

“An old-fashioned newspaper
for a newfangled world.”

THE



LEAF

SERVING WOLSELEY AND WEST BROADWAY

SEPTEMBER 2020

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY | VOL 8 NO. 9 | FREE TO WOLSELEY AND WEST BROADWAY RESIDENTS

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Gordon Bell student Hikma Abdella is one of 14 students who have been working this summer at Gordon Bell and elsewhere to grow vegetables and grow community.

Strange September ahead

by Mike Maunder

School re-opening in Manitoba looks like this:

- On one side are the kids and their parents.
- On the other side is the

Pallister government and its Department of Education.

- Caught in between are the teachers, principals, custodians, bus drivers, parent councils, superintendents, trustees and the enormous bureaucracy that make up schools.

In Manitoba at least, such a deeply-divided structure is sure to topple under the pressure of Covid-19.

In the best of times, bureaucracies are slow to change – and Covid makes it mandatory that schools must make fundamental changes.

Fundamental changes cost money—more teachers and education assistants; renting spaces so classes can be physically distanced; investing in computers and access-for-all to remote learning; massive training; providing sick time for substitutes so they can be full participants; and a myriad more.

But instead of deep thinking and consultation of all parties, Manitoba schools have slouched towards reopening amid deep divisions.

“Plans built on quicksand,” was the description by Melissa



Gordon Bell principal Vinh Huynh with directional markers at school.

Bowman-Wilson, who manages the website, *Wolseley Parent*.

The deepest division is with the provincial government which is, in theory, orchestrating the changes.

In a September 1st letter to the Premier, Manitoba Teachers' Society president James Bedford said, “Mr. Premier, at the end of the day, we all want the same thing – a safe and

sustainable return to school. This is possible as long as your government is prepared to plan and pay for it.”

But Manitoba's chief teacher made it clear the province has been evasive in committing even the funds that have been promised. The federal government has contributed \$85 million to

Continues page 4

Committee expects evictions - Manitoba fails to provide rent relief

by Terese Taylor

A grassroots tenant organization in West Broadway says it's preparing for the end of a provincial restriction on evictions.

Les Scott, a volunteer with the West Broadway Tenants Committee, says 92 per of residents in the area are renters, and half are low

income. He also says about one third of renters may have fallen through the cracks and not been able to access additional financial support due to loss of employment during covid shutdowns, from the federal CERB program.

The province of Manitoba restricted evictions from March until September 29 this month.

“I am not sure if they couldn't pay earlier how they would be able to make that

payment now,” says Scott. Committee members will help tenants who would like to make an arrangement with their landlord. “It's also not good if the landlord can't get their rent,” says Scott.

“There are people who have made good faith negotiations and made verbal agreements, but they have to get that in writing or they can still be evicted,” he says.

Continues page 4

LETTERS
to the
EDITOR

Dear The Leaf,

I very much enjoy reading your newspaper, and its progressive angle on community issues.

I was thus somewhat disheartened to see that the latest issue come accompanied by a leaflet supporting 5G conspiracy theories. I am by no means a technophile; I do not even own a smartphone. My views are best expressed by quoting Tch  houali Destiny, professor at the University of Quebec at Montreal, in his article published on The Conversation: Conspiracy theories about 5G networks have skyrocketed since COVID-19.

"Research validated by the WHO and health authorities in several countries — including Canada — conclude at this time that 5G does not pose a danger to human health, given national and international standards that limit exposure to radio frequencies...

"However, the overwhelming enthusiasm of technophiles and other "early adopters" of technological innovations should not lead us into the "technological solutionism" that would present 5G as the new life-saving technology. On the other hand, the skepticism of technophobes and the opposition of anti-5G activists and conspiracy seekers must not lead us into collective paranoia.

"Between these two extremes — and in the current context of a paradigm shift — we recommend a third way: reinventing society's relationship with technology in a rational way. The time has come for businesses, public authorities and citizens to question the challenges, opportunities, vices and virtues of the widespread digitization of society."

Sincerely,
David Alper



Ideas for the kid's page can be sent to Terese at: tt@wolseyleaf.ca

152 Walnut Street
Winnipeg, MB R3G 1P1
Tel: (204) 416-5332
e-mail: info@wolseyleaf.ca
www.wolseyleaf.ca

THE FIRST WORD — EDITORIAL

Finding balance in a community newspaper
-- and in a digital world

We at The Leaf have been publishing a community newspaper for eight years in Wolseley and West Broadway, but have never had such a strong reaction to any article as we did last month.

We received five e-mails objecting to the handbill in August's Leaf about the 5G Awareness Network. (This is a group that was advertising a public meeting at Vimy Ridge Park calling on government for more consultation before installing 5G technology in Winnipeg.)

One of the five letters we received is printed here (left). In fairness to the letters we have not printed, they point out one common theme: that The Leaf, as a neighbourhood newspaper, has a responsibility to provide balanced information about 5G, and not just that provided by the 5G Awareness Network.

The reason we selected this letter to print was that its writer directed us to that balanced information. He introduced us to "The Conversation Canada," a daily newsletter published by respected Canadian academics on current issues.

In particular, Tch  houali Destiny, a University of Quebec professor of communication published in the newsletter on June 2nd about how 5G conspiracy theories have skyrocketed during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In our reading of his article, he points out three levels of alarming information being spread about 5G:

- 1. The conspiracy theory that 5G is responsible for Covid.
- 2. The theory that radiation from 5G antennas is dangerous to health.
- 3. Concerns that 5G's massive increase in digital speed will increase levels of surveillance and digitization of society.

Prof. Destiny debunks the first two theories. For the third, he calls for society to be responsible for the greatly increased opportunities that will come with 5G by reinventing its relationship with technology "in a rational way".

We highly recommend reading Prof. Destiny's entire article at "The Conversation Canada".

Each person must form their own opinions, and these opinions are shaped as much by our biases as they are in a rational way.

So let us at The Leaf be clear:
We, as well as the 5G Awareness Network has told us, totally debunk the conspiracy theories around Covid-19.

However, we think there is still room for debate about radiation effects. Prof. Destiny's article directs people to

a Scientific American article in which several scientists say the evidence about 5G is not yet all there. However, he concludes research at this time shows there is no danger to health. The 5G Awareness Network concludes otherwise.

Often, in complex issues, we make decisions based on what experts tell us, or on the opinions of people around us whom we respect. We have supported the work of 5G Awareness partly because we know many of the people working for that cause. They are respected business people and community people we know who have worked for many years for the betterment of Wolseley and West Broadway.

Perhaps they're wrong. But we support their right to call for further investigation, to insist that people be involved in decision-making about placing antennas that could affect them.

And, regarding Prof. Destiny's conclusion that 5G is opening the door for us to rationally question the challenges and opportunities of widespread digitization — we totally agree.

Digitization is like God—with one hand, it gives, with another, it takes away. Digitization has given us much, but perhaps the major thing it is steadily taking away is empathy—the ability to understand people who are not like us. Social networks tend to put people into clusters of like-minded people who, more and more, regard other opinions with distrust and even hatred. "Fake news" thrives because people are hungry to find news that supports their point of view. A President is running for re-election in the United States by rehashing lies and rumours. An article in this month's Walrus by former Globe and Mail columnist Russell Smith paints a clear picture of how digital analytics "juice" stories that people are reading and sideline others. With every click we make in the digital world, we are defining ourselves for algorithms that will decide what we will see and what we won't see, and ultimately, what we will think.

That's the major reason we were happy to get so many e-mails about the 5G handbill. They showed that people in Wolseley and West Broadway might find things in The Leaf they agree with, and things they don't agree with. That's the virtue of an "old-fashioned" newspaper in a "new-fangled" world — we hope it allows us all to see a variety of perspectives and maybe even develop empathy for all of them.

And, if people really can't stand to see those ideas appear in their mailbox every month, we ask you to put a sign, "DON'T LEAVE THE LEAF," and we'll stop dropping those ideas in your mailbox.

And, for the record, we're thankful to those who wrote; and we hope you'll continue reading The Leaf.

As a lover of flowers and words, I had my morning chuckle while reading the latest Wolseley Leaf. Morgan Biggs ' flowers are not oxide daisies, which conjures up daisies emitting some kind of poisonous gas, but ARE... "ox-eye" daisies!

Hard to say what and ox- eyed daisy brings to mind.

Francene Adelman



Send your letters to:
The Leaf Letters,
152 Walnut Street.
Winnipeg, MB
R3G 1P1
or to
info@wolseyleaf.ca

OUR MISSION

The mission of The Leaf is to serve the residents of Winnipeg's Wolseley and West Broadway neighbourhood by providing a free forum for the expression of relevant news and opinion.

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EDITORS

Terese Taylor tt@wolseyleaf.ca
Mike Maunder, West Broadway supplement
mike.maunder@gmail.com,

ADVISOR

Kelly Dueck kd@wolseyleaf.ca

PUBLISHER

Terese Taylor

CONTRIBUTORS

Paul Moist, Linda Taylor,
Mike Maunder, Martina Barclay

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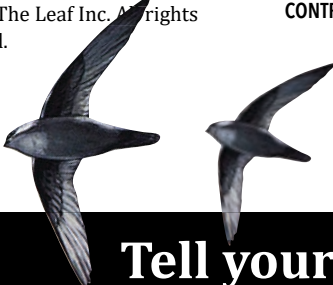
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Tell your friends you saw them in The Leaf!

EDUCATION

Kelvin students study polar bears for almost a decade - but this year is on hold

By Student Reporter Martina

As a popular attraction at the Assiniboine Park Zoo, most Manitobans can say they have seen a polar bear or two. However, for the last eight years, students from Kelvin High School have worked alongside University of Manitoba professor Dr. Jane Waterman on her arctic research in Churchill, specifically on identification of polar bears.

As a behavioural ecologist, Dr. Waterman describes polar bears as “Darwinian puzzles.” Behaviour can be studied as a trait similar to fur or eye colour and she explains that polar bears differ from other animals because they remain motivated to play and be active even as their body condition deteriorates.

Polar bears serve as indicators for climate change and Waterman’s research has shown a significant decrease in the body condition of male

bears since she began her study in 1994. Waterman and Kelvin educator Donna Labun have created a program that allows students to be exposed to authentic scientific research, which “demystifies the process of real science,” explains Kelvin teacher Szandra Temesvari. Dr. Waterman is thrilled with how it has allowed her to “take students from diverse backgrounds and show them that science is cool.”

Taking science out of a classroom setting grants students the opportunity to see how dynamic science really is. “Even if they don’t want to go on to science, they are now better educated on what science is about.”

NorthSTAR (*STudent-led Arctic Research*) participant Laura Western really enjoyed how hands on the research was. “What we did in Churchill, it was totally


like you’re doing this. This is on you. You don’t just get to watch. And that was nice. Take the photo, get the measurement, write it down.”

The NorthSTAR program aims to improve science communication and to help the public better understand the research by fostering future scientists, and bringing people from all ages and diverse communities together.

In a year that has required much adaptability, it is still up in the air how students will be able to participate in the program this fall. “The new normal,” says Temesvari, “for students, - especially those going into grade 12 - it’s going to be the understanding that this is not going to be the final year of high school that they had always imagined.”

Photos at right taken by Ethan Holmes and Greg Speiser while participating in the NorthSTAR Program in 2019.





30 years!


Tall Grass opened a cosy little bakery at 859 Westminster in 1990. It was in response to a desire to support Manitoba famers and bring the production of good food to the city.

September 8th, 2020, marks our 30th anniversary.

Thank you to the people of Wolseley and greater Winnipeg for your support and loyalty.

COVID means that we will be celebrating this anniversary in our hearts. We're looking forward to a public celebration when COVID is controlled.

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organic grains 30th anniversary then & now

TALL GRASS PRAIRIE BREAD COMPANY

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Strange September cont...

school reopening, and Bedford is afraid the Pallister government will take this to replace the \$52 million the province also promised.

The province did release \$48 million – the savings accrued when schools closed in the spring. But this is “peanuts in their pockets to address the slew of issues requiring major dollars to fix,” explained Marcela Cabezas, president of Louis Riel Teachers’ Association in the Sept. 2 *Free Press*.

Education Minister Kelvin Goertzen is sitting tightly on the needed money, not dispensing it to give schools an up-front chance to plan, but waiting to see what the asks are.

The province has given three options for the return to school: in-school instruction like before Covid with added safety measures like masks and distancing; getting a doctor’s note to keep your child at home where they can access remote learning options; or withdrawing your child from school, and entering home-schooling.

The co-chair of Mulvey’s Parent Council, T’ai Pu, is convinced the government is using the pandemic to further defund schools. He said he was

hopeful when he participated in last year’s K-12 Education Commission but now just sees it as window dressing for the province’s austerity agenda. Steps like the removal of collective bargaining for teachers, the imposition of ministerial control and cuts before the pandemic to programs like cultural or special needs convinced him the province will use reduced attendance this fall as a way to further defund schools.

A remote learning option is the best, in his view: the kind of instruction last spring at Mulvey with kids working at home via Google Classroom, SeeSaw and other applications, and visiting the school for individual appointments. However, this is not one of the options.

He doesn’t feel safe sending his kids out the door every day to the largest indoor gathering that anyone in Canada has attended for the last four months. “I plan on registering, although our family may have ‘flu-like symptoms’ every 14 days and forced to not be at school to meet safety requirements.” He’ll take home assignments and communicate with teachers at Mulvey, which he considers “an absolutely magnificent school.”

Melissa Bowman-Wilson is aware of several parents who have sought doctor’s notes to

access the remote learning option. One doctor said no, because a parent’s diabetes was under control. Her own doctor told her to come back in two weeks.

So, for parents who want to continue to support public schools, that leaves the first option: in-school instruction with safety measures.

All schools have issued 20-30 page documents explaining how they’ve spaced classrooms (most with 3-feet separation between students); made classes into cohorts which won’t associate with other cohorts; made masks mandatory in hallways and spaces outside the classroom; and other safety measures like hand-washing and using outdoor spaces for learning.

But for most parents, there are more questions than answers in the plans.

Add to this, the pending strike of bus drivers who have failed to reach a collective agreement with Winnipeg School Division; and the fact that Manitoba had 14 Covid hospitalizations on September 3rd, higher numbers than at the height of the outbreak in the spring (Manitoba now has the highest per-capita rate of Covid in the country), and you can be forgiven for wondering if the emperor has no clothes.

Paul Samyn’s daily Free Press Covid newsletter described school reopening

plans as “the wing and a prayer about to take effect.” As of Sept. 3, the “Safe September” movement had collected 17,600 signatures on its petition calling for better reopening plans.

Caught in the middle of all this are school principals, like Vinh Huynh at Gordon Bell, who are trying, and succeeding, in making the best plans they can. Gordon Bell is actually five or six schools. There are four remote alternative campuses. Since they’re based in community spaces with about 25 students each, they can accomplish physical distancing. There’s the Special Ed division—particularly important to operate on a face-to-face basis—whose students will enter through the school-bus door on Borrowman and have their own section of the school.

The Junior High is eight classrooms mainly on the third floor—although one teacher has opted to use the outdoor greenspace as a homeroom—and each class will remain a separate cohort of about 25 students.



Safe September March

High School (Grades 10-12) has been divided into two cohorts, one attending on school days 1, 3 and 5; the other attending on school days 2, 4 and 6; with assignments and remote learning options at home on the other days.

Vinh likes to quote Maya Angelou: “Do the best you can until you know better, and when you know better, do better.”

That could well be the motto for schooling in Manitoba in this strange September ahead of us.

Evictions continued

The committee will also work with tenants who are at the eviction stage and attend hearings at the rental tenancy branch to hear appeals.

Scott says the province seems to be leaving everything to the “mystical magic of the market.”

“A comprehensive housing policy that guarantees everyone decent and affordable housing would be a decent policy... people are still in a very bad situation and there needs to be support for them.”

The WBTC can be contacted through gmail at WBtenants@gmail.com or by phone at 431-334-9930. The committee is working with the Spence Neighbourhood Association and the North End Renewal Association.

Basic Income

Winnipeg Centre MP Leah Gazan has submitted a private members bill calling on the federal government to convert the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) into a permanent guaranteed livable basic income (GLBI).

“With the CERB coming to an end, and unemployment rates rising, we must ensure people have what they need to survive during and after the



Les Scott volunteers with the West Broadway Tenants' Association

pandemic. There is no more time to wait for government announcements for people to find out their fate with patchwork income programs that provide temporary solutions. We must legislate a long term and permanent plan. Motion 46 is designed to do just that, by including a guaranteed livable basic income alongside existing

and future programs in our social safety net such as affordable accessible social housing, healthcare, OAS, pharmacare, and universal childcare,” she writes.

To see the motion, go to leahgazan.ca/basicincome ~ The Leaf

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ART AND SOUL

Comedy hits really, really close to home. Really.

By Terese Taylor

Don't knock a Winnipeg love story. It's always where director Seam Garrity likes to set his movies, but to this day, he's never managed to escape an interview without the question; why set it there?

But even more to the point, this time around, Garrity admits that his latest movie practically wrote itself into Wolseley and West Broadway.

This young love story features its first time stars from the neighbourhood and three went to the university of Winnipeg Theatre program. Hera Nalam nurtured her interest in music and theatre at the Broadway Neighbourhood Centre's Just TV program, and now works there herself. Actor Kristian Jordan lives in Wolseley. Throw in musical direction by Murray Pulver also of Wolseley, and you're off! Head up to Raffie's Bar on Ellice and Erin, and you'll likely meet the actors who play Halam's parents in the romantic comedy, and be invited to sing a karaoke song.

Another new face to show outstanding talent is Matthew Paris Irvine

who plays Jordan's best sidekick, and Halam's sister Andrea Macaset, currently on hiatus from Broadway (yes-in New York) due to covid shut downs.

Winnipeg isn't really a small town, but the two characters discover that their ethnic communities are, and that can present some hurdles. In Halam's case it's because news of her whereabouts and actions spread like wildfire in her Filipino family's social network- and in Jordan's case-because he is a Mennonite from Morden- next to impossible to track down with the last name Friesen, in a phone book. The librarian (Morden's actual librarian) "due to privacy rules" isn't able to give out personal information.

But love will find a way. With a lot of learning and bumps along its course. After all, it is Winnipeg.

Garrity has had amazing success with some of his previous films - in particular *My Awkward Sexual Adventure* (filmed in Winnipeg with *Jonas Chernick*) - which has been remade in several eastern European countries and is now in production in Bollywood, one of the biggest film distribution networks in the world.



Kristian Jordan (left) and Hera Nalam, first time film stars, bring the story to life on screen. They were joined by a huge pool of local talent, particularly in the Filipino community, says director Sean Garrity.

You might know some of the local talent giving our city a reputation

We (Winnipeggers) may start to get a reputation.

Not only for the gangly lessons of lovemaking, but for touching and sweet declarations of our need to connect.

There are bits of magic in this film and it is well worth the trip to Cinema City Northgate or Odeon VIP McGillivray to see it. Its been a smash hit at the local

box office and its showing in Winnipeg may be extended. It is set to start showing in Toronto and Vancouver this week.

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Young United will not be holding in-house services until about Sept 20.

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Wednesday service of blessing resumes July 29, 9 PM on Facebook.

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WOLSELEYITES

Nurturing Community: Tall Grass turns 30

By Mike Maunder

Thirty years ago, Tall Grass Bakery opened in Wolseley for its first day. “Tall Grass is what you get when a community starts a bakery,” recalls Tabitha Langel, one of the founders. “I say to Wolseley – you started this bakery.”

Tall Grass was uniquely Wolseley in a number of ways. Tabitha believes there has always been an “alternative” ethos in the neighbourhood, going back to the days of J.S. Woodsworth preaching the social gospel and helping establish the forerunner of the NDP.

She and her husband Paul were attracted to Wolseley when they arrived in Winnipeg in 1981. They had heard there was a small group of Christians here who had decided to live nearby one another so they could share their lives more deeply than simply joining together on Sundays for church.

That group became Grain of Wheat community church. They held their first church service at 232 Home Street in 1981. In the early ‘80s, Grain of Wheat members chose Wolseley because there were big houses available cheaply so they could raise their families and live near one other. They shared a common meal once a week, worked together on neighbourhood projects, and helped one another with needs like child-care and renovations. Many members worked in ministry or non-profits and became key members of organizations like the Mennonite Central Committee, Habitat for Humanity, the Hope Centre in the North End, and others. Christian singer Steve Bell was one of many members who practiced their individual faith and vocation, strengthened by their connection to Grain of Wheat.

Around the mid-80s, Grain of Wheat became increasingly involved with farm issues. Lyle Barkman (also a founding member of the bakery) attended meetings discussing the plight of Manitoba farmers being pushed into poverty and suicide. The church was connected to groups like Mennonite Central Committee and the US-based Land Institute, which were helping farmers survive in the face of the growing forces of “agribusiness.”

A group from Grain of Wheat established their own farm. Church members travelled

back and forth: “City kids and country cows,” as Lyle called it. Grain of Wheat members promoted organic food and joined Harvest Collective, which had been established in 1978 in Wolseley. Harvest Collective strengthened them in their search for food justice – food that was good for the body but good for the farmer as well.

Many of the families baked their own bread and they decided one way they could strengthen their fellowship was to bake bread together. They created a bread-baking co-op in 1985. The members—including Wolseleyites not connected with the church—baked Saturday mornings at St. Margaret’s Church. Kids delivered the bread in little red wagons to a growing membership.

“St. Margaret’s was so welcoming,” said Tabitha. “The minister worked on his sermons every Saturday, and he told me he thought they were better sermons because he could smell the bread baking.”

They purchased their first mill, an 8-inch millstone, which enabled them to produce their own flour—stone-ground, whole-grain.

The creation of Tall Grass Bakery followed inevitably from all of these forerunners. They were streams of influence all converging in the Wolseley of the ‘80s—big, affordable houses housing a community church; people who wanted to live in ways that were healthy and good for the earth; the presence of Harvest Collective; and earlier bakeries like one of the city’s first vegetarian restaurants - Wheat Song Bakery - that pioneered the way. It was through these connections, and wider connections outward to the Land Institute, to farmers, to Mennonites and Hutterites (also living in Christian communities) that the bakery came to be.

“Each connection provided an area of support for a new venture,” explained Tabitha.

Stuart McLean, in a 2006 broadcast of CBC’s Vinyl Café, explained what happened next: “They went to the bank and explained they wanted to sell bread at \$2 a loaf rather than the going rate of 50 cents. They said they figured if you explained to people that you were charging more so you could pay farmers more, people would be happy to pay the extra. The bank told them this

was absurd. The bank said it wasn’t the way the world worked. So they got money from friends.”

And 30 years ago this month—Sept. 8, 1990—they opened.

They’re still going strong, now several mills, including a 26-inch mill at their Forks location. Their cinnamon buns have become legendary, touted at one

Chicago convention as “the best in the world.”

“One of our most precious connections is to the farmland,” explains Tabitha. “Every week farmers deliver and get to know some of our customers sitting around a table at The Forks. We know each other well, we make our contracts in the old-fashioned

way, sitting around a farmer’s kitchen table.”

Those kind of “country” values are an essential part of Tall Grass’s philosophy, honouring the earth, those who farm, those who work in the bakery, and those who come to enjoy the feast.

Tall Grass has traditionally been a first job



Top photo: Lyle Barkman and Tabitha Langel with one of their first mills.

Middle: “Country kids and city cows” -- Grain of Wheat kids visit a farm in the '80s.

Bottom: Staff at Tall Grass regularly visit farms -- here the family of De Ruyck's Organic Farm near Swan Lake share their supper table with staff from Tall Grass after a day in the fields.



continues next page -->

WOLSELEYITES



Top photo: 232 Home Street in the '80s.
Middle: Grain of Wheat in the early '80s.
Bottom: Tall Grass on opening day, 1990.



for many young people in Wolseley, and many have stayed for years. Tabitha and Lyle, along with co-owners Loic Perrot (baker) and Tabitha's husband, Paul, are confident these young people will continue the traditions and philosophy of Tall Grass for the next 30 years.

They're thankful for the way Wolseley and Winnipeg have supported the little bakery that opened 30 years ago. "We thank the goodness of the earth, the community of farmers, our staff past and present and all those who share our vision by supporting good food."

232 Home Street: A home with many memories

By Leuba Franco
and Mike Maunder

The stately home at the corner of Preston and Home Streets has been "making a statement" about its tenants for one hundred and eleven years. 232 Home has passed through three significant stages.

The first owners, Harry and Mary Speechly, surely had some magnificent social events in the capacious main floor entertaining rooms decorated with poppy-patterned wainscoting and egg/dart motifs over the doors. Servants descended by a private second floor staircase to cater to the family needs.

There must have been many parties. Mary was much honoured as the first woman to the Board of Governors at the University of Manitoba. A women's residence is named after her. A doctor, Harry ended his career as provincial coroner.

Guests would be impressed from the gate set in the perfect long-lived iron fence. If they looked way, way up, they would see the plain Greek Doric style columns on either side of the entry door which suggest good taste.

Multiple bedrooms and two bathrooms eased the

transition of the capacious house into its second stage – a home for "wayward" boys. It is speculated that the basement was used for "troublesome" boys. There is access to the basement from an outside ground level door, but, it is said, that the boys loved to escape through the attic window. Stories tell of their jumping onto the roofs of their next-door neighbours.

The third stage was Grain of Wheat community church. Grain of Wheat grew out of Christian movements in the '60s and '70s to create intentional communities--ways for families to strengthen their Faith by sharing lives together. In the case of Grain of Wheat, about a dozen families, mainly in the Mennonite tradition, decided to live near each other in Winnipeg in 1980. Half of the families had Winnipeg roots, half came from related communities as far away as Kansas and Hamilton.

In her history of Grain of Wheat written in 1991, Nancy Wood wrote: "The Wolseley area was chosen because of its proximity to

parks, schools and downtown as well as its having large, relatively inexpensive houses and apartment buildings."

Two families—Henry and Nancy Pauls, and Ted and Jackie Schulz—rented 232 Home Street and the community had its first worship service in its living room on Sept. 13, 1981: 22 adults and 20 children.

By 1982, membership had grown and the basement of 232 Home Street was renovated for worship. By 1990, the church had outgrown the house worship and Henry and Nancy Pauls bought the house.

In the 1990s, Nancy's mother, Irma Hiebert, moved in with the family, and over the years became known as the "Oma" of Wolseley. When she passed away in 2012, dozens of residents came to pay their respects.

In the *Canstar Metro*, correspondent Cameron MacLean told of the love that marked 232 Home Street, especially in the years when "Oma" lived there.

"No one ever need wonder if she loved them, he wrote. "She would grab your face with both her hands and tell you directly."



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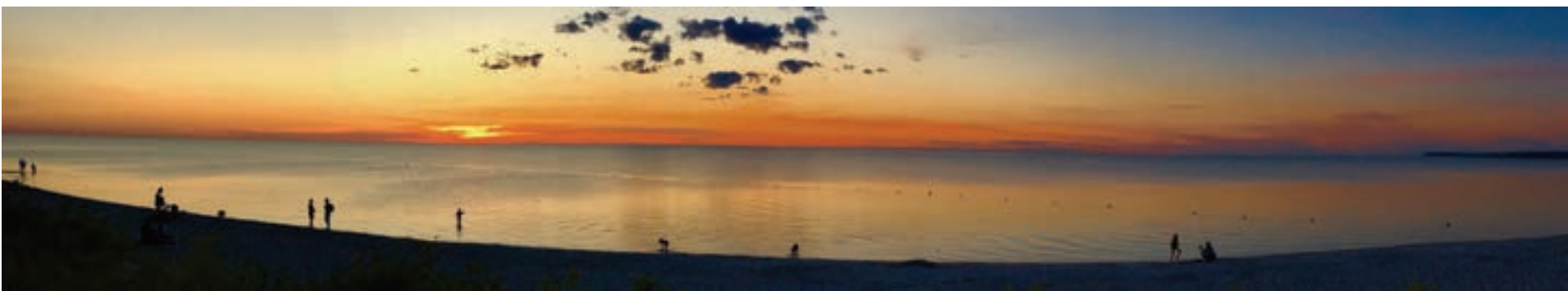
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ENVIRONMENT



CPAWS helps Manitoba’s wilderness with sustainable projects

By Terese Taylor

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society has helped to bring 38,000 kms of land under protection, much of it in the last 10 years. The area represents about one and a half times the size of Lake Winnipeg. Three projects that are its focus could bring that total up to 1/4 of the province.

At a time when people are questioning what the political situation means for the country - a minority federal government is pushing an ambitious strategy to establish areas that are protected for nature - Manitoba chapter executive director Ron Thiessen says “it’s hard to understate the opportunities that we have here.”

“The vast majority of our province is undeveloped and still has room for big large scale conservation and protection of wildlife habitats and sustainable

livelihoods that go along with that - protecting the beauty of Mother Nature for all our enjoyment,” announced Thiessen at the organization’s Annual General Meeting. “When I think about Europe for example, they’ve lost this opportunity. They are trying to save one percent of their original wild areas. They are fighting to re-wild 5% of Europe - that’s the dream.”

“They are fighting over scraps. We have an opportunity to learn from their mistakes and do it better here in Manitoba.”

Although Manitoba is considered a prairie province, only about 20% of the province is prairie land, the remainder is boreal forests and wetlands. Less than one percent of the original tall grass landscape is remaining in Manitoba, according to CPAWS, and as a result, says Thiessen, there are well over 20 endangered and threatened species that call the southern Manitoba prairies home.

Manitoba’s boreal forest is largely intact and healthy, however, and is home to wild

populations that are coming close to extirpation (meaning a population that is entirely disappeared from an area although populations in other areas are still alive)

“We have an opportunity to conserve over 8% of the province with the Seal River Watershed as it is still largely intact and healthy. It’s an exciting time to get the balance of conservation and sustainable developments right, especially with commitments from governments at the current time.”

Seal River Indigenous Protected Area

According to CPAWS, the Seal River watershed is one of the largest intact watersheds on the planet, and the largest intact watershed in Manitoba. It is one of the last undammed and free flowing rivers. The Hayes, Nelson and Churchill Rivers are all significantly affected by hydro developments, leaving the Seal River as one of the last of its kind in Manitoba, Thiessen explains.

CPAWS approached the Sayisi Dene community about creating a protected area, and their Chief at the time, Ernie Bussidor, went door to door to talk about and gain support for the project. The community has wholeheartedly responded with excitement and has continued to build partnerships towards its success. It is currently planned as a joint Cree, Dene and Inuit Indigenous protected area. “It is one of the few intact areas with big herds of barren-land caribou” says Thiessen.

Proposed Polar Bear Park

To the east of the watershed is a proposed polar bear park, “It was put on the table as a proposal by the Manitoba government in 2013. We have lost about 1/3 of our polar bear population over the last 20 years.” Says Thiessen. “The situation is somewhat urgent because we are losing our sea ice. Protecting the terrestrial habitat is very important as they include denning areas to give birth to their cubs and train them how to be successful adults.”

“The process to create the park was stalled, so we are working to kickstart it. We want to build public demand, and let the province and others know this is a great opportunity,” says Thiessen.

Fisher River protected area

The description of this area as the “kidneys” is apt, says Thiessen, because peat and other elements of the landscape do the job of filtering and cleaning excess nutrients - herbicides, pesticides, and phosphorus from agricultural runoff and other sources - before it enters Lake Winnipeg. It is an area that covers 11,000

km.² “Our goal is to establish a network of protected areas that will protect nature, culture, and sustainable economic opportunities. It’s a lot more complicated of a campaign. There are a lot of competing interests, a lot more people and a lot of developed landscapes. This particular area is especially important to the recovery of Lake Winnipeg.

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Local Theatre Festival returns with virtual and in-person events: FemFest 2020 runs from September 19 - 26

Winnipeg, August 31, 2020 - In just over two weeks, local audiences will enjoy diverse talent from across Canada during the eighteenth annual FemFest. The festival, which runs from September 19 - 26, features local talent and nationally-regarded theatre artists. With a mix of in-person and online shows, FemFest 2020: Engaging Community is set to be one of the most memorable yet.

"This is a chance for the theatre community in Winnipeg to reconnect," says Hope McIntyre, Artistic Director. "We're thrilled to be able to accommodate our fantastic touring artists with virtual shows while still hosting in-person events featuring local artists."

This year's touring shows, which can be viewed virtually, are:

Monstrous, a play created and performed by Sarah Waisvitz (Ottawa, ON) which asks the question: who are you when you don't know who you are? Integrating storytelling, multi-genre dance, music, song, projections, and audience interaction, the play is meant to be a hard-hitting provocation about "multiculturalism" in Canada.

Hailing from Tkarón:to, Ontario, bug is a 60-minute solo show about women of an Indigenous family navigating addiction and inter-generational trauma. Produced by manidoons collective, bug, has been nominated for four 2019 Dora Mavor Moore Awards including Outstanding New Play and Outstanding Performance in a Lead Role.

Winners of the 2019 Steamwhistle Producers' Pick at the Toronto Sketch Comedy Festival, Best Newcomer at the Montreal Sketch Comedy Festival, and the Second City Outstanding New Comedy Award, the Tita Collective will bring their show Tita Jokes to FemFest. A Filipinx focused musical sketch revue, the show features original music and laugh-out-loud sketch comedy.

Local audiences will have the chance to see live theatre at Assiniboine Park for Alice and The World We Live In, starring Ray Strachan and Elena Anciro, directed by Ann Hodges. The Dalnavert Museum at 61 Carlton St will also serve as a venue during FemFest for readings and cabarets.

Tickets are 15 dollars for single shows and a full festival pass is available for 50 dollars. We ask that folks check the schedule for dates and times, and read our COVID-19 protocols if attending an event in-person.

About FemFest: Founded in 2003 by Sarasvati Productions, FemFest presents the work of both established and emerging women and non-binary artists from across Canada.

About Sarasvati Productions: Founded in Winnipeg in 2000, Sarasvati Productions is experimental and transformative theatre that presents significant social issues; engages in

A busy day at the market

The Farmer's Market at R.A. Steen will be hopping Tuesday and Thursday afternoons until October 20.

Left: Johnathon Stevens of Jonathon's Farm.

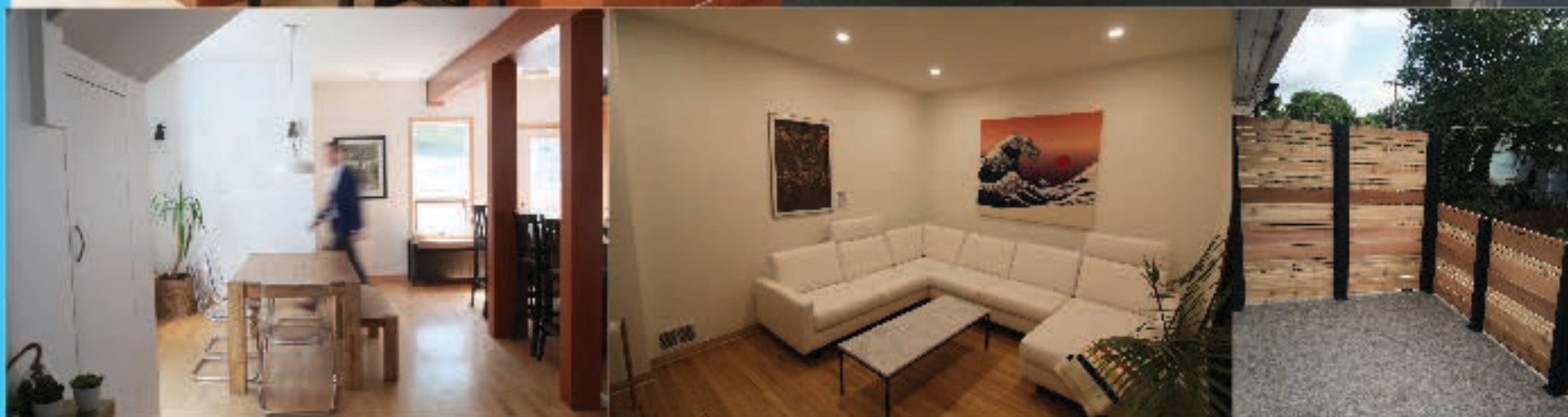
Below: Gareth and Sara (back); Nora and Adeline on shopping day.

Right: Bret Gordon sharpens knives.



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THE SECOND LAST WORD



"All labour has dignity" - Martin Luther King Labour Day 2020

By Paul Moist

Early September each year sees two guaranteed story lines. Both will be different this year.

One is the invariable back-to-school coverage which will be heightened this year, given COVID-19 and the general uncertainty of school re-opening after six months of shutdown.

The other is Labour Day, with coverage of labour celebrations, and the general nod to all 19 million workers who toil daily in Canada. The pandemic has sharpened coverage of work, especially that deemed essential.

At a macro-level the government shutdown of major portions of the economy saw nearly one-quarter of the workforce out of work. Federal income support programs prevented a full-scale depression.

While many workers have returned to their jobs, we are far from a fully functioning economy, and this won't return quickly given the continued presence of COVID-19.

At another level, the pandemic has laid bare the terrible daily work life thousands of workers face. In long-term care, the agricultural sector and the meatpacking sector we see a permanent under-class of largely immigrant and foreign workers, stuck in difficult jobs deemed essential. Jobs that pay poverty wages, have few benefits and even fewer pensions.

Over 80 per cent of the 9,000-plus deaths from COVID in Canada have occurred in nursing homes. The system is in tatters across our nation, underfunded, with large segments in the hands of private, for-profit firms.

The dominant employment classification in the sector are Personal Support Workers (PSW's). These are the workers who clean, feed and provide direct to care to patients. Many don't have full-time jobs as they are too costly in the eyes of employers.

The workers are forced to work at two or three different facilities to cobble together a full-time pay cheque. PSW's in Canada are largely women and many are workers of color.

Part-time PSW work is structural in the current system, exactly what you don't want during a pandemic like COVID-19. It is also dangerous work as thousands of health care workers have contracted the coronavirus and most of these have been PSW's.

The meatpacking sector has always been difficult, injury-ridden work. Forty years ago, it was fully unionized and decently paid. This began to change in the late 1970's, the work was transferred throughout North America from large city's to rural communities. Wages were forced down.

The business-model for this difficult, dangerous work sees turnover rates of near 100 per cent annually.

Today, the workforce includes many foreign workers. It too is largely racialized, and the sector has been on the front-line of the coronavirus pandemic.

Three workers have died from COVID-19 and hundreds have contracted the virus at work. Calls in both Alberta and Manitoba from the workers union, the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW), to shutdown plants experiencing COVID-19 spread went unheeded.

The brutal working conditions and the spread of COVID-19 were less important than the essential work of delivering meat products to Canadians. The bottom line is that corporations like Cargill and Maple Leaf have much more power than their workers do.

In the Agricultural sector some 60,000 foreign workers enter Canada each year to pick vegetables and harvest other

fresh produce for Canadian stores.

These workers earn low wages, live in cramped quarters and have no pathway to full citizenship, some have worked for the same farms for many years.

COVID-19 has hit these workers, particularly in southern Ontario. Three workers there have died, hundreds have contracted the virus.

There are media reports of employers asking (demanding?) that workers sign a document agreeing to self-isolate which means they don't leave the farm. No trips to the store to shop and no attending church. The employer is shopping for them and deducting the cost from their pay. Sort of like the company store, COVID-style.

Long-term care, meatpacking and agricultural work. All this work is low paid and has been deemed essential during the pandemic. The low pay and benefits are structural and represents the power imbalance between workers and employers. An imbalance that has always been evident but has reached new heights in the past 30 years in the era of rising global inequality.

The way forward for these workers, and others, is for them to organize, to assert their right to collective bargaining and their right to strike to back their demands for fair wages, benefits and working conditions.

American author and labour activist, Jane McAlevy in



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her new book, "A Collective Bargain", puts it this way:

"Power for ordinary people can be built only by ordinary people standing up for themselves, where they...use their collective intelligence and ingenuity to build solidarity and fight for human dignity."

She argues that the point of unions is, "...the political education, solidarity and confidence building among the many comes from people acting collectively, including strikes, for their own betterment."

This Labour Day all Canadians need to commit to support all workers and their moves to organize and achieve

dignity in their wages, benefits and working conditions, through strikes if necessary.

We might remember the words of Martin Luther King: "All labor has dignity...The labor movement did not diminish the strength of the nation but enlarged it....Those who today attack labor forget these simple truths, but history remembers them."

As a people and a nation, our own dignity is very much tied to that of all workers, including nursing home, meatpacking and agricultural workers.

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POSTECH

THE LAST WORD



*Left: Raymond (with blue gloves) and students.
Above: Marian El-Obeid beside her garden box.*

"The corn is as high as an elephant's eye." ...at Gordon Bell

by Mike Maunder

When you wander through the cornfields and garden boxes at Gordon Bell High School this summer, you definitely get the feeling you're not in Winnipeg's inner city anymore.

The corn is as high as an elephant's eye, the squash are spreading out huge leaves and the beans are climbing the corn stalks. And that's just in the Indigenous portion of the garden where the three vegetables—the three sisters—grow side by side.

"The corn supports the beans," explains teacher Raymond Ngarbu. "The squash shades out the weeds. The three sisters grow together, in balance."

Raymond learned the Indigenous custom of agriculture from elders who advised the school's Greening

and Community Action program.

Raymond and his students have grown plants from many traditions throughout the world to match the multicultural mix of students in the program. Raymond himself is from Chad. Grade 12 student Eveline Kabuha is from the Congo. She shows how her family uses pumpkin leaves to make "bichucha," a traditional Congolese soup.

With the help of a myriad of community partners, including Central Park Women's Resource Centre, the program is receiving funding from the Green Team program to hire 14 students for the summer. They're planting and tending many of the 42 garden boxes at Gordon Bell (many boxes are tended by community members). As well,

they're tending farm plots at the University of Manitoba and in Landmark. Every Saturday until the end of September, they're bringing their produce to a market in Central Park.

Wrench Bike Repair contributed by teaching two of the students how to repair bikes so they could add a bike repair element to the program. R.J., a Grade 12 Gordon Bell student, is at the market every Saturday to help kids and adults fix their bikes. "I try to teach them how to do it for themselves," he says.

Each day, after tending the gardens, the students go to private homes of seniors and people who need a bit of help and help them tend their properties.

Raymond started working the land at Gordon Bell

greenspace three years ago, when he was still teaching at Hugh John MacDonald School. Around that time, the world watched in horror as the Syrian government destroyed Aleppo. Marian El-Obeid and her family were farmers and cotton weavers and fled with thousands of others to Lebanon and ultimately to Canada, where her children attended classes at Hugh John MacDonald. They were among a group of Syrian refugees that Raymond enlisted to help clear the land at Gordon Bell, then overgrown with weeds. She's continued to help in the program and tends her family's own plot at Gordon Bell. Her son, Nawras, who now goes to Dakota Collegiate is in the program this summer.

Faridah Shams is a teacher at Gordon Bell who assists in the

program. Her roots go deep – she graduated from Gordon Bell and her mother still lives nearby.

"Our hope is that soon we will be able to have a farmer's market on our space," she said. "It's been so wonderful watching these last years as they worked to clear the weeds, build the boxes and harvest the vegetables."

And this year, the harvest is bountiful, says Raymond.

So bountiful that they encourage anyone in the Gordon Bell area to phone the school (774-5401) and leave their address with Raymond.

If you do, you may find a member of Raymond's team dropping off a box of vegetables.



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