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JULY 2020

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY | VOL 8 NO. 6 | FREE TO WOLSELEY AND WEST BROADWAY RESIDENTS

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## Young Black women lead 20,000 strong march

by Terese Taylor

Friday June 5, 2020 marked Manitoba's largest protest march in a century, and one of the largest marches in Canada in support of Black Lives Matter and against police violence.

20,000 gathered in Winnipeg to join worldwide protests set off by the killing of George Floyd, a Black man living in Minneapolis, that was videotaped as he pleaded with an officer that he couldn't

breathe, and three other officers stood by and watched.

Floyd's death followed closely on the heels of a long list of killings by police captured on cell phones in the US.

The group of eight Black activists in Winnipeg called for the protest march on Monday June 1, and asked for a peaceful march, which saw people driving in from rural areas to participate. Speakers

at the march asked for moments of silence for the lives of Black and Indigenous people killed by the police in Winnipeg and across Canada.

Sandy Deng spoke to honour Machuar Madut who was killed in West Broadway after a call was made to police, and who had been experiencing mental health distress.

Over a dozen speakers, mostly women, shared stories

*Continues page 5*



These cyclists were two of the stars in a parade down Wolseley Avenue in June.

## Outpouring of Love for Gordon Bell Teacher

by Mike Maunder

Kelly Reimer, a popular teacher who has taught at Gordon Bell for 12 years, has been declared “surplus” by the school administration and is being moved to Kelvin High School. About 70 students, both past and present, gathered at the Gordon Bell greenspace at the end of June to say farewell and express their disappointment.

“Why are you being moved?” was the cry of all the students.

“I don't know,” said Kelly. “I asked. I haven't been given an answer, Perhaps I'll never be given an answer.”

He told the students that he had hoped to retire at Gordon Bell. “But one thing I've learned is you don't have control over everything in your life.”

The gathering at the greenspace was an outpouring of love for Kelly from students and graduates that represented Gordon Bell's huge diversity.

“My first day in class he greeted me in my own language,” said Rachele Kabuha. “Haraka harak a hain a baroka: If you move faster, you don't get where you're going, is an old Swahili saying.”

*Continues page 4*



Despite social distancing, students insisted on a group picture with Kelly Reimer



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# THE FIRST WORD — EDITORIAL

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## *Gordon Bell teacher much-loved, and much-needed*

I attended last week's gathering at the Gordon Bell greenspace honouring teacher Kelly Reimer for a number of reasons, both personal and public.

First, as a parent.

I have tremendous respect for all staff at Gordon Bell, one of the city's most diverse schools. But despite my feelings for all of them, there is something special about Kelly. When I went to Parent-Teacher night with my son this year, I noticed an expectant smile on his face when he brought me to Kelly's classroom. He and several other students have told me that Kelly's class is always packed at breaks with students who are getting extra help in class or to chat about life and what is going on in the world.

It's Kelly's understanding of his students' life situations that is the more public reason I went to the greenspace gathering.

There were dozens of students of all colours and ethnicities and I knew they were there because Kelly, probably more than any other teacher, respects them and makes them feel special. I talked to many and they all said the same – they felt empowered by Kelly.

I think that's because Kelly really sees each of his students, even my grumpy 16-year old. That's why he smiles in Kelly's class.

I think it's also because Kelly teaches in a way that recognizes students' realities.

One example: When he taught Canadian history this year, he called Owen Toews, writer of *Stolen City*, a controversial book that shows the ongoing racism in our city and society. He brought Owen to a meeting of history teachers from many schools to discuss how these ideas could be incorporated into the curriculum. He asked Owen to take his class on a walking tour downtown to point out the injustices.

(Full Disclosure – One of those students wrote about the outing for *The Leaf*. In fact, the writing of that student, and several others, is yet another reason Kelly is important to Gordon Bell and its community.)

My co-editor, Mike Maunder, explained how, for many years, the West Broadway newspaper, *The Broadcaster*, tried to get coverage of events at Gordon Bell. "But the school was like a fortress to the community," he said. Then, in 2012, principal Arlene Skull directed Mike to Kelly. "Right away Kelly started coming up with ideas, introducing students to writing for a newspaper," recalled Mike. "It was like he understood the value of students writing (and getting paid for it) but also letting the wider community know what was happening in their high school."

Kelly believes that teaching should raise issues that are relevant to students, but also help them do something positive about it. He does this through his classes, but also many extra-curricular activities like running a book club, a public speaking group with Lions, and the CBC internship program. His passion every year in helping students organize Black History Month has huge meaning in a diverse school like Gordon Bell.

Parent Jennifer Bamford wrote that the issues brought up in Kelly's class and brought home by her son "served as a catalyst for many wholesome and thought-provoking conversations in our household."

Kelly recognizes the importance of analyzing racism, capitalism, colonization, policing and other systems that have a daily impact on the lives of inner city students.

Some people wonder if this is the real reason he was declared surplus.

Sara Sawatsky, a 2019 graduate, said "from the encounters I witnessed between Mr. Reimer and Gordon Bell's administration, it became evident that Kelly was not as well-loved compared to other teachers."

This is the other part of Kelly's dismissal that is so frustrating. Our area currently has no elected school trustee. When I made calls to both the principal and to this area's superintendent they were unable to explain why Kelly was selected as a teacher to be declared "surplus."

What is the role of the community, including students, in having a voice in these decisions that affect us so profoundly?

In his classes, Kelly broaches many sensitive topics – but it's because his students live with them every day. That's the main reason Kelly is so important to Gordon Bell and the community in which it lives. The school is not a fortress, it's part of the fabric of the inner city, and Kelly did so much to make sure it was part of the solution, not the problem.

I'm sure the students at Kelvin are going to appreciate having such a fine teacher.

But he is a teacher whose special gifts are really needed at Gordon Bell.

*By Co-Editor of The Leaf, and parent, Terese Taylor*



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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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# COMMUNITY

## And so it begins

and it begins  
 the city shakes the cobwebs off  
 the streets laughter echoes down arlington  
 then back again  
 cars exhaust hangs in the air  
 tires squeal trying to beat the others  
 he races alone  
 others are just enjoying the moment  
 barbeque aroma drifts down back alleys  
 a ball bounces across the street  
 child laughing chasing  
 a voice yells "look both ways"  
 child ignores the plea  
 a squirrel is busy trying to remember where he left his cache  
 a cat watches waiting for his chance  
 a bird distracts him  
 squirrel scolds him scurrying up a tree  
 the city shakes the cobwebs off  
 spare change, hand out  
 i shake my head  
 sometimes i just find it hard to dig in my pocket  
 i'll get him next time  
 a couple walk by holding hands  
 he laughs at something she said  
 another walks her dog  
 struggling to control his joy  
 i'm on the corner of arlington and westminister  
 i look up at the sky  
 beginning to shadow as the sun heads west  
 the city shakes the cobwebs off  
 i think tonight i'll wait for beauty to shine  
 dancing with the waking moon  
 i missed her last night  
 she hid behind the clouds  
 the city

DRM/2020 *Duncan Mercredi*



## Omand's Creek – A Survivor of Urbanization

by Tazi Rodrigues

Omand's Creek, at the southwest corner of Wolseley, is a key link in the freshwater systems of southern Manitoba.

What once was a complex system of 36 waterways in Winnipeg – 20 small creeks and 16 larger streams, running into each other – has been chipped away at, dammed over, and run into drains until only nine remain. Omand's Creek is one of these. How did it not only survive, but continue to support a thriving ecosystem in the face of urbanization?

Spring in Wolseley is marked by the flooding and receding of the creek over the footbridge. With four times as many creeks and streams throughout the area that once made up the city, one can imagine water often spilling over banks, flowing not into its typical wetlands and rivers but instead onto streets and into homes. The dip near Broadway and Osborne is a relic of Colony Creek, which once ran towards the Assiniboine along

the eastern edge of West Broadway. It was fed by five other creeks as it wound its way through downtown.

All six disappeared when Colony was rerouted into Omand's Creek via a series of drains in 1880. By this point, the newly-augmented creek was named after Scottish missionary John Omand, replacing its earlier name of Catfish Creek.

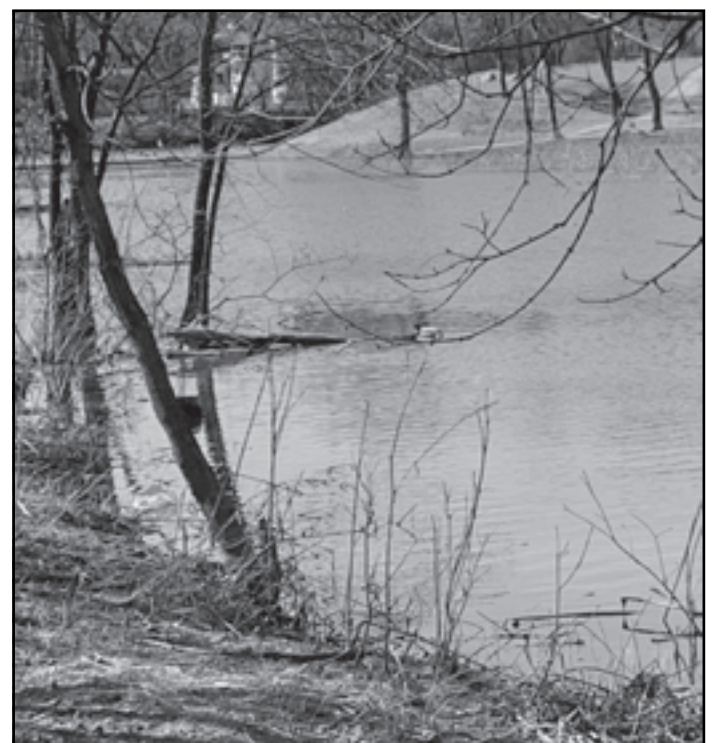
Despite the name, catfish aren't the most prevalent species in Omand's Creek – at least in Winnipeg – but the creek and its neighbouring forests are home to many different animals. Further upstream, fish populations are dominated by white sucker, brook stickleback, fathead minnows, and northern pike. Northern pike spawn in shallow water with lots of vegetation, including in spots that are only flooded in the spring. A 2005 fish sampling by the City of Winnipeg found quillback and rock bass near where the creek runs into the river. As well as spawning grounds,

healthy creeks provide various habitat types for aquatic life and regulate nutrient loading and flood control in watersheds.

The banks and forests along the sides of the creek are also important habitat.

In the early 1990s, local biologist Doug Collicutt produced an inventory of major species along the creek. These included wood frogs, leopard frogs, Canadian toads, one Western painted turtle and both types of garter snakes that live in Winnipeg: the plains garter snake and the red-sided garter snake. Some of the mammals living near Omand's Creek are squirrels, muskrats, and beavers, whose dams dot the creek just south of the Portage Avenue bridge. Collicutt saw 86 different species of birds, including 12 different types of sparrow and, most frequently, red-winged blackbirds and mallards.

The survival of Omand's Creek has preserved aquatic and terrestrial systems that



*A busy beaver at Omands Creek this spring*

rely on each other for water, nutrients, and energy. Animal and plant life is still rich.

Omand's Creek rises in the township of Rosser, a few miles past the northwest corner of the Perimeter Highway, and flows through Red River College and part of the airport before clearly

emerging as a creek alongside Garbage Hill. As a tributary of the Assiniboine River, Omand's Creek ultimately drains into Lake Winnipeg. Along the way, its health directly affects the well-being of many communities and ecosystems, including our own.

# COMMUNITY NEWS



## Winnipeg Centre MP Leah Gazan Canada needs to do better

After millions of taxpayer dollars spent, trips around the world, the Canadian government lost its bid for a seat on the United Nations Security Council, placing third after Norway and Ireland, only garnering 108 votes. The final vote was even worse than the number of votes won under the previous Harper government. This was a terrible blow and reflective of Canadian weakened influence on the world stage, a result of the Trudeau government's failure to respect human rights at home and abroad, in violation of our domestic and international human rights obligations. The failure of Canada to secure a seat hopefully will give us an opportunity to reflect and honestly observe and take action to support developing a stronger country rooted in

upholding human rights for all. However, this continues to be a difficult struggle.

While I have witnessed the current liberal government spend billions in corporate bailouts, I continue to fight hard to get critical support required in Winnipeg Centre. I have not been advocating for anything fancy, just to ensure all residents in our riding are afforded with basic human rights. This includes the right to accessible affordable housing, greater support for seniors, a guaranteed annual income, food security, and safe spaces particularly for women, girls, 2SLGBTQIA + individuals who are facing increasing rates of violence. I find the fact that minimum human rights continue to be

something debatable in this country disturbing. This is even more disturbing given the fact that consecutive liberal and conservative governments have turned a wilful blind eye on offshore tax havens and failed to tax the ultra-rich while others do without their most basic human rights in this country. That needs to change. It is time that we properly tax corporations and the ultra-rich and reinvest in people and a just transition from fossil fuels. We do have the solution but continue to lack enough political will to do so.

And government failure to address human rights is not limited to domestic matters, but also reveals itself on the international stage. Some examples include:

1. Being the 12th largest arms supporter including Yemen and Saudi Arabia
2. Refusing to join 122 countries to prohibit nuclear weapons
3. Leading forces to unseat UN-recognized Venezuelan government
4. Supporting extremists who overthrew the Bolivian government
5. Failing to support UN resolution in support of Palestinian human rights
6. Supporting Canadian Mining companies violating human rights
7. Violating the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
8. Failing to uphold international commitments to fight climate change

This list falls very short of being comprehensive. Canada has much work to do to improve our human rights record with the international community. Perhaps Canada's failed run at a UN Security Council seat may act as a reminder of its shameful failure to protect human rights at home, let alone abroad. We can achieve securing a UN Security Council seat in the future. This will mean addressing our current involvement in human rights violations, addressing these failures with action, and moving forward in a manner that respects the security and dignity of all persons.

## Gordon Bell teacher continued

It was a technique he used with all students, welcoming them by learning some words in their own language.

"When I was in his classroom I felt seen," said Almaz Aschalew, a graduate who became a teacher. "We have diverse people in the inner city coming to the school and he took the moment to listen to us and that really made an impact on my learning. He's just an amazing teacher that's one of the reasons I decided to go into education."

Another graduate who is studying to be a teacher explained that he had written e-mails to the school division but heard nothing. "It's disappointing. Our voices were not effective. It's very disappointing: students' voices should be respected; he taught me that."

Sophie Stevens, a 2017 Gordon Bell grad, organized the e-mail and social media campaign in early May to try to get school principal Vinh Huynh to reconsider the administration's decision to move Kelly. But she said over 80 e-mails and letters to the principal, school superintendent Fatima Mota, and school trustees have failed to change the decision.

Jennifer Bamford is a mother who told this story in

her e-mail: "Kelly Reimer's positive and inspiring influence on my son is something that is apparent well outside of the classroom. My son has a learning disability which has made it hard for him to see himself pursuing post-secondary education. As such, it came as a pleasant surprise to me when he came home from school one day and told me that he wanted to be a History teacher like Kelly. My son has subsequently gone after this idea and has explored routes to achieving that goal."

In her e-mail to trustees, graduate Kathryn Dyck summed up: "Kelly not only took an interest in me as a student but in me as a human, and quickly became a mentor to me. He took an interest in my home life and knew when I was going through traumatic situations with my family and made every effort to make sure I knew that he was there to support me and help me with school while this was going on. He is the sole reason that a lot of students managed to get their diplomas and is always there for students when their families are not. He is more than a teacher, he is the heart of this school and this community."

Kelly responded to students at the greenspace gathering by telling them how

much their advocacy meant to him: "Do you have any idea what that means to a teacher when your students fight for you?" he said.

He stressed that his teaching has always tried to point out the injustices that exist in the world and to teach students to fight.

"I don't just teach for a paycheck. I teach because it's a way that I can make the world a better place. I hope that in the process of doing my job we can all develop a better sense of understanding each other and do a deep analysis of our society to understand the ways that some people are being used and abused."

But analysis was just the first step. Kelly said he hoped his classes taught students to be active resisters, not passive observers.

"I'm not just going to take it if I declare a bad thing. I hope I taught you to fight. And today, I have in front of me a whole bunch of people who are active participants in history. In that process, folks, we will not always win, and we didn't win this one."

"There will be injustice in this world for as long as we are alive. I hope that you are committed to doing something about it."

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# JUSTICE

## Young Black women continued

of racism they experienced growing up, and continuously in their workplaces, expressing anger and hope. "I need you all to go become storytellers. Get your pen, get your camera, get your art ready, because this is our history. We can not allow the white media to tell our narrative," said one speaker.

"We are demanding that the Winnipeg police service be disbanded and defunded," said another. "Can justice come from those in a reformed slave patrol - those who used to capture us? We believe in standing strong and believe that the huge chunk of money they get everyday should be split up amongst the community that do the real work; Mama Bear Clan, Bear Clan; we want a complete ban on knee holds and choke holds; to create a citizens' review board to hold the police accountable; zero tolerance policy for police who kill Black and brown people; cut all ties between police and the schools."

Video footage of many more police assaults in Canada have been shared across social media since the outbreak of protests, and stories of workplace discrimination in Winnipeg including at the Human Rights Museum, prompting its executive director to resign.

Justice 4 Black Lives has kept up the momentum with almost daily protests in front of the RCMP building, City Hall, The Winnipeg Police Building and the Human Rights Museum.



"Say their names!" was chanted by thousands across the world, and in Winnipeg. Above: Sign with names of people killed by Police in Canada and the United States. Centre: The crowd walked to the Human Rights Museum. Bottom: Imani Pinder rallies crowd of 20,000, surrounded by organizers and interpreters at the Leg.



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# COMMUNITY NEWS



## Community Parades in a Time of Covid

Photos by Mike Maunder

Students from Mulvey, Laura Secord and Wolseley Schools didn't let Covid stop them from celebrating the end of school. On June 19, Wolseley Residents' Association organized a bike parade down Wolseley Avenue. (Pictures above)

Similarly, Art City refused to be daunted by Covid and organized their annual parade. Participants

came to Art City in ones and twos and threes, created costumes and were videotaped as they paraded along Broadway. (Pictures below)

Art City then stitched together the footage, adding brass bands, cheering crowds and all kinds of effects to create a virtual parade in a parallel universe. You can see it at: [artcityinc.com](http://artcityinc.com)



# COMMUNITY NEWS



# TECHNOLOGY

## Fighting to stop 5G

By Terese Taylor



From left: George Gegyya, Mary Jane Eason, Suzanne Moufliier, Ryan McDonald, Bonnie Hoffer-Steiman, Marg Friesen, Caitlin Shand, and Lisa Prefontaine, are concerned about the use of 5G.

Members of a local organizing group say they don't want 5G technology near their homes and are organizing a campaign to halt its installation in Winnipeg without public consultation.

Glenn Cottick, Innovation officer for the City of Winnipeg said small cell antennas needed for the application of 5G fall under the Winnipeg Antenna Systems Policy, but said the

policy needs to be updated to encompass the new technology, at a presentation to the City's Innovation Economic Development Committee.

A lot of hype surrounds the potential of the technology, but members of the group say that long term studies have not been undertaken to determine whether its application is safe for people or the planet.

"Wired in technology uses 1/10 the energy of wireless data transmission, says Marg Friesen. "It's phenomenal. It's close to transportation in energy usage."

The 5G Awareness Group is canvassing neighbourhoods to advise people of risks of the new tech. Friesen says the City plans to provide civic engagement opportunities.

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## Bats in our belfry

By Terese Taylor

Although *The Leaf* has a special affinity for chimney swifts, we learned a lot lately about another chimney dweller — bats.

Craig Willis, UofW biologist, told us that although bats are one of the most common mammal species on earth (yes you heard that right - and while we are on this point - they outnumber all other mammals except for rodents: mostly mice and rats!) there is still a lot more research that can be done to understand bats.

### Can we get diseases from local bats?

Humans and local bat populations in Manitoba have had lots of contact for hundreds of years in our homes and buildings, so the likelihood of new viruses that cause outbreaks in humans is extremely unlikely, says Willis. In Manitoba the virus we are most concerned about from wild animals is rabies.

### Has Covid 19 affected bat research in Manitoba?

Research in Manitoba in which bats are handled has stopped! That's because researchers want to make sure that they don't accidentally cause what is called zoonotic spill-back - and pass Covid 19 to bats. Manitoba is home to brown bats which are being devastated by White Nose Syndrome. "We normally wear protective gloves and suits to protect them from White Nose fungus," says Willis. "We would need surgical grade masks to protect them from the risk of transmission (of Covid 19). Because of the priority of personal protective equipment for health care workers at this time, this research is on hold for the moment.

Bats are amazing creatures. Willis explains that they are almost impossible to catch in flight because of their speed. Because they fly at night, owls are one of the only predators that could catch them, but that's not how they are caught. Owls can sometimes discover a bat roost, get inside and have a snack. They'll move the next night, however, Willis says. "They always have a back up," he says.

How most bats become a meal sounds a little gruesome. Bats conserve energy when they go to sleep by lowering their body temperature. This means they slow their body metabolism down, and can only move slowly until they warm back up. If they are found by a predator - including owls, racoons, squirrels and cats - in this state, they simply can't move fast enough to get away. Yikes!

Willis says migrating bats that fly every year into Manitoba are absolutely beautiful. They love the boreal forest that covers our province, a mix of trees that bats use to nest in and that provide ideal conditions for insects during the warm seasons.

Bats, like bees, are incredibly important as pollinators and play an important role in the success of local agriculture (ie: billions in non-toxic pest control).

Bats are affected by wind mills (yes- green electrical generators) but only during the fall migration - also their mating season. There is a way to prevent this harm however, because bats don't fly when it is very windy - at times when wind generators produce high amounts of electricity. "If we can get them to not run at night during slow times (and electricity generation is negligible), or increase the cut-in speed during the weeks bats are migrating south - it is potentially totally solvable, says Willis.

### Whats different about Winnipeg?

Willis is also concerned about the low numbers of calls about bats discovered in people's homes in Winnipeg. He says that Winnipeg has the lowest level of local bats flying into people's homes - something much more common in the similar cities of Regina and Saskatoon. There is very little research that has looked at pesticide use and its effect on bats, but years of spraying for mosquitoes in Winnipeg might be a culprit, says Willis.

Recent worldwide documentation shows massive drops in insect populations, one of the primary sources of food for bats. Three bat species in Canada are considered

## 1919 Winnipeg General Strike Brookside Cemetery Walking Tour

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.

Interested in learning more? Check out [www.willisbatlab.org](http://www.willisbatlab.org), [batwatch.ca](http://batwatch.ca), or neighbourhood bat watch.

### Envision, Festival of the Arts

Rescheduled to October 16 & 17, 2020

Envision's mission is to showcase the fantastic artistic talent that lives in our Wolseley-West Broadway communities. We feature **visual, performing and literary artists** and are looking for a wide array of **volunteers** to make it happen. Contact us now at [envision.festival@gmail.com](mailto:envision.festival@gmail.com)

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Monday to Saturday there is a daily reflection on our website ([youngunitedchurch.com](http://youngunitedchurch.com)) and on our Facebook page. On Sundays a service of worship is posted. We are keeping in touch through phone calls and video technology (Zoom, FaceTime, etc.)

Peace and stay safe.

# ENVIRONMENT

## Lake Winnipeg Foundation adapting to Covid 19

by Myles Tiessen

With the tremendous amounts of pollution regularly flowing into Lake Winnipeg, and huge algae blooms, the Lake Winnipeg Foundation was expecting a tough summer this year.

And then Covid hit. "As a lake organization, we do a lot of our great interacting with members and communities around the lake in the summer, and a lot of those [activities] aren't happening," said LWF executive director Alexis Kanu.

Despite the learning curve of transitioning to a work-from-home model, Kanu says the Lake Winnipeg Foundation is proud of the steps they have made to secure interactions with their members and the supportive community.

The foundation has been able to engage volunteers and citizens through its Community-Based Monitoring Network to identify phosphorus 'hot spots.'

These hot spots include the Red River Valley. With around 68% of the phosphorus that goes into Lake Winnipeg coming from this area, the time for focused action is imminent. "Our program is designed to break up the Red River Valley into even smaller watersheds,"

says Kanu. The water samples are then processed in a lab where the data is collected and shared with the public and policymakers.

"We've always been a citizen-driven organization; our work is to educate people and provide them with resources and bring information about the lake to them and to decision-makers so we can have better water policies," says Kanu.

With the spring melting snow comes high levels of phosphorus being flushed into the watershed. As the team at LWF was preparing for the 2020 field season, the pandemic hit Manitoba. Efforts being put into building sample packs for the Community-Based Monitoring Network halted.

Through creativity and a bit of luck, Lake Winnipeg Foundation adapted their water sampling techniques to keep both the volunteers collecting the water and the lab technicians processing the data safe. "The team really rallied and came up with a great way to keep our program running," says Kanu.

The new protocol meant that volunteers bought plastic water bottles from the grocery

store, recycled the water, and used the empty bottles to gather the water samples. "That will give us an uncontaminated sample" says Kanu, "It reduces the risk to our staff and the risk of potentially spreading the virus through our sample packs."







Ingenuity such as this helped the Community-Based Monitoring Network win the Anne Lindsey Protecting Our

Earth award in 2019. Given out yearly by the Manitoba Eco-Network, this award is a recognition of achievements to programs and people who work in the name of environmental stewardship.

"They [Lake Winnipeg Foundation] keep building on the program and get more point sources measured year-by-year," says Manitoba Eco-

Network Executive Director Glen Koroluk.

The LWF plans to continue the Community-Based Monitoring Network in the hopes that with more data comes more action. "Our data shows us where to focus, and then we need to create partnerships on what to focus on," says Kanu.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**CORRECTION** - In the May issue of *The Leaf*, Liz Cronk wrote a story explaining how pharmacists were only filling prescriptions for 30 days instead of the usual 90. Her point was that their 30-day policy was gouging seniors and others. Unfortunately our headline mixed them up and said the 90-day policy was the problem, not the 30-day. We're sorry for the error.

*The Leaf*

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

# THE SECOND LAST WORD



## “We were called the downtown boys”

By Paul Moist

**W**olseley Reflections. As announced in the May edition of the Leaf, the next year is dedicated to publishing the history of our communities of Wolseley and West Broadway.

I grew up in Wolseley and attended both Laura Secord and Gordon Bell schools. I don't recall our area being referred to as Wolseley until the 1980's. We used to say we were from the “West End”. When the Gordon Bell Panthers won the City High School Football Championship in 1973, our opponents used to refer to us as the “downtown boys”.

The picture at right shows me arriving home from Grace Hospital, which was then two blocks north of our home, located at 78 Arlington St. The photo is from early October 1956 and shows my Mother holding me, alongside are my two older brothers. The Salvation Army Grace Hospital operated on the Arlington and Preston location between 1906 and 1907, when it relocated to St. James.

Mom is standing in front of our home, behind her are 77 and 79 Arlington, note that both homes then had verandas which have long ago been

removed. The Graham family lived at 77 Arlington St. Mr. Graham was one of 3,500 veterans who lost a

one of many area seniors who participated in lawn bowling in Vimy Park (which we used to refer to as Home Street Park).

To our immediate north was a Yugoslavian family, next to them another Finnish family. Midway up the street was an

Our universe during our primary years was Laura Secord School, which was a hub of activity. Sports throughout the four seasons, the annual Winter Carnival, and School Teas in the gym.

Long before the construction of the church at Ruby and Palmerston (which would ultimately become the Robert Steen Community Centre) area parents tried to secure surplus city land on the south side of Palmerston between Ruby and Lipton Streets.

The former Winnipeg Electric Company had a large gas storage tank on this site. When it was decommissioned, my father told me that area resident's petitioned City Council to dedicate the property for a local Community Centre. These efforts were not successful, and residents continued with school-based programs and a city skating shack in the school yard each winter.

Laura Secord Principal, Ms. Aileen Gunter (1961 – 1976) wrote about the tremendous parental, school staff and area merchant support for school activities. Her words taken from the school's 75th anniversary publication (1987) paid tribute to the efforts to of the community as it moved to establish the current Robert A. Steen Community Centre, she said, “Tall oaks from little acorns grow.”

Wolseley continues to be my home; its history is rich and its future is full of promise.

Next month, more Wolseley memories.



limb in World War I, the war to end all wars. He spent his summers in his veranda and we would wave at him daily, he was

Our world in the 1960's was full of adventure in the community. Fireworks in the back lane each Victoria Day Weekend. My father, a city firefighter, conducted the fireworks show which always ended with the burning schoolhouse.

Our neighbors on Arlington included a Finnish family to our immediate south. Next to them was a Dutch family at 72 Arlington, which was once the home of William Tier, Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Manitoba, which named its Arts building after him.

Italian family where the father tended his tomato plants daily in the summer. My Father would walk to and from work in his fire uniform and this Italian neighbor christened my Father (whose name was Lloyd) “Louie”. We never knew why or how this occurred, but he would loudly greet “Louie” daily to discuss the news of the day.

Firehall No. 14 at the corner of Lipton and Westminster was a working firehall between 1913 and 1974. Each June children in the neighborhood would proceed with their bicycles to the firehall to buy our city bike licenses (for \$1 as I recall).



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# THE LAST WORD

## Wolseley Bike Corridor: Two Steps Backward or Two Steps Forward?

by Mike Maunder

The ongoing story of trying to create a Wolseley-to-downtown bike corridor took one step forward at the end of June, and, depending on your point of view, two steps backwards.

The one-step forward is that there is enough agreement among key stakeholders to create the bike lane through West Broadway, and work will begin in 2021.

The two steps backwards is that the route through Wolseley is totally up in the air, awaiting "further traffic modeling."

**A step forward:** The most contentious issue in West Broadway was the proposal to improve bike and pedestrian safety by making the tricky street maze in front of Balmoral Hall School into one-way westbound for cars. The one-way has been shelved after protestations from the school, Canada Life, and the property managers who own the maze of apartments at this intersection.

If you are biking from downtown in a year or so, you will cross Osborne near the bridge and find a protected double bike lane on the south side of the street (one lane east, into downtown; one lane west, into Wolseley). This double lane will follow Granite Way, turn south and west on Balmoral, and then will enter the street maze around the main gates of Balmoral Hall School. (Balmoral Street ends at Young, which turns south for a few yards to the school, then turns west again onto Westminster.) The future double bike lane will continue though all this on the south

side until the school intersection, where it will split into a westbound protected bike lane on the north side of Westminster, and an eastbound protected bike lane continuing on the south.

These two bike lanes will continue along Westminster, past Helen Grocery on Langside, past Furby, past the Sherbrook Inn, and end around Food Fare and Westminster Church on Maryland. (*Maps available at Public Works Walk Bike Projects.*)

From this point, the bike lane enters Wolseley and many, many issues.

**Keeping the momentum:** Most of these issues were raised at a public meeting at Westminster Church in January where hundreds of residents objected to many aspects of the plan: a convoluted system of converting Westminster and Wolseley into one-way streets for a block or two in order to slow drive-through traffic; the loss of parking spaces for businesses; and other issues.

The city announcement at the end of June said "next steps (for Wolseley) depend on the results of advanced traffic modelling scenarios throughout the Wolseley neighbourhood to confirm traffic flow on routes." Collecting data for these scenarios has been delayed because Covid has disrupted normal traffic flow patterns.

Is there a chance that the two steps backwards in Wolseley could be converted into two steps forward?

This delightful prospect could happen if traffic engineers are willing to take a good look at what is already happening on

Wolseley Avenue now that the street has been closed to vehicular traffic for four months. The city announcement specified that "the intent of further traffic modelling is to formulate a design where traffic volumes and speeds are

low and a protected bike lane is not needed."

That seems to be what's already happening on Wolseley Avenue.

If it became permanent, then the entire Wolseley-to-downtown bike corridor would now be finished.



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