoba farm near Elm Creek, we recognize the tremendous value and opportunities of the prairies' rural communities," says Rempel. "We strive to uncover and highlight those opportunities to help these communities grow. With four of us [partners] spread between Manitoba and Saskatchewan, we each come from a different

career development path which has culminated in an opportunity to mesh together our very different skillsets to create and build this company."

The 70-room property will be a Blue Crescent Hotel, the fourth so far in the chain. The other locations are currently in Rivers, Manitoba and Grenfell, Saskatchewan. The Blue

Crescent Hotel in Carman, Manitoba, isn't yet finished construction, but it is set to open this fall.

"Blue Crescent Hotels is the new brand we created to provide a brand network of these rural, independently owned hotels," Rempel explains. "We provide some basic foundational services and offer the credibility and

marketing advantages of a network of hotel properties that will span from Manitoba to B.C., and possibly beyond. The Blue Crescent Hotel brand means special differentiated room designs that add value to the guest experience. Our guests also experience a modern hotel with small-town hospitality."

Although the Niverville

hotel will begin with 70 rooms, there will be an opportunity to expand the building's footprint in the future if additional rooms are needed.

"We will feature a variety of room types to meet any need," says Rempel. "Our differentiated double room is what we are known for. We take a standard hotel room and slide the bathroom to the middle, splitting the beds to each side. We add a TV to each side and provide a split room design that is perfect for families or tradespeople."

The hotel will also have barrier-free rooms, pet-friendly rooms, single rooms, suites, and a pair of larger suites with two bedrooms and a kitchenette. The larger suites will be perfect for wedding parties.

"We also like to include a couple of family rooms, which is our split room design with a queen bed on one side and two sets of bunkbeds on the other. In previous hotels, this has been a community favourite."

Water lovers, take note: yes, the hotel will come with a pool. And not just any pool, but one with some enhanced features.

"Possibly the most exciting part of the hotel will be an enhanced pool facility," says Rempel. "We hope to attract staycation guests with a larger pool and double waterslides, making a trip to Niverville a destination rather than a waypoint."

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ECONOMIC SPINOFF

Rempel explains that Niverville is a prime target for a Blue Crescent Hotel.

"We have always had a familiarity with Niverville, but a mutual contact connected us to Ray Dowse, who is a tremendous cheerleader for the community," he says. "After considering where Niverville is and where it is going, as well as our own analytics process, we were very excited about a hotel business here. The growth, the environment of development, and other new developments in town all contribute to the strength of the proposal."

Rempel says that the company believes Niverville is at a tipping point where years of strong residential growth has created an economy of scale that is now fuelling the need for more commercial growth opportunities.

"The developments in the industrial park, the west side of town by the golf course, and the new community multiplex, as well as our new hotel here, all create a wave of growth which makes Niverville stronger and stronger."

The new hotel will be a key catalyst for that growth. Rempel points out that every night spent locally at this hotel will lead to economic spinoffs—a tank of gas, a meal, snacks, and shopping at stores in the community. These dollars are currently being driven out of town, but with the hotel they will remain in Niverville.

"This amounts to a significant positive impact on the business community," he says. "Maybe a one-day sports tournament turns into a weekend tournament with more teams... The ability to host provincials, regionals, and other events and

conferences is opened up by having local hotel accommodations. The ripple effect is significant."

OPTIMISM ABOUT HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

The last year has been an especially challenging time for the hospitality industry, with the COVID-19 pandemic forcing many hotels to scale down operations in response to lockdowns across the country.

"COVID has certainly hit the hospitality industry hard, but we have some significant reasons for being optimistic," Rempel says. "For one, as we

the importance of its rural focus.

The properties in Rivers and Grenfell, which both opened in the last year and a half, have been fairly successful so far. A key driver of this success has been a lack of competition in the smaller communities where they operate and an emphasis on serving guests in the industrial and construction fields.

"By being careful and selecting the right communities with strong occupancy drivers, we have somewhat inadvertently built a somewhat COVID-resistant business model," he explains.

"We have been working on this deal for almost three and a half years and it's exciting to be moving forward."

Trevor Rempel | Steel Creek Developers

all focus on the light at the end of the tunnel and dream of life returning to 'normal,' we actually believe that the hospitality industry may see an initial post-COVID spike. I believe the 'support local' mentality has never been stronger and we anticipate a significant case of cabin fever coupled with some nagging nervousness with travelling out of country. We think this will mean significantly more travel within the province or within the country. With the amenities listed above, why wouldn't a few families want to come to Niverville for a weekend getaway so their kids can finally let loose with their friends on a great waterpark-filled weekend?"

He adds that the pandemic has led Steel Creek Developers to realize afresh

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The construction timeline is a little bit up in the air so far, but Rempel says that shovels will be in the ground this summer.

"Steel Creek Developers manages all aspects of developing the project, working with a contractor to construct, preparing the business operations with our client, and helping the business get off the ground," he says. "A local manager reporting to the ownership group will run the hotel. We believe strongly in this hotel property and will also retain an ownership stake in it as well."

The majority of the ownership group will be comprised of Manitoba-based investors. Rempel says that the province's Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit has been a key tool for attracting these

shareholders.

"An exciting component of this particular project is also that a portion of the incoming investment is through a social cause program that will use some of the profits to build schools in India," Rempel adds.

More details about this social enterprise will be released as the building gets closer to construction.

REACTIONS

Several local officials have already responded to the news of Niverville's new hotel.

"On behalf of council and our community, I would like to welcome Steel Creek Developers and Blue Crescent Hotels to Niverville," says Niverville Mayor Myron Dyck. "The construction of a hotel is a much-needed amenity for our community and will provide a service to our residents as well as those who will visit. It will play a large role in being a destination driver for Niverville as well as providing jobs to our town."

Mayor Dyck adds that the town is excited for the day when the hotel first opens its doors.

Local MLA Ron Schuler, representing Springfield-Ritchot, also adds his congratulations.

"Serving as MLA for Niverville, I have witnessed firsthand the resilience and innovation of the community," Schuler says. "Today's exciting announcement of a new 70-room hotel complete with pool and waterslides is another milestone in Niverville's amazing story of growth. I congratulate Steel Creek Developers in making this significant investment in Niverville and wish them much success."



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Breaking Down Niverville's 2021 Budget

By Jennifer Lavin

On Tuesday, April 20, Niverville's town council met to announce the details of their annual budget. The meeting began with a reading of the town's 2021 financial plan.

First on the agenda is an increase of two percent for the average resident's property tax bill, which works out to about \$44.57 more per home.

The school tax levy, which is set by the Hanover School Division, will remain the same as last year, but this year it won't be included as part of the annual tax bill but rather charged as a special levy.

As part of the province of Manitoba's plan to phase out education property taxes, in 2021 a rebate will be issued to property owners, returning 25 percent of the education special levy.

That rebate is expected to come in September, and it will be disbursed automatically, meaning that property owners won't need to apply in order to receive it.

Additionally, the home reassessment period will be pushed back two years due to COVID-19, so there will be no change in property values during that time. Currently, the average price for a home in Niverville is approximately \$287,000.

There has been no waste levy increase since 2016, but this year will see the levy go up due to an increase in tonnage fees at the landfill. The waste levy will go up marginally, from \$118 to \$125.

In terms of the town's departmental budgets, there are several key changes this year.

PROTECTION

Council is beginning to budget and save for an increase in the cost of RCMP services. The reason for this is that RCMP staffing levels are population-based. So when Niverville officially crosses the 5,000 mark, which



will occur after the upcoming census since the town is already estimated to be well past that point, it will have to pay \$300,000 more for policing, which will cover three to four full-time officers to serve the community.

Council also plans to continue Niverville's relationship with the Commissionaires for the enforcement of municipal bylaws.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The expansion of the town office is nearing completion and its existing square footage is expected to suffice for the next 10 to 15 years.

Meanwhile, funds continue to be funnelled into the local medical clinic, which is owned and operated by the town in order to provide sustainable healthcare.

The town is also funding several upgrades this year in the area of information technologies infrastructure and security.

TRANSPORTATION

In the coming year, work will continue on the ongoing project to revamp the town's Main Street side-

walks. The sidewalk contract for 2021 has been awarded to J.D. Penner and will cover new sidewalks from Prairie Trail to Second Avenue North.

Council also awarded a contract to Southwood Ventures this year for on-call equipment.

A preliminary design will be created for the four-way intersection of Mulberry Avenue and Main Street/Highway 311. Council has awarded this contract to Morrison Hershfield of Winnipeg. To design the intersection, Morrison Hershfield will use Niverville's most recent traffic impact study, as well as new information which they will collect. Turning lanes will be needed here. Traffic lights may also be required.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The 2021 budget allots funds for the expansion and improvement of the town's compost site.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

There are plans in place to finish the development of Hespeler Cemetery, which is located south along Fifth Avenue.

ENVIRONMENT

More trees will be planted in 2021. A total of \$5,000 has been allotted for a tree-planting program.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The town has pledged to continue the sponsorship and marketing of the Niverville area as a commerce and industrial hub of the southeast.

RECREATION

Von Ast Construction has been selected to relandscape the dog park once they have finished construction of the CRRC. Plans also exist for the creation of a new greenspace south of the arena. As for the CRRC, the target date for the completion of construction remains July 1.

A new town employee will be hired to operate camps for young people. In the past, the town has offered a range of summer camps, but going forward camps will be run year-round on days that school is closed.

UTILITIES

Alongside the RMs of Hanover,

Ritchot, and Tache, Niverville will continue to lobby the government to move forward with the creation of a new regional approach to wastewater management, the focal point of which will be the construction of a new treatment plant north of Niverville to service the entire region.

The town has almost completed the design of a \$10-million water treatment plant and raw water source expansion which will allow the community to be serviced with a sustainable water supply for the next 25 to 30 years.

CAPITAL

The town will be using capital funds to purchase a new tractor for the operations department. They have already purchased some new equipment for the fire department, including a gear washer, nozzles, and hose replacements. Additionally, they are beginning to replace expired turn-out gear.

The town will also be completing the third phase of pathway lighting in Hespeler Park.

Looking forward, Niverville hopes to complete the wetlands park at the old lagoon site. They have also set aside sufficient funding for the 2022 Manitoba Winter Games, to be held here next February.

With the CRRC opening this summer, the town is on the hunt for grant opportunities to improve the interior of the old arena and continue to make full use of that space.

Another ongoing project is the improvement of drainage for old sump pumps in Fifth Avenue Estates.

Finally, council has authorized Manitoba Hydro to install two 60-watt LED ornamental lights on Mulberry Avenue at a operational cost of \$194 per year. They've also authorized 18 60-watt LED lights on Mulberry Avenue and the surrounding area for an operational cost of \$3,138 per year.

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The Louis Riel Bridge in Ste. Agathe.

Public Input Sought for Ste. Agathe Bridge Improvements

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

For the next two weeks, the provincial government will be embarking on an on-line engagement survey to hear directly from the public about what they think should be done to improve the Louis Riel Bridge, which crosses the Red River at Ste. Agathe.

The Louis Riel Bridge is showing its age. Originally constructed in 1959, the bridge has been in continuous operation for more than

60 years and is sorely in need of improvements.

In addition to providing access to Ste. Agathe, the bridge allows commuters from the west side of the river to reach Highway 75, a common route for those driving south towards the U.S. border.

“The bridge requires action to maintain serviceability over the next 40 years,” reads a statement on the government’s website.

According to local MLA Ron Schuler, who is also the Minister of Infrastructure,

the province already initiated a preliminary design study to come up with a range of options for what to do about the bridge.

“The purpose of this preliminary design study is to develop and evaluate bridge rehabilitation alternatives,” the website notes. “Following this investigation, a preferred alternative will be identified based on socioeconomic (public impact) factors, regulatory approvals and technical factors including initial costs, life cycle costs and design

constraints. The goal of the design is to maintain a safe, long-term crossing while also balancing the interests of the stakeholders in the area.”

To make sure your voice is heard, you can fill out the online survey. The survey will be open until May 13 and take approximately five minutes to complete.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ Access the online survey here:
<https://engagemba.ca/red-river-bridge-pr-305>



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Mitch McLeod and Jacqueline "Z" Petkau are opening a licensed barbershop in Niverville.

JACQUELINE "Z" PETKAU

CRU Barber & Company: Men's Grooming with a Twist

By Jennifer Lavin

A new business is coming to Niverville, and this one is something a little bit unique. CRU Barber & Company is a barbershop with a twist—a liquor license.

Jacqueline "Z" Petkau and Mitch McLeod grew up in Manitoba and met a few years ago when they were both living in Winnipeg. The pair dreamt about opening a business together, and about a year ago, after they moved to Niverville, they realized this was where they wanted to stay.

After some soul-searching, they decided it was time to pursue their dream.

McLeod had received his cosmetology diploma and then

completed his required apprenticeship hours to become Red Seal certified in his trade. Petkau had helped launch start-ups and new businesses in a number of sectors, including health and wellness, development consulting, and the beauty industry.

"With my business background and [McLeod's] expertise in the trade, it seemed almost a no-brainer for us to open something that we can grow together while taking on roles that play to both of our strengths," Petkau says.

CRU Barber & Company will offer a full menu of quality men's grooming services and their own line of hair products in a communal lounge setting

at 3-40 Drovers Run. They plan to hire three to four part-time or full-time barbers and open in mid-June.

"We help our clients be more themselves, a side effect that comes with looking and feeling your best," she adds. "By understanding things like lifestyle and maintenance commitment, we make sure our clients not only leave happy with a quality cut, but also have the right products, tools, and techniques to recreate their hairstyle at home and carry that fresh-from-the-barbershop confidence boost right on until their next appointment."

But CRU Barber & Company also offers a twist: a lounge atmosphere.

"We invite our clients to come early to their appointments and stay late, whether to enjoy a beer or scotch in our lounge and take in the day's game on our big screen, or just for a quick game of pool to catch up with a friend," Petkau adds.

As residents of Niverville, she says they see this as an opportunity to help the community keep growing.

"We have a vested interest in helping the area continue to grow in a vibrant way, and we can't wait to connect with you all."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ For updates about the business, follow @crubarberandco on Instagram.

IN BRIEF

Province Extends Green Team Grants

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

In late April, the provincial government announced more than \$25 million in funding for youth employment opportunities this summer. Many of those jobs will be provided through Green Team grants.

"The Green Team grant program puts your tax dollars to work by investing in local priorities and community initiatives," says Ron Schuler, MLA for Springfield-Ritchot.

Seven different grants have been earmarked for organizations in the RM of Ritchot, including two grants totalling \$14,508 for the RM itself.

Other recipients include the Seine River Minor Ball Association (\$4,212), the Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre (\$42,226), the Parkland Mews Falconry & Bird of Prey Education Centre (\$2,521), Ste. Agathe Community Development Inc. (\$5,177), and the Grande Pointe Homeowners Association (\$10,284).

The Town of Niverville has also been approved for a sizable Green Teams grant, in the amount of \$19,209. Another Niverville organization, the Niverville MCC Community Assistance Centre, will be granted \$30,462.

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Ste. Agathe Residents Look to Put Citizens on Patrol

Victim of violent crime says that COPP programs help keep communities safe.

By Dave Baxter

Mitch Dux knows how important it is to combat crime in rural communities, because when a violent crime came to his doorstep, it almost cost him his life.

"I know I'm lucky to be alive," Dux, a longtime Niverville resident, said. "It could have been a lot worse. I could have died that night."

In the early morning hours of June 15, 2017, Dux said his stepdaughter got up and noticed the light on in the family's detached garage at their Niverville home.

Dux knew something wasn't right, so he went out to see what was going on and got a shock when he found an intruder rummaging through the garage.

He chose to confront the intruder and tried to hold him so he could call the police and have the man arrested.

"I stopped him, and I said, 'We're waiting right here at the door of the garage for the police and we're going to deal with this right now.'"

But the intruder had no plans to give up without a fight.

"We waited a few minutes and he got antsy, so he bolted out the door and I grabbed him by the shirt, and he turned around and went to throw a roundhouse punch, and I didn't realize he had an object in his hand," Dux says. "That was when he stabbed me."

Dux tackled the man, not even realizing he had been stabbed with a blunt object in his stomach.

"I tried to hold him down, but I could feel I was starting to lose my strength, so that's when I got up and noticed the blood and the tear in my shirt."

Dux let the man go. Not long after, the police showed up and told him he needed to get to a hospital immediately. He was transported to hospital in Winnipeg by STARS Air Ambulance.

He recovered from his injuries but says he and his wife and family have never felt completely safe in their own home since the incident.

"I'm very self-conscious now, even on my own property," he says. "I'm self-conscious going into the garage to this day. I'm just a lot more aware than I used to be and it's been like that ever since that day. Even when I get in my car in the morning, I wonder if there is someone in the back seat waiting for me."

Dux now says he would never confront a criminal the way he did that morning.

"I learned my lesson the hard way," he says. "The best thing to do is stay in the house and call the police."

Back in 2019, a Citizens on Patrol Program (COPP) was started up in Niverville that sees volunteers monitor the streets of the town watching for crime and abnormal behaviour.

Dux says he is a big proponent of the COPP program because he knows the police can't be everywhere at all times.

"The cops just can't patrol every second, so it's good to have more eyes out there," he says.



Ste. Agathe Community Development Inc. president Claude Lemoine and director Danielle Robert are seen on the streets of Ste. Agathe. The group hopes to get a Citizens on Patrol Program up and running in the community.

DAVE BAXTER

STE. AGATHE COPP

As the COPP program continues to patrol the streets of Niverville, residents of another southeast community say they feel crime is becoming a serious problem, and they hope to get a similar program off the ground.

Claude Lemoine is the president of the Ste. Agathe Community Development Inc. (CDI), a not-for-profit organization that works to promote social and economic well being in Ste. Agathe.

Lemoine says that one of the pillars of any healthy community is for people to feel safe, and the CDI is now working with the local RCMP. They are in the early stages of trying to organize a COPP program in Ste. Agathe.

"We're like any other community in the area," Lemoine says. "We're getting hit with crime, break-ins, and thefts, so it's a concern for everyone."

We seem to get hit in waves and it just keeps coming up, so we know it's a problem here."

The CDI has had one meeting with an RCMP constable from the St. Pierre-Jolys RCMP detachment and is now in the process of reaching out to the community to see if there are residents who would be willing to sign up to volunteer for the program.

"Basically, you are asking these volunteers to act as the eyes and ears in the community," Lemoine says.

NO VIGILANTE JUSTICE

While Lemoine says that he hopes volunteers show interest in the idea, he also wants them to know that they would be there to call police, not to deliver their own forms of justice.

"To make this work and to keep people safe, you want to make sure you have the right people," he says. "You can't

have people go into this with a vigilante mindset. First and foremost, the priority would be the safety of our volunteers. We don't want anyone getting into a confrontation with a bad guy. They would call the RCMP detachment, and the police would take it from there, and take care of the rest."

Once the CDI gets a better idea of volunteer interest in the coming weeks and months, they plan to hold another meeting where they help prospective volunteers better understand what would be expected of them.

"We want to show them that there would be expectations, and there would also be limitations," he says.

CRIME STATS

Both Niverville and Ste. Agathe are serviced by the St. Pierre-Jolys RCMP detachment, and statistics compiled by the RCMP show that property crime has been on the rise in the area. In fact, it rose steeply between 2019 and 2020.

In total, property crime in the region in 2020 was up 21 percent from 2019. Last year, there were 731 incidents reported, up from 602 in 2019.

The steepest increase in that period was in incidents of theft over \$5,000, which saw a 76 percent increase between 2019 and 2020, with 84 reported incidents in 2019 and 148 in 2020.

There were smaller increases in incidents of break-and-enter and theft under \$5,000 in that same period, with those numbers both rising by six percent.

RCMP SUPPORT

In a statement, RCMP spokesperson Sergeant Paul Manai-gre says that the Manitoba RCMP support any efforts to set up COPP programs in local communities.

"The Manitoba RCMP very much appreciates the time and commitment the volunteers provide to their community," Manai-gre writes. "They are all truly the eyes and ears of their respective neighbourhoods and a valuable resource for our officers. By being aware of the issues arising in their communities, by being a presence, by walking or driving around, by taking notes and reporting as required, they are making a difference and I have no doubt that they are deterring criminal activity. As a police officer, I find this very encouraging."

Ritchot Mayor Chris Ewen says that he also supports any efforts of residents working to combat crime in the RM.

"It is something I would like to see more of, and we want to do as much as we can as a municipality to be there for these kinds of groups and offer whatever assistance we can offer," Ewen says. "We are hearing a lot of reports about crimes in the area, and it seems to be a problem in all the communities, so I believe if you get the right people involved, these are groups that can make a real impact."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ Anyone interested in signing up to volunteer or to get more information about the proposed COPP group in Ste. Agathe can send an email to steagathecdi@gmail.com.

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As per Bylaw 797-18, Niverville's Operations Manager is declaring a Stage 2 Outdoor Water Use Restriction effective May 1, 2021, applicable to all those on the municipal water system.

Under Stage 2, residents must limit lawn watering to even numbered days for residents having even numbered civic addresses and residents having odd numbered civic addresses to limit watering of lawns to odd numbered days. Residents are also encouraged to use water wisely by watering when the least amount of evaporation occurs.

Stage 2 allows for watering of new grass plantings - sod within 21 days and seed within 45 days of installation, subject to reasonable evidence of recent installation.

For a complete list of the outdoor watering restrictions, please see Bylaw 797-18 Water Restrictions, Fees and Enforcement under Bylaws, Policies, and Reports on www.whereyoubelong.ca.

Persons not complying with water restrictions are subject to penalties as enforced by a Town Bylaw Enforcement Officer.

Questions? Email feedback@whereyoubelong.ca

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CITIZEN POLL

Have you already gotten, or do you plan to get, a COVID-19 vaccination?

- ☐ Yes. Vaccinations are the key for our society to finally get out of the pandemic and return to normal.
- ☐ No, or I'm not sure. I have doubts about the effects of the vaccinations.
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LAST MONTH'S RESULTS:

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

Yes.	No.
26%	74%

YOUR COMMENTS:

The bill is far from perfect, but it is very hard to dispute that change is needed. The fact remains that we spend among the most and we get results among the worst. Both "sides" of this debate ignore a lot of facts and only present what fits their opinion, and is once again an example of our unwillingness to have constructive conversation. Listening to school boards and unions and taking them at their word is about as useless as listening to the government and taking them at their word. They are ALL inflated bureaucracies and are rarely anything but self serving, and self preserving. When do we as people learn to communicate, and solve problems together instead of stubbornly picking a side and ignoring anything that goes against our opinion? We are half of the problem. Can we do better? Yes, I think we can... now let's talk, learn, and figure out how, TOGETHER!

I think, schools should privatize and the government should eliminate all tax on education. Many complain that this is not an affordable option but in reality it is, your child would get a better education than one that the governments mindless indoctrination centres give and you would benefit by knowing that your school actually cares for you and your child because you picked the one your child attends. all in all, eliminating government from education will benefit all.

Schools need more funding. A lot more! Class sizes are too big. Support staff are not paid living wages. Schools need full time psychologists. I have a huge list of needs for schools. Public schools should all be the best schools. No more private schools!

Instead of getting to the root of the problem (child poverty) Manitoba is putting a bandaid on a much bigger problem by essentially blaming educators for low grades. Also frustrating that they want parents to volunteer to make huge decisions that will effect children.

There is nothing qualitative about this Bill. It is cruel, and lays the groundwork for massive cuts in the schools and their respective divisions at every possible level. If this surprises anyone, then they truly haven't paid attention to the Pallister Cabinet's track record. Teachers, administration, and most importantly children will suffer the consequences of this government's incompetence.

I think it is okay to reduce and combine to take out smaller school divisions and restructure a bit, but this goes too far.

Firstly I would like to recognize that I am on treaty 1 land and most schools are as well, thus meaning that the government does not have the right to control the outcome of children's education or do they have the right to randomly fire their own overpaid employees, with that being said I believe the bill 64 is nuance to the whole system and needs immediate withdrawal.

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Commentary

Vulnerable: The Psychology of Religious Belief and Misinformation

By Daniel Dacombe

The end of the COVID-19 pandemic is in sight.

After more than a year since the first case hit Canada, it seems like a significant understatement to say that everyone is ready for a return to normal.

Movies, malls, restaurants, and of course family and faith gatherings are all going to be back on the menu very soon.

The main reason we're able to begin thinking about normalcy once again is due to the COVID-19 vaccines.

Thanks to unprecedented levels of funding and international collaboration, we have a broad selection of safe and effective vaccines available—vaccines that have already begun to be distributed to vulnerable people in our population.

The swiftness of this vaccine rollout is directly proportional to the rate at which we can get our regular lives back. And so clearly it is in everyone's best interests for all of us to seek vaccination as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, there are groups that are pushing back against receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. These are (typically) not groups of individuals with medical conditions that would prevent them from safely receiving the vaccine.

In some cases, these groups have bought into disproven theories about the origins of the COVID-19 virus. In other cases, they appear to be victims of misinformation campaigns regarding the safety of the vaccines.

Just as we've seen with groups that protest restrictions around gathering sizes and mask-wearing, there seems to be some significant overlap between those who believe this misinformation and those who hold to certain types of religious beliefs.

This observation of mine isn't just based on Facebook posts and a few high-profile protests here in Manitoba.

According to a recent Pew Research Center study, 45 percent of white evangelicals in the U.S. state that they have no intention of getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

That's the largest percentage of vaccine denialism than in any other group surveyed. For example, this can be compared against 90 percent of atheists who state that they either intend to get a vaccine or have already received a vaccine. It's a startling contrast.

Christian websites have sprung up across the internet that make outlandish claims about the vaccine, such as it having demonic origins or that it's been designed to sterilize the population. Comparisons to Nazi Germany abound. Others claim that the pandemic response is a sort of persecution against Christians and that the vaccine represents a mythical "mark of the beast."

These responses beg the question: what is it about certain belief systems that seems to make people vulnerable to the spread of misinformation?

The answer lies in our brains, and how our brains can be influenced to accept—and reject—aspects of the world around us.

Now, before the complaints/pitchforks/hashtags (#notallchristians?) arrive, I would like to make one thing clear: in no way am I equating spiritual or religious belief with a lack of intelligence.

There are many intelligent people who are religious. Geneticist Dr. Francis Collins, for instance, is a devout Christian. Dr. Alister McGrath, an Anglican priest, holds a PhD in molecular biophysics.

There are likewise many intelligent people who are atheist or agnostic. Many examples exist, though my personal favourite may be astronomer and educator Dr. Carl Sagan.

So intelligence and religious belief are unrelated attributes.

However, through this article we will be taking a look at how some types of religious belief can create vulnerabilities to accept and believe misinformation.

The psychology of religion is a fascinating subject, one that has overlap with the discipline of social psychology. Social psychology is the study of how our thoughts, feelings, and behaviours are influenced by others, and religious groups, generally speaking, are a significant influence on our individual psychology.

Our faith communities provide us support, community, and care. They can be a major feature in many of our lives, predominantly in a positive way. The influence of these communities can also cause our thinking patterns and cognitive skills to change in ways that can be harmful to us.

Research psychologists from Yale, Harvard, and other universities

recently conducted a study looking for common factors in individuals who get caught up in "fake news." They found that people who were identified as dogmatic or religious fundamentalists—that is, those who belong to belief systems which discourage analytical thinking, open-minded reasoning, and scepticism—are more susceptible to misinformation.

This suggests that certain types of religious belief systems, due to their discouragement of critical thinking and encouragement of accepting facts without question, create psychological vulnerabilities to false ideas that may seem attractive and intuitive.

A mind that's surrounded by a group that encourages (or demands) that people accept ideas without question will eventually become unused to analytical thinking, and when faced with circumstances that demand analytical thinking—such as to weed out bad information—they may not be able to rise to the task.

The consequences of this, especially right now in the time of COVID-19, is that it could lengthen the pandemic and its suffering—and tragically, it could lead to greater loss of life. These are consequences which any loving faith community ought to feel compelled to avoid.

Thankfully, this tendency to reject analytical thinking and get caught up in misinformation isn't common to every person of faith.

Many prominent religious leaders have noted the spread of misinformation in their flocks and taken steps to correct this trend.

Well-known Christian pastors have publicly received the vaccine and encouraged their followers to do so as well, provoking strong reactions both positive and negative.

Others take a more direct approach.

For example, evangelical theologian Curtis Chang has started a website (<https://www.christiansandthevaccine.com/>) in order to address some of the more common concerns evangelicals have expressed about the vaccine. He even posted an interview with the aforementioned Dr. Francis Collins, in which the good doctor makes the case for the COVID-19 vaccine even in light of how quickly it came into being.

So no, religious belief and intelligence are not related. But some beliefs, and some systems of belief, can make us vulnerable to lies, fake news, and misinformation.

If your beliefs require that you not think critically, or not question what you're supposed to believe, you could be more at risk for believing misinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic, among other things.

You may want to consider following in the footsteps of those scientists who not only believe in a God or a higher power, but who believe that the world this God created is one that can and should be engaged with critically and scientifically.

In this way, it is possible to have your religious beliefs act as an inoculation of sorts against misinformation.

And best of all, this inoculation won't even require a needle.



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Arts & Entertainment

Niverville Musician Nominated for Three K-Love Awards

Jordan St. Cyr hopes fans vote as he seeks three major awards.

By Dave Baxter

A rising star from Niverville has taken his music career from his small town roots to the bright lights of Nashville. Jordan St. Cyr is now hoping to reach even greater heights, but to do that he needs a little help from his hometown fans.

St. Cyr is a singer-songwriter who's been making waves in the Christian music world over the past few years, both in Canada and in the U.S.

After more than 15 years of chasing his musical dreams, the 38-year-old was signed to U.S. Christian rock label BEC Recordings in August 2020.

He now splits his time between his home in Niverville and Nashville, Tennessee, where he writes and records. He says that his career has really taken off in the last year.

"I had gone to all the labels and they all said they liked what I was doing, but it just wasn't a good fit, so I decided to stop waiting and I took one of my songs to radio myself," St. Cyr says. "I financed it myself and it just kind of took off. And a label came calling in August of last year. I signed a deal, and everything has just taken off from there, so my head is still spinning at this point."

St. Cyr is now nominated for three K-Love awards, as he has been nominated for Artist of the Year, Male Artist of the Year, and Song of the Year for his single, "Fires."

"K-Love is the biggest inspirational radio station in the States," St. Cyr says. "They have about 20 million listeners a week, so in a way they are really the gatekeepers of this industry. It's a really big deal



Jordan St. Cyr with his wife Heather and their four children, in his hometown of Niverville.

■ COURTESY OF JORDAN ST. CYR

and a real big honour just to be nominated with these artists."

Winners of the K-Love awards are decided by fan votes, so St. Cyr is hoping that Manitobans will log onto the K-Love site and show their support by voting for him in all three categories.

"The people from my hometown have really been in my corner since day one," he says, "and this is a very positive way to show that love and support."

Votes for all three categories can be made by visiting www.klovefanawards.com/vote

And while success has been heavy lately for St. Cyr, he says it's taken years of hard work and determination to get him where he is today, and he credits both his hometown and his upbringing for getting him to where he is now.

"In the last couple of years, a lot of dreams I thought might not happen are starting to come true,

and I think a lot of credit has to go to the community I was raised in," he says. "The geography and our winters really toughen us up, and living in a small town like Niverville you learn a lot of blue-collar core values that have really guided me and my family."

St. Cyr also credits his wife Heather and their four kids for the years of support they have shown him, and he hopes to show his children, through his actions, the importance

of hard work and determination.

"My wife kicked my butt out the door and said, 'Go chase your dreams,' and never stopped supporting me," St. Cyr says. "And at the end of the day we are teaching our kids by our actions. I can show them you can do what you want. It might take a long time, but it will happen with perseverance and patience."

Despite radio play and major award nominations, St. Cyr says his biggest thrill in the music business is getting out and meeting his fans.

"I measure success as a touring artist not only by performing, but also meeting the fans," he says. "Personally, I gain the most just connecting with people and having them share their stories of what they are going through. To be there and to listen to people, that is the greatest metric of success for me. To be connecting with people one-on-one is such a big part of this."

And splitting his time between Canada and the U.S. has put a lot more pressure on his wife to keep things running smoothly at home while he's away chasing his dreams. That's why St. Cyr credits her for all she has done to help him succeed.

"My wife is holding down the fort in Niverville. None of this would be possible without her and her sacrifices," he says. "I give all the credit to her."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ Votes for all three categories can be made by visiting www.klovefanawards.com/vote



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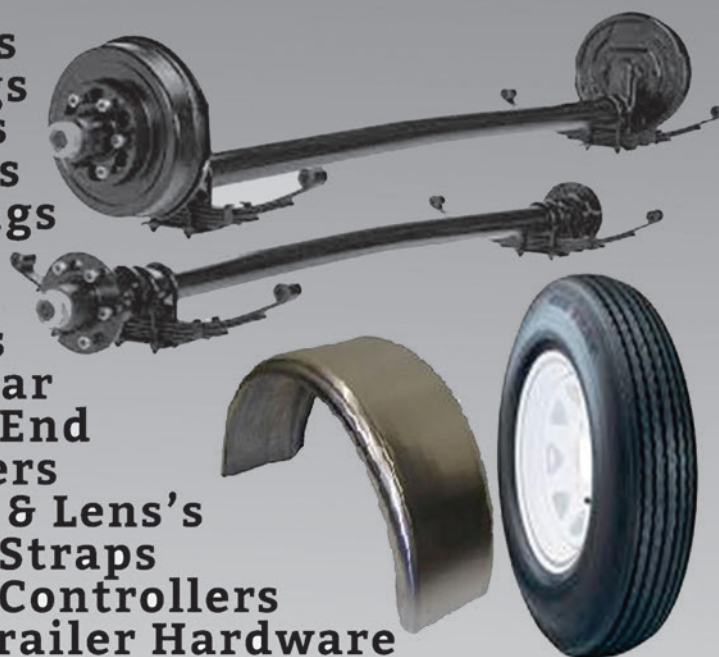
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The Vendor under Power of Sale is informed that there situate on the said land a single family one 2 storey townhouse of approximately 1,188 square feet, more or less. The Vendor is advised that the home contains forced air heating and central air conditioning. The Vendor is further advised the home contains a kitchen, living room, dining room, 3 bedrooms, 1 full bathroom and 1 half bathroom. The Vendor is also advised that the property contains an unfinished basement, an attached single garage and fully fenced backyard.

REALTY TAXES: The realty taxes with respect to the said land are paid in full to December 31, 2019. The property is sold subject to taxes and penalties accruing after that date. Any outstanding water, sewer and utility account(s) for the current and prior years, whether or not added to the tax account at any time, are the responsibility of the purchaser.

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TERMS: Deposit in the amount of \$34,400.00 by way of bank draft or certified cheque and the balance according to auction sale conditions.

The building and land are to be sold subject to a RESERVE BID to be announced prior to the sale.

The auction sale will be conducted pursuant to an Order for Sale issued by the District Registrar. Certain parties may be prohibited from purchasing the property, including but not limited to, parties who by virtue of their employment or relation to a person involved in the sale process would have special knowledge of the circumstances pertaining to the sale. For more information and a list of prohibited purchasers please visit: www.teranetmanitoba.ca.

All persons wishing to attend the auction are required to pre-register with the mortgagee's agent, noted below, at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled auction.

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Author Examines "Social Cannibalism" in New Book

By Jennifer Lavin

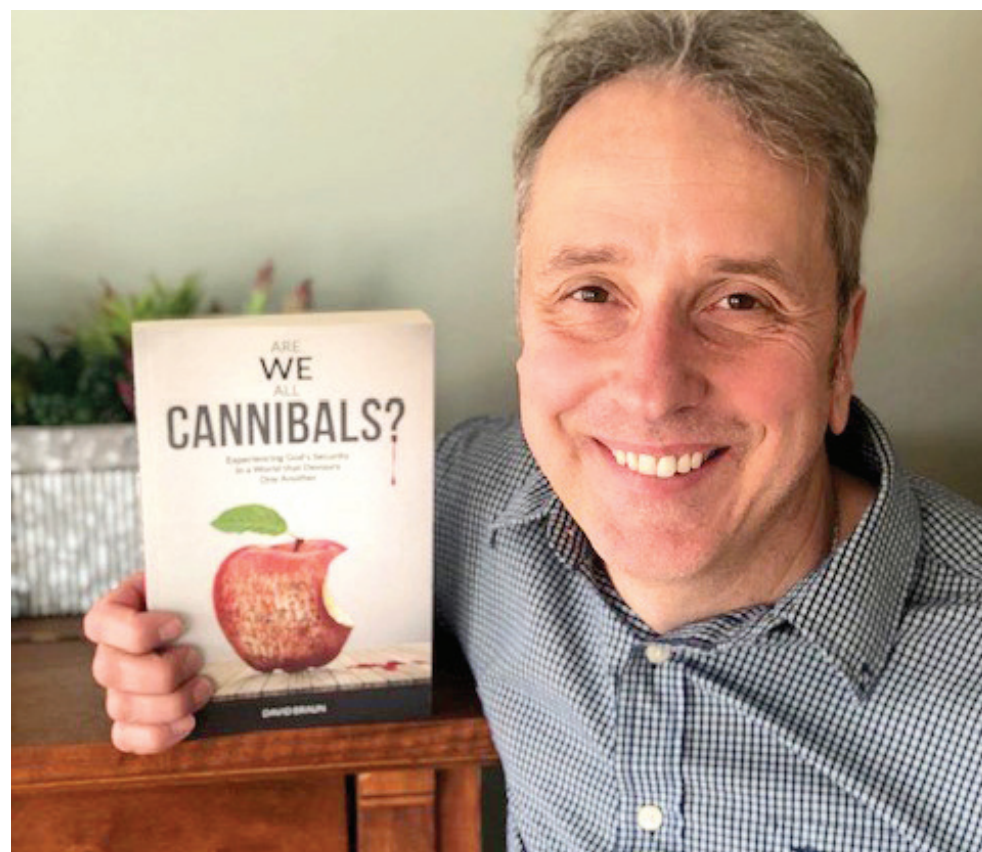
Are we all cannibals? It's an eye-catching question and also the name of local author David Braun's new book.

In the faith-based tome, Braun seeks to decipher the central metaphor of social cannibalism, which he describes as "the act of stealing another person's life for our own temporary satisfaction." He suggests that we commit social cannibalism when we extract life from each other instead of from God.

According to Braun's book, there are four different types of social cannibals: the hoarder, the loner, the dictator, and the slave. The hoarder hoards resources or friends. The loner lives in a self-protective way in order to avoid being hurt. The dictator tries to gain control of his or her life or others' lives. And the slave tries to appease people in the hope that they will gain from them the security they lack.

Braun feels that many of us fall into these social cannibalism categories because of a lack of closeness to God. He says that God should be truly a "heavenly Father" to us, and not a distant force to fear.

"You can't know who you are until you know who your Father is, and you don't know your Father until you experience his heart," Braun writes. "As you get to know your Father, he speaks empowering definition and heavenly identity into you, releasing deep security into your being."



Local author David Braun is promoting his new book.

COURTESY OF DAVID BRAUN

Braun feels that when one has a truly close relationship with Father God, there is no longer a need for us to cannibalize in these ways. Our satisfaction will be so complete that we won't need to steal one another's life.

Before beginning his journey into writing, Braun helped plant a church in Mexico City, co-founded a leadership school in Colorado, and pastored a church for ten years. He holds degrees in conflict

resolution and psychology, as well as a master's of science in organizational psychology. He also completed the School of Biblical Studies, a nine-month inductive Bible training program.

In the course of Braun's career and education, he's travelled to many countries and gone through all manner of life experiences. Whether through writing or speaking, he communicates compassionately and intelligently.

Braun lives in Niverville with his wife and four daughters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

■ *Are We All Cannibals?* is available on Amazon, at Hull's Family Bookstores, at McNally Robinson, and at all five locations of the Great Canadian Dollar Store. More information is available at the book's website: www.areweallcannibals.com

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Local Writer and Illustrator Working on New Children's Book

By Jennifer Lavin

Have you ever checked on your sleeping child and wondered what on earth they could be doing to kick their blankets off every night?

Cyndi Wiebe of Niverville has thought about that a lot. So much, in fact, that she wrote a book about it.

Wiebe's book is called *Molly & Space for Adventure*. The story is an adventure featuring Molly and her best friend, Mr. Cow.

Mr. Cow and Molly feel bored by the routine of their mundane lives so they decide to embark on an adventure which takes them from the safety of their beds all the way to outer space.

"The idea for *Molly & Space for Adventure* was planted by the question, 'What on earth does my daughter do at night, that she can't keep her covers on!'" Wiebe says. "Space adventure was the obvious conclusion, and so a story was born."

Not only did Wiebe write this story, she illustrated it as well. She says that her drawings are based on having watched her children grow and play.

"In the drawings, [my] characters are captured mid-movement, mid-air, mid-statement; toes curl, hair flies, arms are thrown out, and the hands express. They are a



Cyndi Wiebe of Niverville has a new book on the way.

■ CYNDI WIEBE

way to freeze and celebrate these moments from my children's younger years."

Wiebe grew up in rural Manitoba and has always felt inspired by her surroundings.

"As a lifelong prairie girl, the wide-open horizon, sprouting crops, waving wheat fields, and the endless dance of changing clouds against colour-shifting skies have always captivated me," she says. "I work out of my home studio as an artist, illustrator, graphic designer, and art teacher."

Four years ago, Wiebe and her family settled into a home between Niverville and

Île-des-Chênes.

"I think at this time, more than any other we've known, we need to be encouraged to find adventure and joy within," Wiebe adds. "Through the book, I hope readers will be encouraged to see that adventures are waiting right at the periphery of our vision—if we allow ourselves to seek it."

Molly & Space for Adventure will be available in September 2021.

Wiebe is now in the process of seeking local vendors to carry it and will post links for where it can be purchased on her website, www.small-streetstudio.com.

Niverville Fair Cancelled for Second Year in a Row

By Evan Braun

✉ editor@nivervillecitizen.com

On Thursday, April 1, it was announced that the Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair, for the second year in a row, will not be taking place.

"After much consideration, the Niverville Fair committee is announcing the cancellation of this year's Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair," reads a message from the organizers on the fair's social media accounts. "With the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, we face several

challenges that prevent us from ensuring a safe and fun atmosphere."

The good news is that no one is concerned about the future of the fair, and the committee has already announced next year's event: June 10-11, 2022.

"Plans are already underway for next year and we are working hard to make 2022 a fair to remember!" says the message. "We will share more information at a later date."

Those who have purchased presale passes, all ticket purchases for the 2020 dates will

be honoured for 2022. The committee just asks people to hold on to your 2020 e-tickets.

"For those who are unable to attend the new date, refunds will be issued at your request," they say. "We thank you for your ongoing support, patience, and understanding during this difficult time. See you on Main Street in 2022!"

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■ To get a refund for presale purchases, please contact info@nivervillefair.com.

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ITEM	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	PROGRAM RETAIL PRICE	SALE PRICE AFTER REBATE / \$5 OFF
2180S-3KWH	6" LED FLUSHMOUNT SQUARE 3K	\$23.99	\$18.99
2180-3KWH	6" LED FLUSHMOUNT 3K	\$19.99	\$14.99
2180-5KWH	6" LED FLUSHMOUNT 5K	\$19.99	\$14.99
2300-3KWH	12" LED FLUSHMOUNT	\$29.99	\$24.99
2225-3KWH	9" LED FLUSHMOUNT 3K	\$27.99	\$22.99
2135-3KWH	4" LED FLUSHMOUNT 3K	\$19.99	\$14.99
1501-113KWH	11" LED FLUSHMOUNT 20W 1400 LUMEN	\$17.99	\$12.99
-143KWH	14" LED FLUSHMOUNT 26W 1820 LUMEN	\$26.99	\$21.99
SLIM4BP-3000K	4" LED DOWNLIGHT 3K/715L	\$14.99	\$9.99
SLIM4BP-5000K	4" LED DOWNLIGHT 5K/715L	\$14.99	\$9.99

IN-STORE SALE (WM DYCKS SPECIAL)

ITEM	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	REGULAR RETAIL PRICE	IN-STORE SPECIAL PRICE
DISC4-3KWH	LED SLIM4-3K DISC LIGHT	\$19.99	\$9.99
DISC4-5KWH	LED SLIM4-5K DISC LIGHT	\$19.99	\$9.99
DISC6-3KWH	LED SLIM6-3K DISC LIGHT	\$23.99	\$17.99
DISC6-5KWH	LED SLIM6-5K DISC LIGHT	\$23.99	\$17.99
PPSL48A	LED 48' STRING LIGHTS	\$68.50	\$51.99
DPU-403WH	PUK LIGHT LED 3K WHITE	\$16.99	\$11.99
7084346	LITELINE LED PUK LIGHT 3PK	\$58.99	\$51.99

ITEM	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	PROGRAM RETAIL PRICE	15% OFF PRICE
A19ES 9W-CW	9W/60W 5K LED A19 BULB	\$1.79	\$1.52
A19ES 9W-WW	9W/60W 3K LED A19 BULB	\$1.79	\$1.52
PLF1142	A19 FILAMENT BULB 40W CLEAR	\$4.99	\$4.24
PLF1222	A19 FILAMENT BULB 60W CLEAR	\$5.99	\$5.09
PLYC1252	LED A19 8.5W/60W 2700K DIMMABLE	\$4.99	\$4.24
PLYC1172A	LED A19 6W/40W 2700K DIMMABLE	\$4.29	\$3.65
A199WDWW	A19 DIMMABLE WW/3K LED BULB	\$2.59	\$2.20

ITEM	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	PROGRAM RETAIL PRICE	30% OFF PRICE
PLYC2433	GU10 7W/50W 3000K LED BULB	\$4.99	\$3.49
PLYC24336	GU10 7W/50W 3000K LED BULB 6PK	\$21.99	\$15.39
PLYC2653	MR16 7W/50W LED BULB	\$4.99	\$3.49
PLYC4545	PAR38 15W/120W 5K LED BULB	\$12.99	\$9.09
PLYC4543	PAR38 15W/120W 3K LED BULB	\$12.99	\$9.09
PLYC3223	PAR20 LED 7W FLOOD BULB	\$4.99	\$3.49
PLYC3296	PAR20 LED 7W FLOOD BULB 6PK	\$24.99	\$17.49
PLF1542	G25 FILAMENT BULB 60W CLEAR	\$6.99	\$4.89
PLF1522	G25 FILAMENT BULB 40W CLEAR	\$4.99	\$3.49
PLF6112	LED FILAMENT 40W CANDLE	\$4.99	\$3.49
PLYC5294	LED BR30 8W/2700K 4PK	\$18.99	\$13.29
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 1ST, 2021 TO MAY 31ST, 2021.

VISIT 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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