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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020!



Beautiful light display at the Manitoba Legislature commemorates Manitoba's 150th anniversary, and is just a walk away, writes Mike Maunder. See story page 3.

Talking 2019 with Brian Bowman “Progressive movements & Byzantine taxation”

By Nathan Dueck

In a year-end interview with the Wolseley Leaf, Bowman spoke at length about the Civic-Provincial relationship, race relations in Winnipeg and addressing the global climate crisis. Throughout the interview, he often implicitly positioned himself in contrast to Premier Brian Pallister, who's fiscal policies have impacted civic operations for much of Bowman's mayorship.

Bowman argued at length that one of the political challenges faced by Winnipeg is a lack of clearly-set jurisdictional roles and responsibility between the City and Province. This inter-governmental ambiguity spilled over into the press in 2017, when Pallister's provincial government cancelled a long-time funding agreement with the City in

which both each funded 50% of Winnipeg Transit's budget, leaving the City with a greater budgetary burden (the Province still gives the City a lump-sum equivalent to their 2016 portion, but this amount does not account for rising wages, services, inflation and the since-implemented carbon tax). In the months that followed the Province's funding decision, City Council voted to increase transit fees, to the dismay of many Winnipeggers who saw the hike to be discouraging to commuters and harmful to the poor. Yet many found the question of where to voice their discontent to be unclear — did the fault lie primarily with the City, which operated Transit and set the fee amounts, or the Province, whose funding cuts precipitated the hike? To Bowman, the episode was one

of many that highlighted the jurisdictional ambiguity of the City and Province. Their shifting and nebulous roles, he told the Leaf, “do not align with the expectations of citizens in a modern era.”

The Mayor hopes to address this ambiguity in two ways: first, by conducting a core services review (currently underway) in an attempt to clarify the City's own responsibilities. He noted, in discussing this review, that transit is not a legislated entity, implying that it was not currently a core service in a strict sense, although he reaffirmed its critical role in Winnipeg's infrastructure. Second, by advocating at the Legislature for a restructuring of the City's revenue streams, which he called “Byzantine.” According to the Mayor,

Continues page 4

Meth solutions from the inner city and West Broadway

By Mike Maunder

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) singled out West Broadway as a leading light in finding solutions for Winnipeg's “meth crisis” in the December release of its 15th annual State of the Inner City report.

CCPA lead researcher Ellen Smirl said the report sees meth as a “social crisis” with roots in systemic issues like poverty. Present government policies tend to treat the individual, whether through an addictions approach, or a policing and enforcement approach. The report emphasizes that real, lasting solutions need to deal with systems and strengthen communities.

“We must create communities where people can experience a sense of hope, in their daily lives, otherwise we will continue to fight an uphill battle,” Smirl said in a statement accompanying the report.

Quoting British journalist Johann Hari's observation — “The opposite of addiction isn't sobriety, it's connection.” — Smirl emphasized that solutions should not just treat the individual, but ensure they find connection and belonging, meaning and purpose, in the communities around them.

Smirl said strengthening communities means tackling issues like affordable housing, lack of employment

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Music, Black history, community building; Gerry Atwell's legacy lives on in West Broadway

Holidays are over. See what your reps are up to - Writing from the heart at Gordon Bell

Gerry Atwell brought people together, was an ambassador for our community page 5

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

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THE FIRST WORD — EDITORIAL

Treaty acknowledgement: Empty words and continuing marginalization

Guest editorial

Every morning students like us listen to the PA system. We listen to the same words saying, "Out of respect for the Indigenous People of Manitoba we at The Winnipeg School Division recognize the schools we attend reside on Treaty One land known as First Nations Territory, also known as the Homeland of the Metis Nation."

These words highlight the importance of acknowledging the fact that the land we stand on is not ours to claim. We, as a society, have been working towards the idea of reconciliation, but why is it that even after all this recognition and work towards reconciliation Indigenous people are still being marginalized? Indigenous people in Winnipeg are being dispossessed and are still being deprived of their own land. This is exactly what CentreVenture is doing.

CentreVenture is a corporation; a group of people with power and privilege that has been constructing a plan to change the predominantly Indigenous population of downtown. They have developed a specific picture in mind that would cater to a specific class and group of people, and with this idea, they have managed to marginalize the Indigenous.

In an attempt to change the large Indigenous population of downtown, CentreVenture has slowly been eliminating both low-income spaces and Indigenous spaces. To attain this "luxury vision," they have revitalized or constructed new luxury buildings within the area. They have also purchased and demolished low-income housing for their own benefit.

CentreVenture had proposed SHED (a Sports, Hospitality, and Entertainment District) to be its focal point along Portage Avenue. This enclosed area was reimagined to appeal to tourists and professionals – to attract a crowd that shared the same class as CentreVenture itself. SHED was going to be the moneymaker of the area. With the help of tax increment financing (TIF), as well as public money, CentreVenture started to turn their plans into reality. These projects would include the \$20 million Met renovation, the MTS Centre, which was built with the help of \$40 million in public money, and CentrePoint, which was a \$130 million development. Our very own Gordon Bell Off Campus students were affected by CentrePoint's development. The building in which our students were studying in was demolished to build CentrePoint's parkade. Our students were deprived of a place for education.

It is obvious that these luxury buildings were not made for the low-income families that surrounded the area. Though these buildings were built in the downtown, they did not serve a purpose for the residents in the area. Instead of catering to the dominant population, CentreVenture, along with their connections, had continued to marginalize them.

As documented in Owen Toews' *Stolen City*, they considered the existing community a problem that prevented them from reaching their true potential.

To further change the demographics of people who frequent the area, CentreVenture purchased buildings that predominantly housed First Nations families with the intent of demolishing them to make way for new infrastructure more suitable for SHED, the envisioned focal point along Portage Avenue. Hotels near SHED such as the St. Regis and Carlton Inn were targeted. These buildings provided over 200 affordable housing units for First Nations families that would visit the city for medical care.

CentreVenture's downtown project has been a clear visual representation of how Indigenous people are slowly being marginalized. Recognizing that we stand on Treaty One Land is not enough. Reconciliation cannot be achieved by CentreVenture's attempt at "changing the demographics of downtown" by constructing luxury buildings and demolishing affordable housing units.

The idea of reconciliation cannot work if the people in our community continue to stand behind empty words and watch Indigenous peoples be marginalized and dispossessed.

*Jane Santa Ana is a grade 12 Gordon Bell student. Her article was inspired and informed by Owen Toews' *Stolen City: Racial Capitalism and the Making of Winnipeg* (Winnipeg: ARP, 2018). Owen himself is a Gordon Bell grad (2004), who subsequently completed his Ph.D. in Geography at the City University of New York (CUNY). He took Jane's class on a CentreVenture walking tour this fall.*



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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INTREPID

Where the shovelling ends - a wilderness river walk

by Mike Maunder

NOTE DISCLAIMER: The Leaf does not endorse any of the activities described in this article. The article is for general informational purposes only and is not meant to provide information for anyone undertaking hazardous journeys. The Leaf does not provide any kind of fitness, health, recreational, engineering, structural or any other advice. Before taking any walk, we encourage you to consult with appropriate professionals. The use or reliance of any information contained in this article is solely at the reader's risk.

One bright winter afternoon recently I went to The Forks, planning a walk back along the Assiniboine River through Wolseley and over the Omand's Creek footbridge to Polo Park.

Imagine my dismay when I walked down the big stairs leading to the river and found...

Nothing!

The shoveled walk ended, and the route was blocked by a barricade.

I was well aware that because of the high river levels this fall there would be no river walk, no hockey rinks, no riverside restaurant and none of the fun and activity that for years has marked the Forks gathering area at the bottom of the staircase. But I had hoped the riverside trail that stretches along the Assiniboine to the Legislature would be open.

"No," explained one of the snow-shoveling crew at The Forks. They were busy shoveling out the snow around parking meters in the parking lot, but there were no plans to shovel the stairs down to the trail; and no real point, because the trail itself was abandoned to the elements, barren and bare.

He recommended that I not attempt the trail at all since it was still blocked by hunks of broken ice from the high fall levels.

But I had come ready for an adventure, and here it lay in front of me.

Would I be able to navigate the ice floes tossed up on the path?

Would I be able to get past the barriers at the Legislature?



The author ponders the staircase down to the river from the Forks.

Could I navigate the unmanicured part of the trail behind Balmoral Hall School? I knew after Balmoral Hall School I would have to abandon the river for the Cornish path and the walk along Wolseley.

And then I would reach the biggest question mark of all – the dreaded footpath over Omand's Creek, which earlier in the winter had been barricaded and declared unsafe by city authorities. It's true two residents had performed an act of civil disobedience and shoveled the ice off the bridge, but would the bridge still be clear? Would city inspectors have deemed it was safe enough to bear my weight?

These were all questions that raced through my head as I stood at the top of that stairway at The Forks – the place where the shoveling ended, and the wilderness began.

I balanced these question marks with a series of positives: it was a beautiful day; there were footprints ahead along the river so someone must have made it through; I had my hiking poles and a pack full of provisions; I had a cell phone in case I needed a rescue; I was in good physical form, having just completed my weekly game of pickleball at the Y.

could do this!

And so I set off into the unknown.

Below are extracts from my journal written as I attempted the walk (perhaps of some value to anyone else who might be so foolhardy):

2:03 pm: Encountered a fallen tree trunk which forced me to crawl over an ice floe off the path; slipped and fell, but no injury.

2:15 pm: Under the railroad bridge and the Main Street bridge, the going was very slippery; mastered it by taking small steps – Oh, why didn't I wear ice cleats?!

2:30 pm: Past the Donald Street Bridge I encounter two huge trees fallen across the trail. Have to crouch almost doubled over to make it under. Meet another walker who has come from the Legislature. The fact that he's towing an infant on a toboggan gives me some hope.

2:45 pm: Reach the Legislature. The Legislature

steps are barricaded. Not clear if this is for ice safety or masonry work being done on one set of steps. Hard to believe that mere yards away from this ice-tossed wilderness, up those steps, is the "Manitoba 150" display of lights I visited just last night. Perhaps the government is avoiding shoveling the steps to keep the riverbank in its pristine condition.

3:00 pm: Past the legislature I'm back on the riverside trail. On the West Broadway side of the Osborne bridge there's a tent city: three substantial tents and a few smaller ones, one with a stove, one with electricity through a long extension cord up towards the Granite Curling Club. No sign of inhabitants.

3:05 pm: Finally a reprieve from my lone journey. At the hill beside the Granite, a family is tobogganing. They walk back to the Gates, breaking the trail ahead of me behind Balmoral Hall School.

3:20 pm: Pull up off the riverbank onto Cornish and begin the long walk past Misericordia Hospital (fortunately no need for a visit) and along Wolseley. I'll soon be

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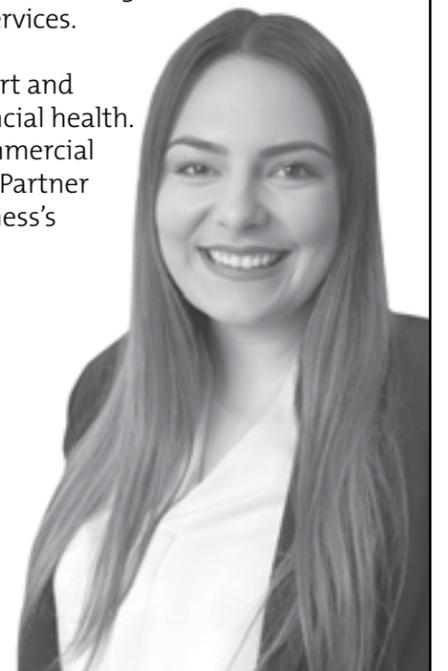
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property taxes do not accurately reflect the economic growth of the City in the same way that the PST reflects the Province's economic health. "I continue to advocate for modernizing the taxation model for the City... it can be revenue neutral, but let's make it smarter," he said, although at this point his advocacy consists in fostering interest in reform rather than in specific policy solutions.

Bowman also took time to reflect on race relations, just under five years after Maclean's declared Winnipeg as Canada's most racist city. Bowman, having assumed his mayorship less than three months prior, was widely applauded for his response, in which he went against advice to either ignore or attack the article and instead acknowledged that it was substantively true. To the Leaf, though, he positioned the anti-racism work of himself and the City as only one of a number of

largely grassroots efforts throughout the City: "so many people in this community cared about reconciliation long before it was coined and popularized." He also went on to highlight the reconciliation training all of the City's roughly ten thousand employees undergo, and a Newcomer Inclusion Policy that is currently being drafted. Since 2015, Bowman says that the city has "definitely moved in the right direction; there's a lot of really good, progressive work that's happening" but also cautioned that "the harms caused by residential schools... are going to take generations to repair."

Finally, Bowman sought to position himself as a champion in responding to the climate crisis, discussing at length the City's 2018 Climate Action Plan (which can be accessed on the City's website). He also highlighted a curbside organics pilot program (approved by Council

in the days following the interview) and his Million Tree Challenge which he announced this fall — although he acknowledged that the Thanksgiving snowstorm set back his goal to improve the City's tree canopy. Referring back to discussions on Winnipeg Transit, Bowman also affirmed how central robust public transportation is to civic climate action. His ongoing sparring matches with Pallister on questions of civic funding, perhaps, might begin to take on an environmental dimension in the new year.

Bowman also discussed the centennial of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike, which he said was still an "elephant in the room" in contemporary Manitoban politics. While it is widely considered to be a defining moment in the twentieth century labour movement, Bowman suggested that the class tensions the Strike revealed are still present; Winnipeggers today, he said, still often identify either with the strikers or the employers. Despite these displayed tensions, though, Bowman said the commemoration of the Strike was central to develop a sense of "shared history" between Winnipeggers. And from his office at city hall, the strike monument is in full view.



Newly unveiled Strike monument, left, is in full view of City Hall and is one of the first monuments dedicated to the six week march that had world-wide influence 100 years ago.

Meth solutions...

opportunity in the inner city, and colonization of Indigenous peoples through the justice and child welfare systems.

Among its major recommendations, the CCPA report said governments should implement approaches that their own reports have suggested, such as harm reduction and developing programs based on improving the social determinants of health for at-risk populations. They also called for sustained, multi-year core funding for the many community-based organizations that are on the front lines of dealing with meth.

"Non-profit organizations and groups should not be expected to provide public sector services," reads the recommendation. "Community-based organizations cannot be expected to provide the basic needs of the people they serve. This is the role of government."

With proper government support, these front-line organizations would become the front line for building community. The report singled out West Broadway as a neighbourhood in which community organizations are coming together to develop a meth strategy.

In a separate chapter of the CCPA report, Erica Charron, lead researcher in the West Broadway Methamphetamine Strategy, described West Broadway's "caring" approach, a collaborative approach coordinated by the West Broadway Directors' Network, a coalition of 15 organizations.

The West Broadway Meth Strategy has interviewed and surveyed 25 meth users and 20 business/community organizations with front line experience. Their final report will include a community-asset map showing resources already existing in West

Broadway, and recommendations to government of tangible objectives that can be implemented with existing resources.

Greg MacPherson is executive director of West Broadway Community Organization and represented the West Broadway strategy at the release of the State of the Inner City report. "This report captures a moment in our city," he told a crowd of about 200. "We're all gathered here because we care about our inner city. It's conversations like this, when we see each other face-to-face, where we can figure out solutions."

The final report of the West Broadway Meth Strategy is due in early 2020. The CCPA State of the Inner City report is available online.

ART AND SOUL

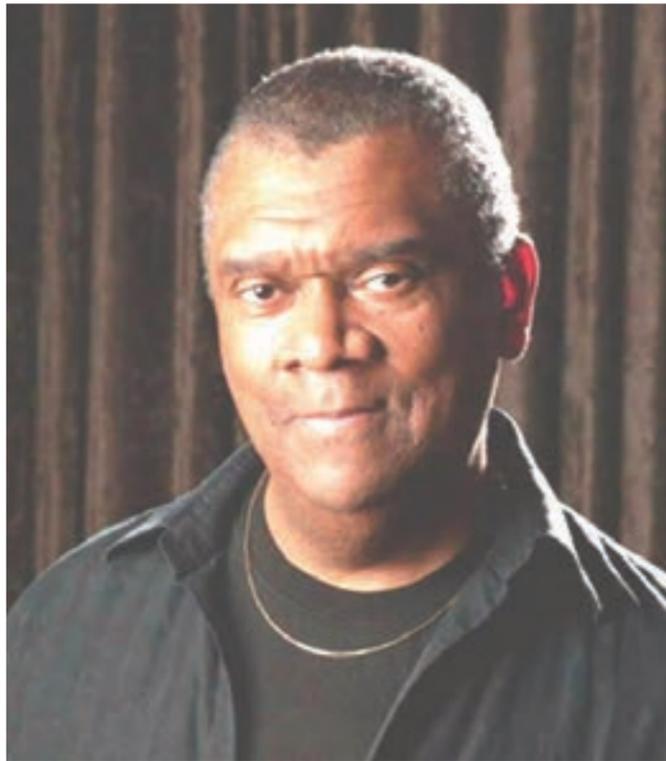
Gerry Atwell brought people together, was an ambassador for our community

Everybody knew Gerry Atwell," says Executive Director of the BNC (Broadway Neighbourhood Centre). "As the Maestro, the Reverend Gerry Atwell, the music mogul of the city - and rightfully so," he adds, "because he played in eight or nine different bands."

The sudden death of Atwell who had just turned 60 in late November was acknowledged by many across the city, with a celebration of life called "One Love" in honour of his Carribean heritage and attended by more than a thousand people at the Burton Cummings Theatre. It featured 15 performers he had played with, but it could have had 15 more said Mulhall. Atwell was extremely versatile musically, and was sought for his ability to incorporate different musical genres, including "fast island rap" that Atwell could drop at a moments notice, says Mulhall.

"We knew him as that guy. But a lot of people didn't know him as a community development guy. He was an impeccable speaker and debater and was a debating champion in high school," says Mulhall. One of his most outstanding characteristics was a warm welcoming attitude. "He made everybody feel that they were his closest friend," says Mulhall. His unique skills meant that he was creative, approachable, and a bit of a visionary when it came to community arts. Atwell's influence made a world of difference in West Broadway.

A little under 20 years ago the BNC was slated to



Gerry Atwell

close. Mulhall was hired to look after the space but said he would only do it if Atwell could come in with him. While Mulhall tried to straighten out the books, Atwell was the ideas man.

"I think there was 1200 bucks a month so we split it 600 each. Gerry applied for 8 grants, and was successful in every one."

Atwell initiated community development grants that have brought a host of positive changes and programs to the BNC including a new soccer field, new community gardens, composting site, splash pads, repair to the waiting pool, additions to the play structures, a new gym floor, a commercial kitchen, new bathrooms, BMX park and

skateboard park. One grant created a butterfly-friendly garden, and he had plans to introduce beekeeping on the rooftop of the BNC, something his father had taught him.

"The big one that will continue on as his legacy is the Just TV program," says Mulhall, "a federal \$600,000 grant for young people that were either getting involved with, or in conflict with the law. It is now in its eleventh year and has been hugely successful." The program has given youth the opportunity to build musical talent and work with multimedia applications. The initial program paved the way for a social enterprise that now employs youth who have created and supported film and video work at a competitive wage, both creative award

winning films they have made themselves, and have been sought out to create training and educational videos. "Gerry was the pitcher, and I was the batter. He came up with the ideas and would throw them to me to see how far we could hit it out."

Like for many people, Atwell played an important role in the direction of Mulhall's own musical accomplishments. He recalls the first time they met in Thompson, and Atwell out of the blue said "You're Spatch? You've got to quit this now and come to Winnipeg."

Both became members of Eagle and Hawk, a neighbourhood band that won a Juno in 2002, at which Atwell, along with band mate Vince Fontaine, accepted the award.

Atwell's ability to see the value and talent in people led

to numerous projects and artistic accomplishments, and first chances for many artists. He promoted Black history in Manitoba through theatre productions and film works which included stories about his grandmother.

Just as the celebration of life was wrapping up, says Mulhall, another young Inuit artist who hadn't heard the news was trying to contact Atwell to thank him for a grant she had just received. "Gerry was a common denominator in the city," said Mulhall. "Winnipeg lost a musical icon and an incredible human being," posted lead singer (Eagle and Hawk) Jay Bodnar to honour his memory. Atwell's often quiet and far reaching contribution to the neighbourhood will be remembered.

- Terese Taylor

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From pollution to post-partum depression; Sarasvati tackles the effects of our changing society" at this years fem fest

Winnipeg,

Pollution, post-partum depression, the decision to not have a baby, mime, dance and song. In total an array of nine unique stories will be featured in March as Sarasvati Productions will again produce and take to the community their cabaret of monologues to celebrate International Women's Week. This year's theme is Changes, focusing on how we navigate a changing world. The event will offer a line-up of monologues by Canadian playwrights as well as performance pieces by local creator/performers including mime, spoken word, stand-up comedy and song. The goal of the cabaret is to honour the diversity of

women's stories and explore a wide array of experiences.

In addition to two public showings in a traditional theatre, there will be several unique performances so that the work is fully accessible to Manitobans. Community shows will occur in Steinbach and locally at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights plus a number of community venues.

Although the playwrights are from all over Canada, the nine solo pieces are performed by a cast of local artists. Singer/songwriter waNda wilsoN will share her story with music. The piece called Kweskenta, means 'to change your thoughts'. Playwright Brooklyn Alice Lee

shares her story of deciding to terminate her pregnancy. "I wrote this piece as a way to cope with my own trauma and open up a discussion on a topic that is usually very taboo." shares Alice Lee when asked about the origin of her piece, to be performed by Lizzie Knowles. Additionally, 100 Decibels member and Deaf artist, Joanna Hawkins will be presenting a storytelling piece with aspects of mime.

The full performances take place on Saturday, March 7 at 4pm and 8pm at the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (at U of W, 400 Colony Street). Tickets (\$15) can be purchased online or by calling 204-586-2236.



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YEAR AHEAD



Working towards curbside organic-waste pickup

By Councillor Cindy Gilroy

As we start a new year I am excited that the City of Winnipeg will launch a curbside organic-waste pilot project working towards developing a city-wide program.

As Chair of the Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment Committee, I was happy that Council approved a motion to develop an organic waste pilot program as part of the department's five-year waste management strategy.

The pilot project will collect food waste such as fruit and vegetable scraps, meat, and bones from approximately 4,000 homes across five collection routes. The pickup will be part of regular weekly garbage and

recycling collection from October 2020 to September 2022 at a cost of \$1.8 million. There will be no cost to participating homes.

We know that decomposing organic material makes up a significant part of our household waste and is the main source of methane emissions, a greenhouse gas, at our landfills. Diverting this waste is critically important. The resulting compost is a valuable natural fertilizer that can improve our soils and we should put it to good use. Our City will not be able to meet our emissions and waste management goal of diverting 50% of overall waste from the landfill without a curbside organics program.

The pilot program will help build public support and help determine how to roll out

a city-wide program. This would include testing out public preferences for the range of materials collected, what kind of carts to use that will hold up in Winnipeg's winters, and how different routes interact.

To have a full-scale organics program, which would include things like meat and dairy, maybe even dog

waste, we need to build a proper organic waste treatment plant. This is going to be a very costly project and we need to come up with a plan to finance this. The pilot results will help shape a case to attract funding from the Provincial and Federal governments. But in order to get the best bang for our buck in terms of climate change we

have to come up with a solution to find a way forward.

We are the last major city in Canada not to have an organics program. I have heard from many people in our community that want to see this move forward and I think this is a really good, positive step. Wishing you and your family all the best in the year ahead!

Commemoration event hits home for Gordon Bell Student

By Gordon Bell student Arianna Rickard



On December 6th, Gordon Bell organized a Red Dress Day to recognize the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. The day had a specific focus on the crimes against Indigenous women.

The event focused on creating a path for Indigenous women and girls to feel safe in their country. Another major focus was honouring the families' hopes for the return of their loved one or at least answers, for peace of mind.

Being a young Indigenous girl living in Winnipeg, I fear that one of my cousins or even I, myself can go missing or even be murdered at any point and I believe that the authorities will not give our cases the attention they deserve. I am worried that family will be left to wonder about our whereabouts and that they will live with anger at my killer, the authorities, and themselves.

The subject why there are so many missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls is hard but has an obvious answer. In the past authorities have shown more concern if a white female has not made it home, as opposed to an Indigenous female. The media coverage has also shown the same difference in concern about the missing women. The difference stems from racist stereotypes against Indigenous people in Canada.

How do you think it looks to young Indigenous women and girls when nothing is done to protect them or when mass attention is absent when they are missing? I have seen social media posts that say we should just stay home so that



Student Bella Campeau (left), teacher Fardiah Shams (centre), and student Dakota James (right) organized an event to honour women who have been victims of violence, many in Manitoba. Photo Gordon Bell School

continues page 8



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Kindness at the Centre

By MP Leah Gazan

At 2:30 in the morning on December 26, 2019 a fire broke out at an apartment on the corner of Agnes and Ellice. The building burnt to the ground displacing almost 40 people. This included children and families. What a horrible tragedy! Shocked by the news, I immediately called Brian, the community police officer who called me back during his holidays, to find out where the victims were staying. After a bit of an investigation, I was directed to the Red Cross who informed me that all impacted persons were staying at the Marlborough Hotel.

The holiday season, although joyous for some, is a difficult time for many people. I couldn't imagine a worse time of the year for the fire to occur. Most organizations, government departments, and frontline services were closed for the holidays. Luckily we decided to keep our office open in response to the difficulties our community has been dealing with over the last few months. So myself, along with my team sprung into action. Lisa Naylor, MLA for Wolseley, immediately came on board to help with her staff. And so began the kindness journey.

We opened up our office for donations that immediately started pouring in to the point where we no longer had room to store the generosity being extended by our community. Spence Street Neighbourhood provided advice about how to proceed with a relocation plan for the victims and Director Lorie English and the staff of the West Central Women's Resource Centre opened her office during holidays and began working with the evacuees finding them new places to live. The United Fire Fighters volunteered their services to haul donations to the

MERC and Bear Clan Patrol opened its doors to accept the abundance of donations that came in from the community. I know these efforts meant so much to the evacuees. They could clearly see the community had their backs during this difficult time.

This is what community at the Centre looks like. It is not about one individual. It is about people joining forces to help each other out. It is about relationships between people, frontline agencies, organizations, and government departments working together to support each other. It is true that Winnipeg Centre has had its share of difficulties this year, however, our community shows up when it matters. This was another example of how the community comes together during times of need in all its kindness and hope. What a gift to witness what can be achieved when people put their hearts, minds, and actions together to make a difference in the world.

I have to admit the first couple of months as the newly elected MP has been quite an adventure. It is not so much hard work but heart work. One thing I do know is that I am not alone on this journey. I have our community by my side advocating for a better life for all of our neighbours.

A special thank you to Lisa Naylor and Staff, Cindy Gilroy, President of the United Fire Fighters Alex Forrest, James Favel, Susan Chief, Red Cross, Good Will, West Central Womens Resource Centre, Spence Street Neighbourhood Association, the City of Winnipeg emergency team, the MERC, Daniel McIntyre Saint Matthews Community Association, Hope Mennonite Church, Chris Martin and

Marlborough Hotel staff, United Fire Fighters, staff, all the volunteers, and donors. Your work and kindness need to be commended.

If you would still like to make a donation to the victims of the fire, please contact the West Central Women's Resource Centre at 204-774-8975. They are accepting financial contributions and gift cards.

Wishing all the good people of Winnipeg Centre a Happy New Year. Take care of each other my friends!



Gordon Bell High School OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, February 25

6:00 - 7:30 pm

School Tours 6:00 - 7:00 pm

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Jingle dress, part of display commemorating violence against women at Gordon Bell School and the Red Dress Project, commemorating MMIWG. Photo Gordon Bell

crime does not happen against us. That is unacceptable.

In reality, the crimes against missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG) happens in their own homes a shocking 58.8% of the time. It is not just adult women who are affected. Bella Campeau, a student at Gordon Bell, made a slideshow for MMIWG in Winnipeg with over 100 slides that showed that ages range drastically.

...Clara Kematch-Brass ...Lorlene Bone ...Tina Fontaine ...Amber Guiboche ...Cynthia Audy ...Felicia Solomon ...Jenna Marsden.

While looking at the slides, these seven names out of hundreds of Indigenous women missing and murdered stood out to me. They were familiar to me with some of them being family, some looking like my aunties you would see laughing around the fire at a family gathering.

Every indigenous friend I've made has at least one

connection to a missing or murdered woman.

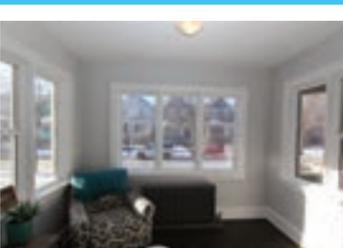
What can we do to be a part of the solution? The number one thing to do is to support families who have lost women in their lives, whether taking part in search and rescue efforts or sharing information online.

Manitoba's number of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls is one of the highest in the country and sadly, more than half of all cases are unsolved. According to the Native Women's Association of Canada, in Winnipeg, 81% cases for Indigenous women involve murder, 16% missing, and 3% "suspicious circumstances." With Manitoba's high numbers compared to the national average of all cases in Canada, this pressing matter cannot be ignored and needs more attention from authorities.

The Native Women's Association of Canada can be reached at 1-800-461-4043.

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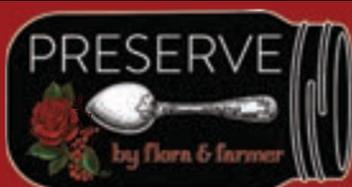
Wolseley condo with sunroom overlooking Vimy Ridge Park!

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JANUARY 2020!

Wolseley to Downtown Walk Bike Project Update; Join us to review and talk about recommended design and solutions.

Open House

Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Time: 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Location: Westminster Church (Lecture Hall), 745 Westminster Ave

Format: Come and go format

Participate online

Take a survey online at surveyMonkey.com/r/2NGZNYL

If you have questions or require additional options or support to participate, please email wolseleydowntown@intergroup.ca or call 204-942-0654 by January 22, 2020.

More information

For more information visit winnipeg.ca/walkbikeprojects.

Envision, Festival of the Arts May 1 & 2, 2020

Envision's mission is to showcase the fantastic artistic talent that lives in our Wolseley-West Broadway communities. Starting Feb 1 we will be looking for **visual, performing and literary artists** to join our little festival and inspire your neighbours. We are also looking for a wide array of **volunteers** to make it happen. Volunteers needed for both pre-festival planning and during the festival. We welcome all for whatever amount of time you can give. Contact us now at envision.festival@gmail.com

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21st Jan 2020

COFFEE TALK

Thursday January: 9, 23, February 6, 20, 1:30 – 2:30

222 Furby St. Basement Kitchen

BED BUG & PEST MANAGEMENT

January 8, 9, 2ND FLR BOARDROOM

Presented by Daniel McIntyre//St Matthews Community Organization & Taz Stuart

BEADING first and third Monday of the month

1:15 - 3:30 Basement Kitchen

information: Aileen or Nicole:

gfcworkshop@westbroadway.mb.ca

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DECLUTTERING WORKSHOP February 28,

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Diorama, Prairie Life Wild Life, Prairie

Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, Jan 16, 17,

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JAN 27-31 Cool Art & Flags for SNOWBALL

Saturday Feb 1st- SNOWBALL 12-4

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Camino Manitoba offers February spiritual walk

Camino Manitoba – a hiking group with a spiritual purpose—is offering a 9.5 km hike on Sat., Feb. 1 along the Harte Trail in Charleswood.

As a phys-ed teacher, Gilles Bouley knows the physical benefits of walking, but he and others at Camino Manitoba are trying to provide walks that provide spiritual benefits as well. There is a long history in many faiths of spiritual walks: the Islamic Hajj to Mecca; Hindu and Buddhist pilgrimages retrace the steps of their spiritual gurus; and Indigenous peoples have long experienced the power of walking on the land. Christian pilgrims follow “the path, the road” (Spanish: “camino”) including the famous Camino de Santiago in Spain.

The February walk is based out of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Charleswood and is open to all. Gloria Dei church and St. Mary's Road United are two of the churches joining together to create spiritual walks in Manitoba. St. Mary's has had several walks and will have another this spring. And this summer, Camino Manitoba will hold a three-day walk along the South Whiteshell Trail.

Bouley took part this summer in Camino Nova Scotia, a five-day walk between churches along the Atlantic coast. “My experience in Nova Scotia was transformative,” he explained. “On a spiritual walk, you get time to reflect, to wind down and disconnect. But at the same time you're part of a community of walkers.”

River walk cont...

approaching the dreaded ice bridge over Omand's Creek. Will it be open? Will it be structurally safe? Will it allow me to make the final leg of this wilderness journey?

3:50 pm: Success – I'm enjoying a burger at the Polo Park A & W! When I reached Omand's Creek Park,

there were children tobogganing, runners jogging, and people walking their dogs – all of them using the thankfully restored Omand's Creek bridge. I passed over quickly, met some walkers coming from the Wellington Crescent side of the river, and headed for the warmth of Polo Park.

It's good to know that, despite no official government maintenance of the trail, it's still possible to follow the river. And perhaps it's even better this way, providing wilderness adventure in the middle of the city for those who can brave its challenges. But wear ice cleats...



West Broadway River trail. Photo Mike Maunder

ENVIRONMENT



Holding government to account By MLA Lisa Naylor

Happy New Year! Thank you Wolseley for electing me to the Manitoba Legislature. I am a fierce advocate for our community and in my role as Critic for Environment and Climate Change, I am fighting for our future.

In the few months since I was sworn into office, there have already been many ups and downs related to the environment.

In September I was thrilled to witness 12,000 people march to the front steps of the Legislature in one of the biggest demonstrations the building has ever seen. Children, youth, teachers, elders, parents and so many others showed up to send a clear message to the government: the time for climate action is now.

Then in October, we saw record-breaking rain and snow fall that devastated crops and for the first time ever, required the Red River Floodway to be opened in the fall. In November, we learned that the Pallister government is cutting funding for environmental non-profits in our Province. In December, scientists released a report detailing

the consequences of the shortened Manitoba winters that are to be the new norm. And still, nothing of substance to deal with climate change has come from this government.

Manitoba could be a leader in climate justice but Premier Pallister is letting the clock run out and continues to suggest that his government has an effective climate plan. But Manitobans know that this isn't the case. I was proud to introduce a bill that would hold the government to account to taking meaningful action on climate change. This bill would establish meaningful science based targets which the government has neglected to do and hold ministers accountable to working towards those targets.

Climate change is already affecting all Manitobans, in the form of floods, devastating winter storms, wildfires and droughts. These environmental events pressure our health care system, increase food insecurity and displace families.

Since day one of my term as your Critic of Environment and Climate Change, I have been meeting with activists,

elders, scientists and environmental groups to find solutions to our climate crisis. Every day in the Legislature I am raising my voice to expose the dangerously short-sighted Conservative policies that threaten the future of our planet.

The Manitoba NDP knows that climate justice means working with farmers, Indigenous communities, businesses, and working families, so that everyone can transition to a green economy. But Brian Pallister can't work with anyone.

He refuses to work with the City of Winnipeg to upgrade the North End Treatment Plant to protect the environment from damaging phosphorous wastewater that ends up in Lake Winnipeg; opting to instead place unreasonable demands on the city without giving confirmation that the Province will help with the costs. This decision will delay relief for Lake Winnipeg. What Manitobans need is a provincial government that is willing to share the cost, and a clean, healthy lake.

Looking forward into the New Year I will continue to pressure this government to take real action on climate change. I believe in



MLA Lisa Naylor meets with protesters on the steps of the Legislature (top). New bill proposed by MLA Lisa Naylor seeks to hold government ministers accountable for meeting specific targets to reduce the use of CO2 in the province as laid out by the United Nations. "We need to be a national leader on this environmental and human crisis," she says

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consultation, in learning from the experts. And many of the experts are you, my neighbours right here in the Wolseley constituency.

We need to make real investments in capital and natural infrastructure - to preserve and restore our ecosystems. We need a government that uses science-led policies to get us off of fossil fuels and compel the large polluters to pay. We need a government that is willing to electrify our province and expand this green renewable energy to other provinces. We need a government that is willing to do whatever it takes to curb the impact of climate change on our lives and be a national

leader on this environmental and human crisis.

I am dedicated to pushing our climate agenda. The climate crisis will be the defining issue of our time. It is my hope that our children and our grandchildren will look back on the year 2020 as the year real change started happening. Let this be the year that we start to take better care of our planet, of our environment, and of our community.

What are your ideas for solving the climate crisis? You can reach the Wolseley constituency staff and I at Lisa.Naylor@yourmanitoba.ca or 204-792-2773.



THE SECOND LAST WORD



The Gig Economy and the future of work

By Paul Moist

As we enter the third decade of the new millennium it is becoming clear throughout the globe that rising inequality is a permanent reality.

Real wage growth has stopped and more and more workers toil in precarious work arrangements. The UN based International Labour Organization (ILO) defines precarious work as follows:

"An inadequacy of rights and protection at work (and)... reduced financial security stemming from lower wages, less access to benefits...and greater uncertainty about future employment income."

The poster child for the gig economy is Uber which bills itself not as a transportation firm but as technological link between independent drivers and customers.

The problem is that those so-called "independent drivers" are anything but independent. They work when Uber says they can. They cannot accept tips and they must follow Uber's strict work guidelines. Many are challenging Uber's treatment of them as independent contractors, when they are in fact employees who want fair wages and treatment at work.

What we have also learned is that the myth that gig economy workers are people looking for flexible work arrangements and that they like working for themselves, is just that, a myth.

A couple of interesting gatherings late last year saw a number of speakers expose myths about the gig economy.

Former union economist, Jim Stanford, was the keynote speaker at the annual Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - Manitoba annual brunch, his address was titled, "The Future of Work: What's Changed and What Hasn't".

Stanford argued that changes in work was not only being driven by technology, but also by power. He talked of stagnant wages and increasing precarity of work arrangements, as reflections of a shift in power to employers, a shift that has accelerated over the past 40 years.

Activist and former Member of Parliament, Andrew Cash speaking at the December 2019 Manitoba Federation of Labour conference on the Future of Work, outlined how the majority of job creation in Canada since the 2008 global recession, has been to forms of temporary or precarious work.

He outlined how today, between one-fifth and one-third of the Canadian workforce can be categorized as independent or freelance workers. He quoted Federal Finance Minister, Bill Morneau as recently stating that all workers should get used to, "job churn."

At that same conference, Armine Yalnizyan, Senior Economist and Atkinson Fellow on the Future of Workers, spoke about the shift to more precarious forms of work as a backwards step in terms of workers control over their work life which she argued was mirroring that of a century ago.

Yalnizyan argued that when you hear reports that by 2030 between 5% and 47% of existing jobs being eliminated, it was simply a reflection of no one actually knowing what the future holds in terms of job loss.

What was clear to her however was the fact that Artificial Intelligence and other technological changes were now hitting the professions as well as the blue-collar semi-skilled workforce. The bottom-line, few jobs would avoid being impacted, at time of slow economic growth and declining wages which she cited as the new normal.

Statistics Canada recently released a study showing gig economy work on the rise and its participants most likely being poorer Canadians, women and immigrants. They cite those employed in the bottom 40 per cent of the income ladder as being twice as likely to end up in gig economy work.

What is one to make about all of this? We all know someone in our families or close network of friends who is underemployed and stuck in low-wage, low-benefit work.

We might gain positive guidance from two external sources.

One is the Labour government of Jacinda Ardern in New Zealand which recently introduced and adopted that country's first "well-being budget". As its center piece the budget rejects economic growth as the sole measuring stick of success especially if it leads to worse social outcomes.

The Ardern government opted to put mental health services at the core of its budget.

Secondly, we might heed the message from former British Labour Party leaders, David Miliband who said recently, "The biggest Labour challenge is not the angst of the middle class...it is the disbelief of the working class."

Canada's poor and marginalized workers have

many reasons to dis-trust all who seek their vote. As we embark upon a new decade perhaps our collective commitment to reduce inequality by attaching value and dignity to all forms of work and to all workers, is a good place to start.

Happy New Year!

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THE LAST WORD

Let's make 2020 the year without child hunger

By School Trustee Jennifer Chen

Let's make 2020 the year without child hunger.

It's a hard fact to face, but too many of our community's children live with hunger. According to Food Matters Manitoba, household food insecurity affects 1 in 5 children in our community. This means families are skipping meals or not eating for the whole day, parents aren't able to afford nutritious food for children, and children get smaller portions than they need. Food bank use has increased 58% since 2008, according to Winnipeg Harvest. Two of every five people who use a food bank in Manitoba are children.

Marginalized populations are more likely to be food insecure, such as Indigenous people, people of colour, recent newcomers, single parents, and those living below the poverty line. At the Winnipeg School Division (WSD), I see children go to school hungry, and come home hungry. It is a serious issue that has been raised by principals, parents, and concerned residents. Hunger also affects student's academic performance, attentiveness, classroom participation, and attendance in schools.

I was elected as School Trustee for the WSD's Ward 6 in 2018, representing one of the lowest-income areas with the second highest child poverty rate in Canada - Daniel McIntyre, Centennial, West Alexander, and Weston areas. I have been inspired by the efforts that the WSD and community have made to address the issue of child hunger and poverty. It has become an issue I am extremely passionate about.

The WSD nutrition program, which began in 1975, provides a balanced breakfast and a nutritious snack for students who may come to school without adequate food. Food coordinators select and test new recipes regularly to reflect the multicultural diversity of our students. A healthy snack is provided every day for all nursery students and some kindergarten students. The Milk Subsidy Program provides fund that covers the majority of the cost of a carton of milk every day. Some of these meal/snack programs are funded by the Manitoba government's Child Nutrition

Council of Manitoba (CNM). However, this funding covers only a fraction of meal program costs of schools. The gap is filled by the Winnipeg School Division and community partners.

In November 2018, I attended the exciting launch of the Breakfast2Go pilot program in Mulvey School, a joint initiative with Winnipeg Harvest, the WSD, and nurse practitioner Parusia Purohit. The Breakfast2Go program intends to provide children with access to nutritious breakfast on weekends. Every Friday afternoon, students receive a package of eight breakfast items which are all easy to prepare to take home. We have seen improvement within one year at Mulvey School. Sick days taken have decreased, increased ability to focus and better test scores, and there was a decrease in the need for the breakfast program on Mondays.

I'm excited and grateful that this pilot program has expanded to Pinkham School starting in September 2019. All these efforts don't happen easily and require the community's help. And I believe that a School Trustee's role is not only to attend the launch and deliver greetings, but also to be a community activist, and on-the-ground helper. I volunteered to pack breakfast packages at Winnipeg Harvest with other warm-hearted volunteers. I go to Mulvey School and Pinkham School to help distribute packages whenever I'm available on Friday afternoons. I see the confidence on students' faces, and it is a wonderful opportunity for the children to help each other.

Hunger and poverty are issues that need to be tackled together: the Winnipeg School Division, community organizations, public health professionals, government, and residents.

There is no excuse for our children to go hungry, so let's continue to work together to make 2020 a child hunger-free

If you would like to donate to the Breakfast2Go program, please visit winnipegharvest.org

Jennifer Chen is School Trustee (Ward 6) and Vice Chair for the Winnipeg School Division. She is a resident of the West End and an advocate



for newcomer and refugee communities. She is first generation immigrant.

Jennifer Chen (left) and Mulvey School student serving at Breakfast2Go



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