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# THE LEAF



SERVING WOLSELEY AND WEST BROADWAY

AUGUST 2020

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## Dundurn Place takes a stand

### Supporting Black Lives Matter

by Terese Taylor

Dundurn Place, a one-block Wolseley neighbourhood street tucked between Walnut and Maryland, now has more than twelve Black Lives Matter signs across their lawns and boulevard and Ruth Swan, a senior who has made Wolseley her home for over 40 years, is hoping other streets will do the same.

She first saw Black Lives Matter (BLM) signs on a trip to Minneapolis several years ago. But after the murder of George Floyd in May by police, and the uprising of marches across the world, she decided to get signs printed to support the momentum of the BLM movement and provide funding to a local Black owned theatre and dance group for youth.

*Continues page 4*



Morgan Biggs incorporates Manitoba wild flowers - tiger lilies, sunflowers and oxide daisies, - monarch butterflies and a sunflower mandala on a bright new mural on Food Fare's front entrance. It might be located on the friendliest corner in the city, she says.

## Funding structures hinder changes to Winnipeg Police Service: Cindy Gilroy

by Nathan Dueck

The past few months have been politically tumultuous for the City's elected officials, with a newly-passed civic budget encountering harsh economic realities, a police service facing accusations of systemic racism in its interactions with minority and marginalized communities, and

calls to change the colonially-inspired names of some of Winnipeg's public buildings and streets. In an interview with the *Wolseley Leaf*, Councillor Cindy Gilroy discussed how she hopes the City will respond to these issues in the coming months.

Back in March, Gilroy and other members of City Council

passed a multi-year budget to provide longer-term financial planning than annual civic budgets typically offer. The economic downturn caused by COVID-19 has already upset the budget's revenue forecasts, however, which rely primarily on property taxes that will likely not

*Continues page 4*



Ruth Swan ordered Black Lives Matter signs and sold them to her neighbours on Dundurn Place.



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# THE FIRST WORD — EDITORIAL

**Food is meant to be shared: Audrey Logan**

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**No matter what your age, you're gonna love it**

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**The local characters at the local businesses Paul Moist remembers**

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Ideas for the kid's page can be sent to Terese at: [tt@wolseyleaf.ca](mailto:tt@wolseyleaf.ca)



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## *Naming and belonging*

Guest editorial by Lawrence Bird

Cities, and neighbourhoods, need a sense of history, and an identity; these help them become places. A name is important to how a place crystallizes in the imagination of the people who live there, and how a place is imagined by the whole city. Historical place names root us in place, and provide a historical perspective. This is often one of the reasons given for why we shouldn't change place names - doing that, people say, erases part of the past, and erodes our sense of belonging to a place.

It's often said of Wolsley that people take pride in living here, and have an affection for their neighbourhood. I myself feel this way - I grew up here, it's part of my background. Wolsley offers a lot to our way of life, easy access to supports we need for daily living, a pleasant environment, and good neighbours. The name of the neighbourhood helps create this sense of belonging. But we have to ask if aspects of our neighbourhood have the opposite effect - who is excluded from this "idyllic" environment? What if the name itself excludes them?

Who was Wolsley? I'm not a historian, but over the last few years I've looked into his story as part of the research for an art project about the Dominion Land Survey - the survey that cut up the prairies into a grid of farmland to allow the settlement of Western Canada. We know that Garnet Wolsley was the British commander of the Red River Expedition sent by the federal government to assert federal authority in Manitoba after the founding of the province. This despite the existence of a local government that represented the majority of people who lived here at the time: the (predominantly Métis) Provisional Government led by Louis Riel but also by many other capable local leaders - both anglophone and francophone, Indigenous and European. The prairies had gone from being run by the Hudson's Bay Company - based in the UK - to being run by the government - based in eastern Canada - completely skipping over the people who lived in our region and their claims to rights over the land. It's those people who were represented by the Provisional Government (based in Upper Fort Garry), and it's they that the army was sent in to quell. When the troops arrived they found Upper Fort Garry empty, and were able to assert federal control over the region. The New York Times was to describe what came next as a "military reign of terror" ("A Military Reign of Terror in Manitoba - Assault on the American Consul," *The New York Times*, June 12, 1871). Regular troops and volunteers took part in a well-documented series of beatings, murders and rapes that terrorized the local population.

Wolsley, who granted his troops free run of the city after their arrival, has been accused of complicity in this. There have been calls to recognize the central government as guilty of what were effectively war crimes that took place under his occupation of the city. The settlement of the prairies, which the Wolsley expedition made way for, appropriated a vast area of land from its First Nations and Métis inhabitants and relegated them to tiny little territories unwanted for European farms.

This is unfortunately the history commemorated by the name of our neighbourhood. Wolsley was lauded in his time for his efficient and effective assertion of British power not just here but around the world. He was the obvious choice for the name of a neighbourhood made up of people of European descent whose presence here was only possible because of him. Having his name on Wolsley neighbourhood (and avenue) helped assert their "right" to be here. But haven't we moved beyond that? We know more of our history now. People were in Winnipeg for thousands of years before Wolsley's arrival. They paddled along these rivers, traded with visitors from as far away as Louisiana, fished, hunted and farmed, nurtured a rich culture that survived and thrived here. All of that is erased by Wolsley's name.

To me what's most ironic is that what this name really represents is central control of our region from elsewhere. The Wolsley expedition put down a local government that had every claim to legitimacy. Is this the right precedent for our identity, our sense of place? Above all, is it a name that helps create a sense of belonging - or that excludes? Is that what we want for our neighbourhood, which can be so open and forward-thinking?

There are alternative approaches. This doesn't have to be about erasing colonial history - that IS part of our history too. More a matter of placing it in perspective. In New Zealand, for example, place names are often doubled - with both English and Maori components. We ARE kind of a hybrid society, after all.

I think it's time to ask people what other name would be appropriate for our neighbourhood. Any ideas out there? What place name would really reflect our history? What would really "belong"?

*Lawrence is an architect and urban planner at Sputnik Architecture inc. He has a media art practise, teaches, and writes for Canadian Architect magazine.*

### OUR MISSION

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

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# MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP



## *Taking care during Covid*

*By Winnipeg Centre MP Leah Gazan*

As we begin to reopen the Province of Manitoba, questions remain about how to best ensure that our COVID-19 numbers stay low. These are difficult but important questions. Families, friends and communities have been kept apart as a result of the pandemic. Schools, small businesses, and many community organizations have had to close their doors to the public as a health and safety measure. Many of our frontline workers have continued to work throughout the entire pandemic—our frontline heroes. As we are slowly able to venture out again, many remain cautious and vigilant in doing their part to keep numbers low. We have come so far and have made such great sacrifices. It would be tragic if we let our guards down completely, potentially resulting in a rise in cases of COVID-19.

This is the reason I decided to drive instead of fly to Ottawa to sit in the House of Commons on July 8, 2020. I had pressing questions I needed to ask related to individuals being cut off the CERB, the failure of the current Liberal government to adequately support small businesses, and ensuring adequate supports for seniors, students, and persons with disabilities. I felt that the risks of flying and having to be in airports was far too great. I was not so much worried about my own health and safety, but the health and safety of our community. So, I decided to jump in my car and drive the 4300 Km roundtrip to Ottawa. Many individuals thought I was nuts to take such a long driving adventure, however, these are unprecedented times and we must all do whatever is necessary to keep each other safe.

Upon my return, I decided to go for a COVID-19 test. Although I did not have any symptoms, as an essential service provider, I wanted to ensure that I was safe for our community. One of my biggest fears is to be an asymptomatic carrier and unknowingly infect someone else. Although I was concerned that I may be wasting the time of frontline health care providers, the nurse on duty firmly assured me that I was doing the right thing to protect the public. I

felt compelled to take the test, as the numbers of active COVID-19 cases in Ontario are much higher, and in fact rising. I don't think I could ever forgive myself if I failed to take all available measures to ensure the safety of others. At the testing site, there were many individuals waiting to take a COVID-19 test. I could not help but think about all the frontline healthcare providers, who are overworked, administering the same test over and over. I made sure to thank them for their sacrifice. They are going above and

beyond to care for our community. We must do our part to keep numbers low as to not further burden healthcare teams in Manitoba.

I am pleased to report that my test came out negative for COVID-19 and that the number of overall COVID-19 cases in Manitoba continues to remain low. Manitobans are a special kind of wonderful. I share that with pride after heading off to Ottawa and witnessing a trend of failing to properly maintain physical distancing or wear masks.

Perhaps that is the reason that our cases in Manitoba remain lower than other provinces. Manitobans are doing their part to care for each other.

With low numbers of COVID-19 cases in Manitoba, we are now reopening my office to the public for appointments. I am preparing to get back out in our community knocking on doors to check in with members of Winnipeg Centre. This has been a difficult time, and continues to be a difficult time, for many of

our neighbours. I have really missed seeing our community and I am excited to connect in person. So, let's keep doing what we need to do to reach zero COVID-19 cases in Manitoba. Please continue to follow public health guidelines and wear a mask, wash and sanitize your hands frequently, and stay home if you are not feeling well. We are all in this circle together and we must continue to care for each other.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Dundurn Place continued

"I think it's really important for middle class communities and non visible minorities to support it," she says, and "to let Black and Indigenous families know that they understand why they would fear for their children's lives."

Swan went door to door to sell the signs to neighbours

on her street and once people saw them she got several more requests.

"I think it's wonderful," says Leisha Strachan, owner of Anansi School for Performing Arts, who received funding from the sale of the signs.

"Our parents were excited to get the signs and very excited to put them on the street to make people aware of the BLM movement. There is a fear that we are going to talk about Black lives and then [focus on the issues] is going to die away by the fall. When we have signs and constant reminders, it keeps it in people's minds."

"We've seen an influx of street murals and art," added Strachan. "It shines a light on the artistic passions that people have and that is one part of Anansi we are really proud of - helping kids find those artistic passions. Whether it's drawing, music, dance, or drama, it allows people to lend their voices more. You might not be as comfortable talking about something, but if you can draw it, or perform it somehow, that is where people might shine and share their gifts with the community."

Strachan's school, open to youth of any background, uses the arts as a platform to educate youth about African and Caribbean history, but also



Leisha Strachan's (centre) company Anansi received an award for its contribution to Black History month in 2018

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keeps a strong connection within the Winnipeg BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour) community. "We try to bring it down to our community so they can make a connection - if they are having a show or an event we can contribute to or perform at."

Police violence is a central issue in the BLM movement and Swan says that it is a problem in Winnipeg. "What really sticks in my mind is that they killed that 16 year girl. I don't condone stealing from Liquor Stores, but you don't go and shoot someone just because they are driving a getaway car," she says of the shooting death of Eishia

Hudson by a Winnipeg police officer in April.

Swan calls the recent appointment of Marcus Chambers, Winnipeg's first Black City Councillor, as Chair of the Police Board a positive change, but the blocking of City Councillor Vivian Santos from the board very troubling.

She also worries about recent developments in the US.

Swan is hoping that other streets in the neighbourhood will take a stand. "I hope people will understand it is a legitimate struggle and people should support it," she says.

## Funding structures continued

be paid to the extent that was anticipated prior to the pandemic. Gilroy acknowledged that operating within the budget's parameters will require "difficult, hard times" in the coming months, and said that, if necessary, she would be open to discussions on property tax increases to ensure that city services are properly funded. However, she continued, the City's response to the pandemic is hampered by a lack of clarity from the provincial and the federal governments regarding the extent to which they will provide further economic assistance. "We're just not seeing the level of transfer from other levels of government to support municipalities," she said. "If there isn't that support from other levels of government, we have to look at other mechanisms that we have, and that includes our own property taxes."

This often poor working relationship between the City and Province has also hindered its ability to respond to growing calls to defund the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS), Gilroy suggested. Typically, advocates for police defunding demand that at least some of the police's budget be redistributed to social support infrastructure — and, in particular, social and mental health workers, who are usually better equipped to respond to many situations. The City's problem, according to Gilroy, is that social services and workers usually fall under provincial

jurisdiction. And, because Pallister's government has shown a general unwillingness to increase the size of government operations since taking office, it is difficult to imagine how any straightforward "funding transfer" from the WPS to provincially-operated social services would be undertaken. Gilroy also suggested that recent provincial actions are actively worsening the state of policing in Winnipeg: "especially during COVID-19, all I'm seeing is a download of social services to the City of Winnipeg that are not our responsibility, and asking us to do more, when the provincial government is not doing what it needs to do."

Even though the City's relationship with the Province makes proposals for police funding redistribution difficult to pursue, Gilroy said that various procedural reforms should still be made to the WPS. In fact, she suggested that pursuing reforms and increasing investments in social infrastructure were more worthwhile than trying to reduce the level of policing in Winnipeg. "We can always look at the police force and ask 'do we need as many as we have?' and we can have those conversations, but I think that depleting some of the police force isn't necessarily stopping what I think people are saying here," she said. "They're saying 'let's look at this procedurally. Let's make sure that we're investing in social programming, mental health, and poverty

reduction strategies,' because, at the end of the day, these all are causing some of the impacts that we're seeing here in the community."

Yet jurisdictional ambiguity over the WPS remains even in questions of reform, because the main body that provides oversight to the WPS — the Winnipeg Police Board — is comprised of members appointed by both the City and the Province. Because Gilroy is not a current appointee to the Board, she said, she has no official oversight role for the WPS. In fact, when asked whether, as a councillor, she has more responsibility over police conduct than any other citizen, she responded: "at times, I don't feel like I do... [and] I think this is an opportunity to improve that. If I don't, as a councillor, feel that I can really talk openly about the concerns I have, then how am I expecting our citizens to be able to?"

Gilroy says she was happy to hear discussions about renaming Wolseley School and Avenue — which are named after the British general whose military expedition to Manitoba ended Louis Riel's provisional government — noting that she was unaware that the name "Wolseley" had colonial connotations before the calls were made. She also said that she is excited for her new role as chairperson of the City's property and development committee, to which she was appointed by Bowman after a recent council shuffle.

## ART AND SOUL

# Indigenous-led garden welcomes community

By Myles Tiessen

**The Klinik Garden located in the heart of West Broadway has squash, raspberries, sage, growing together in organized chaos. The garden is run by elder Audrey Logan, land steward and educator, who joyfully shares the knowledge of Indigenous-led agriculture.**



**Audrey Logan (left) brings the Klinik West Broadway Indigenous-led garden to life throughout the year. Community members are invited to drop by to nibble, get their hands in the mud, or learn something new. Logan organizes harvesting through the seasons; which sometimes includes the winter months.**

Currently, Klinik garden is thriving on the east side of the old Klinik building. However, plans are in place to develop a new mixed-income apartment building in the very space the garden resides.

The new apartment will be affiliated with the housing project at All Saints Anglican Church next door.

Logan is optimistic for the future as plans are in the works to create a new permanent garden.

The old Klinik building will remain and the new garden will be created on its front lawn, nestled between the historic house and Broadway.

Current plans for the redevelopment of the garden doesn't only mean a shift of plants from the east side to the south side of Klinik building. In fact, very little will be carried over. Logan says she has been saving seeds from previous years with hopes of planting those. A fresh start with a connection to the past.

There will also be stone pathways through the garden and seating for gathering around a fire or raspberry bush, which Logan says fittingly represents the heart. She hopes the new garden will bring more life and hope to an already dynamic community.

Just like the current garden, the new one will also

follow permaculture methods. Permaculture or permanent culture is a technique that honours traditional Indigenous agricultural practices to support the long-term health of the land.

The idea of permaculture agriculture is essential to Logan. For her, it's not merely an ethical way to grow food. It's about culture and heritage. Logan says, "[Permaculture] is a regenerative system that's always been around, and we need to get right back to."

Reclaiming the heritage of the food is the driving factor for Logan. She says much of the plants and food Europeans came to grow in Canada, Indigenous people had already been growing for thousands of years. "And archeology is finally starting to show that" she says, referencing the recent discovery near Brandon of modified Bison shoulder blades used for hoeing.

"We need to get that pride back in indigenous agriculture," says Logan.

Logan recognizes that there is still much work to be done on the new garden. With the construction of the apartments starting this coming spring, the race is on to harvest, give plants away, and cut down trees.

The work is worth it to engage and help the community, says Logan.

"Food was never meant to be a commodity; it was always shared."

More information can be found on the West

Broadway Community Organization website. Donations are currently being raised on a GoFundMe page. Logan is proud of the community's generous support.

While discussing the method of permaculture, Logan says, "It's about

giving back to the soil so it can do what it needs to do." Anyone who has interacted with Logan or seen her work, giving back doesn't simply stop with the garden. Substitute the word *soil* for *the community*, and you can see what is at the heart of this project.

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# CYCLING

## *Raving about Routes; Young and old discovering new freedom on our old converted streets*

By Terese Taylor

Cyclists of all ages are raving about the new bike path connecting Omand's Creek to St Matthews Avenue; and the newer collection of cycling pathways throughout Winnipeg.

Bev Peters said she thought she would be an old woman before she saw any nice bike paths connecting up the neighbourhood. Brooklynn Taylor-Clark, 50 years her junior, wasn't really planning on doing any cycling, but an opportunity came up when she saw a man hauling out dusty bikes from under his porch.

"Are you selling those?" she asked, but he wasn't.

"You can have it, he said!"

Since then she has made up for the lost time the bike spent in storage under his house - putting on more than 3000 kms since May. "Biking is so fun- I never realized," she says. "Beautiful Manitoba, beautiful bike paths!" It's a great way to explore at a time that people are social distancing, she says, and will get you a great sleep to boot.

"You can see other people's rides on the app

STRAVA," she says, which she has used to track her mileage, keep track of her progress and note particular sections of routes that she likes. "I never expected I would bike this much."

She has also used it to record some unexpected natural encounters. On the Duff Roblin Bike Way, thousands of grasshoppers were out one day; one hopped on her handlebars and caught a ride for seven whole minutes. Another time an

*continues next page*



*Top photo (left) Brooklynn Taylor-Clark discovered she loves cycling quite by accident and has cycled more than 3000 kms in two months. Bev Peters (top right) says cycling keeps you young! New cycling routes are well marked to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians, (centre and photo below) but take some getting used to. Give yourself time to explore new routes.*







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# CYCLING

absolutely huge gaggle of geese were in the same area and it took ten minutes to clear the path.

After trying paths within city limits, and getting comfortable with their length - she has begun to venture down Manitoba highways; her farthest trip has been out to Winnipeg Beach. It takes a whole day to do that route there and back; it is much farther than her average of 40 kms per day.

Peters says she loves the new overpass heading from Omand's Creek north towards St Matthews Avenue, which then continues west towards Silver St, (by some golf courses and historical airplanes) through St James, until a south turn down along Sturgeon Creek. She has been so pleased that she shouted out a thank you the last time she saw a construction crew working on the route.

I just love it," she says. At 70, she still considers herself young, and is taking full advantage of the safer protected lanes.

Peters and Taylor- Clark agree that there is something extra special about that particular 24 km route; both say it is their favourite route in the city and well worth the ride. They suggest some tips to newer cyclists: ride early in the morning when it's less windy and pack snacks and water. Geese have discovered they like the bike paths too. They can stop cars on the road, and they'll definitely stop your bike. Be flexible with your well-laid plans.

*Have you found a route you love? Let The Leaf know at [info@wolseyleaf.ca](mailto:info@wolseyleaf.ca) or call 204-771-3882.*



*Nicole Furlotte cruises through Omands Creek on her electric bike taking advantage of the good weather (top right). The geese like it too (right), taking full advantage of the meandering Creek just over the Portage cycling overpass. You are likely to encounter them on a cycling trip.*

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# ENVIRONMENT

## Love them and leave them - in the wild!

By Jacquie Wasney

Snakes are fascinating creatures! Found in most parts of the world and with a family tree that boasts nearly 3000 species, snakes are among the oldest of earth's inhabitants. These legless wonders vary greatly in length and weight. The Barbados Threadsnake, for example, grows to a few inches while a reticulated python can grow up to 30 feet. The heaviest snake is the Green Anaconda who can weigh over 500 pounds when fully grown.

Snakes contribute to biodiversity and the natural balance of their local environments. They are predator and prey, helping to keep populations of small animals and insects in check and serving as food for a variety of mammals and birds.

On July 16, a little Wolseley library celebrated World Snake Day with a special display of snake books, rubber snake toys, and tattoos. Special conservation



days such as this help bring attention to the beauty and natural benefits of the world's snakes, but also serve to remind us of the growing threats to their survival.

Humans remain the greatest threat. Habitat loss, leading to greater human-animal interactions and the

subsequent control measures, is a growing concern for the survival of many species of snakes. There is, unfortunately, an even greater human-based threat to their survival and the survival of millions of other animals as well.

It is estimated that the global trade in wildlife includes almost 25% of species of mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles. One in three animals will soon be affected if this rapidly growing, multi-billion dollar industry is not challenged. The commercial trade in wildlife threatens the ecosystem balance and the gains made in

endangered wildlife conservation.

Consumer demand for purses, belts, shoes, cosmetics, meat, pets, medicines and tourist trinkets is all too often met through cruelty and crime. For the animals that are not slaughtered for their skins, scales, horns, tusks or other body parts, their fate is life in confinement.

Drafted in 1975, the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) includes More than 30,000 species of animals and plants

CITES is a commercial trade agreement and, as such, has weaknesses when it comes to protecting the lives of wildlife. The costs of monitoring for illegal activity and enforcement are staggering, especially given that the supply chain can cover thousands of miles and involve millions of animals.

Canada is responsible for ensuring our import and export laws protect animals and control illegal trade. As it stands now, however, local municipalities are largely responsible for drafting, regulating and enforcing their own by-laws for the import, export and protection of

animals used in commercial trade.

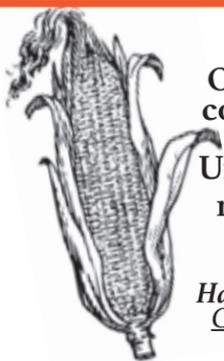
The harms caused by the wildlife trade are widespread. Exotic animals, those that are not indigenous to a local area, can cause harm to indigenous species and their habitats if they escape confinement or are abandoned as pets. In addition, zoonotic diseases can be spread from animals to humans through close contact or exposure to the secretions or fluids of wild animals.

Consumers have a big and vital role to play in stemming the tide of global wildlife trade. By learning the origins of the products we use, and supporting global, locally-based, economic initiatives that offer sustainable alternatives to poaching and trafficking, we will see justice not only for animals but for marginalized communities as well.

Consider supporting the education campaigns of organizations, such as World Animal Protection, Zoocheck and Animal Justice, that are working on behalf of exploited wildlife.

Animals must have the right to the fullness of a free and natural life. The health of our planet depends on it.

Happy World Snake Day!



### Corn for a Cause

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The 1919 Winnipeg General Strike - Brookside Cemetery Walking Tour was a 2019 commemorative project on the centenary of the general strike. The guided tour takes about two hours and participants will meet 15 citizens connected to the general strike, still the seminal event in Canadian labour history. Plans for this year include the following dates:

- Sunday, June 28th, 2020
  - Sunday, July 26th, 2020
  - Sunday, August 30th, 2020
- All tours start at 12pm noon.

Participants must pre-register prior to the above scheduled dates by contacting Paul Moist at [paulmoist@gmail.com](mailto:paulmoist@gmail.com) (204) 793 7285.

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- **Free Music day camps**  
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- **Playroom - respite care** (by appointment)  
- **Outdoor activities** will be posted daily on Facebook  
Info: [204-560-3141](tel:204-560-3141) [wolseleyfamilyplace.com](http://wolseleyfamilyplace.com)



## Wolseley Residents' Association plans to hold outdoor AGM on August 18

By Marianne Cerilli

The WRA is hosting our AGM this year COVID style - outside with physical distancing. Come to Vimy Ridge Park **Tuesday, August 18** at 7pm with a lawn chair or a blanket. There will be information about the new WRA Green Space Committee Community Garden going into Vimy Ridge Park. Plus, in response to various local issues this year the meeting will feature a discussion of community input into decisions about green space.

The guests confirmed include David Domke City of Winnipeg, Manger, Parks and Open Spaces, Pam and Ron from OURS Winnipeg, a group working for a Greens Space Master Plan for Winnipeg, Morgan Vespa City of Winnipeg Manager, Office of Community Engagement and Councillor Gilroy has been invited. The first 30 in attendance get a free ice cream sandwich donated by Ruby West Cafe.

Recently a removal of the tot-lot on Westminster near Ethelbert caught parents and kids by surprise along with the loss of green space at Dominion Park when a lease agreement lapsed and the property changed owners. There is currently a riverbank stabilization underway across the creek and tracks and ongoing changes at Vimy Ridge Park. Over the years Wolseley has had a number of other examples of partnerships with the City such as designing Aubrey Park and of course thenow legendary proposal for a big bridge across Omand's Creek. In all of this the common denominator has been the desire for more community gardens and green space access; the community wants to know about plans ahead of time, and wants a say in those plans.

Come to the meeting and find out what the current policy is for various green space changes and discuss how to ensure public green space has public input.

The World Health Organization [36] recommended the availability of a minimum of 9 m2 of green space per individual with an ideal (urban green space) UGS value of 50 m2 per person. These statistical values correlate with a number of UGS standards, including: (1) linkages between sustainable cities and better health, (2) core health indicators to monitor progress and identify success, (3) expanding indicators values (e.g., governance indicators, access to health and sanitation services, food markets and urban infrastructure for social, recreation and livelihoods), (4) adding value to health indicators and (5) feasibility of data reporting via cross-cutting issues (e.g., equity, governance and climate change).

An example of an ideal compact city is Ljubljana, Slovenia, awarded the 2016 European Green Capital, in which almost 560 m2 of UGS is available per inhabitant and virtually all its residential zones lie within a 300 m radius from public green space [41]. The panel is especially relevant given the given the review of Our Winnipeg to meet the challenge of improved access to green space while increasing urban density. If it is raining we will post on our website and social media a link for a zoom AGM.

## Young United Church

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# POINT OF VIEW

## It's time for a basic income guarantee

by Jacquie Wasney

When the architect and accessibility rights activist, Ronald Mace coined the term universal design, he envisioned a world of user-centred design where buildings, amenities, products and services take into account the fullness of human diversity.

Consumer advocates are fully aware of the benefits of a marketplace that relies on the principles of good design. In a just and sustainable marketplace, consumer participation is enhanced through flexible and accessible information, education, and technology.

A threat to marketplace justice and sustainability, however, continues to be the levels of income insecurity and inequality that exist in Canada and around the world. Low incomes can severely restrict access to the marketplace challenging food security, housing stability, and the ability to meet basic household needs. The consumer interest is the cornerstone of a viable market economy, but is weakened when consumer participation is limited. Every voice is needed.

Despite many services and programs designed to alleviate income inequality, unmet housing needs and food insecurity, poverty rates in Canada have remained at roughly 10% for the past fifty years.

When income insecurity restricts choice, hope and dignity are often at risk. For households that rely solely on chronically low social or income assistance benefits, the negative health effects associated with low incomes are further exacerbated. Canadians who rely on these incomes are more likely to report a poor or fair quality of health and significantly higher levels of distress, depression, and hypertension compared to those with higher incomes. Further, existing health conditions or chronic illnesses worsen for people with low incomes (Vozoris, N. T. & Tarasuk, V. S. J of Public Health, 95(2) 2004). Recent reports suggest that poverty accounts for approximately 20% of healthcare spending in Canada (Canada without Poverty – Canada sans Pauvrete, 2012).

Between 2017 and 2019, the Ontario Basic Income Pilot

Project was conducted in several Ontario communities, including Thunder Bay and Hamilton. The project used a simple tax credit system to increase the annual incomes of 4,000 participants, aged 18 to 64. The base income amounts were \$16,989 for an individual and \$24,027 for couples. These amounts were reduced by 50 cents for every dollar of earned income. The annual income threshold for participation was \$34,000 for individuals and \$48,000 for couples.

The results of the participant surveys and interviews, conducted by

researchers at McMaster University, were quite telling. Approximately 80% reported better overall physical and mental well-being. As well, half of the participants reported decreased alcohol and tobacco use and roughly one third reported fewer visits to medical clinics and hospitals.

Ensuring everyone receives a sufficient basic income is not only good consumer policy it is good health policy as well.

Canadian society will struggle to meet the demands of a changing world if

the injustice and chronic economic inefficiencies of income insecurity and inequality are not addressed. The effects of climate change, advances in technology and the influences of globalization will continue to challenge the ability of many households to meet income requirements (Competing Justifications for Basic Income, Van Parijs, 1988).

We can eliminate income insecurity in Canada. The benefits are great and the solution is so simple

Jacquie Wasney lives in Wolseley

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## LETTERS to the EDITOR

### Outpouring of love for Gordon Bell teacher

I cried while reading your article on Kelly Reimer of Gordon Bell school. I don't have a school-age child yet, but I will soon, and I hope he will have teachers like Mr. Reimer.

I feel like Gordon Bell has seen an absolute revitalization in my lifetime, and I hear so many good things about what they are doing there. I'm sure this is largely on account of teachers who understand student's realities, and embrace different cultures, learning styles, identities...

Thank-you for writing this story & shedding light on the unsung heroes :)

Rebecca Ford

Send your letters to:  
**The Leaf Letters,**  
**152 Walnut Street,**  
**Winnipeg, MB R3G 1P1**  
 or to  
[info@wolseleyleaf.ca](mailto:info@wolseleyleaf.ca)

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# THE SECOND LAST WORD



## Growing up in Wolseley - a store on every corner

By Paul Moist

Growing up in this community in the 1960's saw our family patronize many local businesses. It indeed seemed like we had a store on every corner.

Gone, but not forgotten:  
**Osmond's Grocery**  
(49 Arlington St.)

Beginning in late 1922 as George Capatas' Arlington Grocery, for the next six decades, a corner store operated just south of Wolseley Avenue at 47 / 49 Arlington St.

I remember it as Osmond's Grocery in the 1960's with Harry Osmond then in his 80's and his daughter Babe. These were the days when children could buy cigarettes for their parents and when the return of two soft drink bottles would yield four cents which could buy a small bag of penny candy.

Babe had her every-present Export "A" plain cigarette in her mouth, and she knew every customer by name. The store was converted a few years back to a residential dwelling.

**Express Grocery**  
(859 Westminster Ave)

The present site of Tall Grass Prairie Bakery has been many businesses over the years. I remember it as Express Grocery in the 1960's.

**McKnight's Drug Store**  
(871 Westminster Ave)

Operated by Pharmacist Cec McKnight, this store (the present site of Prairie Sky Books) was a hub in our local community.

Prescriptions could be obtained here along with a cold drink from the Coca Cola cooler, the old-fashioned style full of water to cool the drinks. McKnight's also had the largest comic book collection in the neighbourhood and at any one time you could find kids' reading the latest releases on site.

**Lenore Grocery**  
(49 Lenore St.)

Located just south of Wolseley Avenue, directly across from Laura Secord School, Lenore Grocery was operated by a woman name Cookie in the 1970's. It was a popular spot which closed and then the building itself was torn down many years ago.

**Lipton Confectionary & Lunch** (162 Lipton St.)

Located just south of Westminster directly across from the Fire Station, was an establishment that we referred to as Lipton Lunch Bar, though this was never its official name. It had a 1950's style lunch counter and was a popular spot, it too had a large comic book display. Today, it

houses one of our newer community businesses, Harvest Barbershop.

**Tony's Barber Shop & Sherbrook Shoe Repair** (68 Sherbrook St.) Today this is Waltz On In Barber Shop, the shoe repair business is long gone.

Customers entered the shoe repair shop in the side door which proceeded directly downstairs. There were shoes and leather products everywhere and the proprietor, Mr. Chiapetta seemed to know where everything was. We took our hockey gloves there to be re-palmed. I can still remember the smell of the shop and the quality workmanship of its owner.

**Clayton's Sherbrook Hardware Store** (116 Sherbrook St.) Located just north of Westminster Ave., the current site of Stella's, Clayton's Hardware store was a hub of activity. I recall many trips to the store with my Father. On one occasion the store was selling Bobby Hull CCM curved hockey sticks for the exorbitant cost of \$5.99.

I begged my Dad, who just laughed on two counts. One the price, which he felt was outrageous, and two, why on earth would anyone need a curved hockey stick?

**Still Serving Our Community:**

**Barchet's Grocery** (866 Westminster Avenue).

The Barchet family lived on site and ran this corner store in the 1960's. The store still operates today but is under

different ownership.

I remember the family moving to Palmerston Avenue. Each of the Barchet children worked in the store and I recall it's owner, Paul Barchet, being a big supporter of Laura Secord Winter Carnivals and other local events.

**Laura Secord Grocery**  
(967 Wolseley Ave.)

Located directly across from the school is a longstanding corner store that remains in operation. We always referred to it as Mac's but this was never its name. Mac was the proprietor and a neighbourhood institution who knew most customers by name.

Right next door at 965 Wolseley in the early 1970's was another business, **Hart Electronics**. Its owner, Gerald Hart was not a fan of Manitoba's first NDP government. His front windows were full of hand drawn posters in opposition to all NDP decisions. The store long ago closed. It is a reminder of the dynamic politics of our community.

Our community has always had a diversity of small businesses that residents supported strongly. The makeup of the businesses has changed, but the skill and community spirit of the operators remains an important part of the uniqueness of our Wolseley / West Broadway areas.



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# THE LAST WORD

## Service dogs learn new tricks by example

By Terese Taylor

The use of dogs to assist blind people with their daily chores is something that has been well known for almost a century. But the use of service dogs for other disabilities or conditions has been expanding rapidly over the last decade.

A group of service dog owners has been meeting in the neighbourhood and has created a training support group; where older more experienced service dogs can teach younger pups their tricks.

"I have a condition called postural orthotic tachycardia," says Wolseley resident Kai Smith. "It causes the heart to beat faster. She can let me know when my heart rate gets faster than 100 beats a minute," Smith says, pointing to her dog, and explaining that the condition sometimes causes her to faint. "She can get help or give me enough time to lay on the floor before I pass out."

Smith's dog is a Husky Bordercollie mix, but almost any dog can become a service dog. The dog owners met on a sunny Friday evening recently at Mulvey School's green space. In fact, only two of the dogs in the group came from a dog breeder or are purebred. Another member of the group found her dog on Kijiji and another from the humane society.

Service dogs also come in a variety of sizes depending on what they may be needed for.

Nadine Albright says her (larger) dog will paw her chest when she senses that she needs to be alerted. But a smaller dog might jump on their owner's chest to let them know that they need to give attention to something happening. Service dogs can be trained to use their exceptional hearing, and sense of smell, to alert people to chemical changes that signal the onset of seizures, migraines, or for diabetics, high or low blood sugar levels.

Elyssa Borges explains the use of service dogs for mental health issues developed from their use in treatment for military personnel with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Their use has expanded to people who experience extreme anxiety, or are on the autism spectrum. Borges has asthma, and her dog will alert her to an impending asthma attack, or bring her inhaler when she needs it.

The group gets together to teach the dogs through example. "Its monkey see monkey do," says Borges. "Its easier to train them in a group,"

They visit different locations to get dogs familiar with different situations that might come up. "Today we are working on manners in the park," says Borges.

"They are learning the difference between work and play," says Smith. "When they come to the park without their (work) vest they get to roll around in the grass. But when they have their vest on, they don't get to do that unless their mom says they can," she adds.

To inquire about service dogs and meeting with the group, email Elyssa Borges at [elyssaborges09@gmail.com](mailto:elyssaborges09@gmail.com).

**Kai Smith, Elyssa Borges and Nadine Albright (left to right) share experience with their service dogs at the park.**



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