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THE LEAF

SERVING WOLSELEY AND WEST BROADWAY



MAY 2020

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY | VOL 8 NO. 5 | FREE TO WOLSELEY AND WEST BROADWAY RESIDENTS

WOLSELEYLEAF.CA

Duncan Mercredi Voice of the city

by Terese Taylor

Wolseley poet Duncan Mercredi was appointed Winnipeg's Poet Laureate in March.

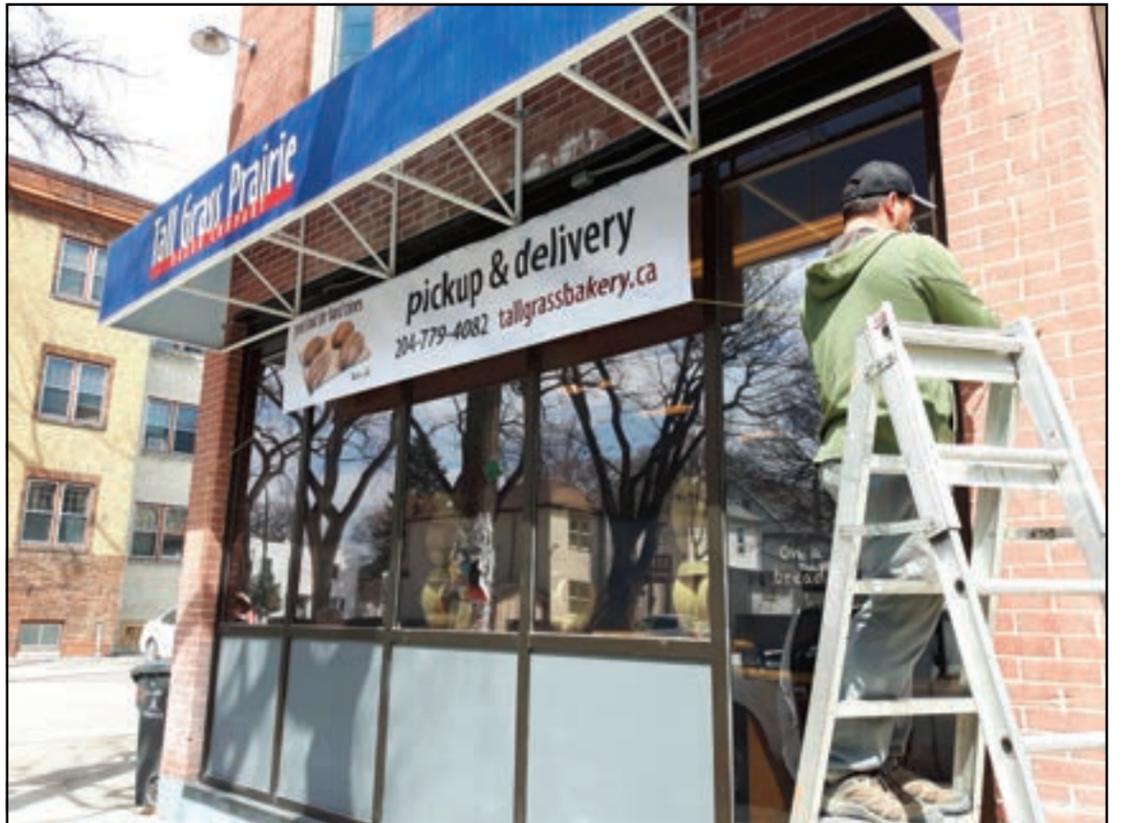
encouraging him to consider, but this time it would have been "a stupid mistake if you don't give it a shot when three really strong women

He said it's an honour that people have been

Continues page 5



Poet Duncan Mercredi



Local businesses are adapting to Covid19 restrictions; Tall Grass Prairie Bakery offers call-in orders, pickup and delivery options

Community food drive to keep connections strong

by Nathan Dueck

In response to the Covid19 pandemic, the Wolseley Residents' Association is coordinating a food drive from residents throughout the neighbourhood. An appeal has been made to the Wolseley community to drop off non-perishable food items to their "block connectors" — residents on almost every block who have expressed a

willingness to promote WRA events — who will deliver them to Winnipeg Harvest. For information about who your block connector is and how to participate, please email wrawpg@gmail.com.

Efforts like the food drive and online events help continue a sense of neighbourhood spirit that risks being lost due to

distancing measures, says Cerilli. "During the pandemic this social infrastructure and social cohesion is really important to maintain. It is really important that people feel a connection to their community. From a public health point of view, community engagement and

Continues page 4



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THE FIRST WORD — EDITORIAL

**Do tell:
How did we
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WOLSELEYITES

History, Memories and Art of Our Neighbourhood A year-long project of *The Leaf*

The *Leaf* has been publishing in Wolseley for eight years and during all that time we’ve been aware of how lucky we are to be in a neighbourhood this unique.

But there doesn’t seem to be a complete history, or collection of stories, about how Wolseley came to be.

There are lots of bits we know – “Rising to the Occasion”, Ardythe Bashan’s colourful collection of stories and history; Pat Thompson’s 2005 history of Cornish Library; Ariel Gordon’s “Treed”; Nick Ternette’s memories, including his work as lunch monitor at Laura Secord School... but there are so many hundreds of stories and individuals we don’t know. *The Leaf* would like to spend the next year collecting and telling these stories of Wolseleyites.

Wolseleyites are creative, artistic, scholarly, out-of-the-box people.

Are you someone who has created art about our neighbourhood?

Are you an extrovert and activist?

Or an introvert and observer?

Someone who knows the story of a particular place you love?

The trees... the parks... the yards... the street corners... the river?

The one-of-a-kind houses?

That incredibly difficult, time-consuming, sink-hole renovation you did?

Raising a family? Loving a place?

A collector of stories? About your house? Your street? Your grandparents? Your kids?

The Metis roots of the neighbourhood?

The places to eat and shop?

The graffiti? Fires? Crimes? Wealth? The poor and marginalized? Yoga? Social Justice? Politics? Traffic? Bikes? Mosquitoes? Mosquito spray? Cornish Library? Little libraries?

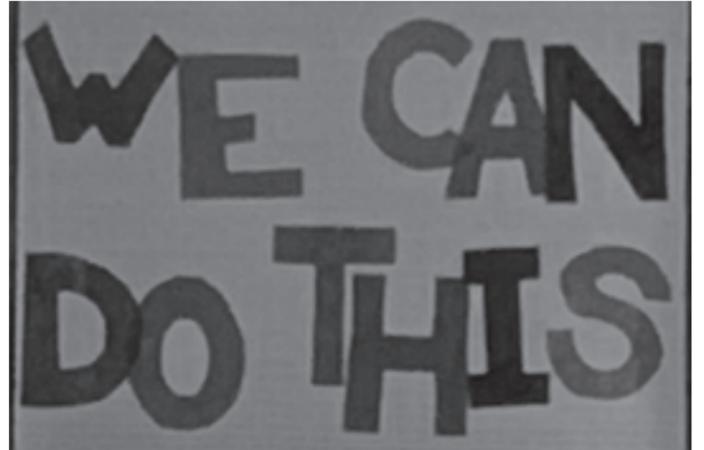
The feeling of the neighbourhood? Lifestyles? Spirit? Movements?

We’re looking for essays, poems, artwork, photos, recollections, or maybe just some of your time to talk to us.

With this May, 2020 issue, we’re launching a year-long project to collect and print your stories. We hope that by the May, 2021 issue, we’ll have collected enough to make a proper history of this neighbourhood: why it’s so unique, how we got here, the challenges, and heartaches, and music, and laughs along the way. We’ll only succeed, if you help us find the stories that will create a lasting celebration of our neighbourhood and you, its people – Wolseleyites all.

Phone, e-mail or write *The Leaf* if you’re interested. You don’t have to have your ideas all worked out – we’ll get back to you and work on it.

We’re all Wolseleyites together.



In this time of social distancing you might enjoy digging into the neighbourhood’s past, and your own past. These nine suggestions shouldn’t limit you, but can help frame the story you want to tell. Stories have a way of going their own directions. Your story, or interview, will likely go in a dozen different directions. Our hope is these suggestions will help you start.

9 Suggestions:

1. List the main involvements you’ve had with Wolseley (just a phrase for each) with roughly the years for each.
2. If this is a span of more than five years, pick the five years you most want to talk about and jot down 2-3 Wolseley stories from those years.
3. In the earliest period when you were involved with Wolseley, think about day-to-day life in the neighbourhood. Some examples from those days: the house you lived in, people, demographics, cultural identities (and counter-cultural), community organizations, churches, schools, businesses, restaurants, shopping, services, life on the street, greenspaces, physical activities, feeling of belonging, lifestyles, consciousness, spirit.
4. Over the entire span of years that you’ve been involved with Wolseley, are there ways that the character and culture of the neighbourhood changed?
5. Can you think of special events or key moments? special places or people?
6. Why is Wolseley a unique neighbourhood within Canada and what should people know about the heartbeat and soul of this neighbourhood?
7. Do you have any other thoughts about the community ... things we haven’t talked about that are important to know?
8. Wolseley is filled with so many creative, artistic, scholarly people. Are you someone who has created art about our neighbourhood? Are you a neighbourhood researcher, historian or storyteller who has already started recording some of our history? Pieces of history? Stories of relatives? Research into the history of your house? Thesis projects? Essays? Poems? Stories of parents, grandparents and more? Let us know and we’ll get back to you.
9. Do you have any photographs, news articles or memorabilia about Wolseley? Help us gather things to add to a neighbourhood collection.

Wolseleyites begins this month on page 6



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



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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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Tell your friends you saw them in *The Leaf*!

POETRY PAGE



Something New Under The Sun

by Lenore Moreau

in the morning the chill air is quiet
 for just this once the cars have fallen silent
 i hear the yet clinging autumn leaves quake
 and the winter birds as they stir and awake
 they twitter so happily
 oblivious to our tweets
 careless of our fears
 outperforming our tears
 as if they might forgive us
 for all these insults
 for all these years

as i stroll
 and look up
 to the shimmering rays
 i see the sky is a different hue
 a new blue
 an old blue
 upon which
 i was never before allowed to gaze
 the real colours obscured by our intentions
 our pollutions
 our conventions
 all the shrapnel and shards
 of our proclaimed best intentions

outside my window
 i see my neighbours walking
 from a distance quietly talking
 and wonder if
 through our well founded terror
 we will find some reverence
 for something other than ourselves
 and hold on to it
 for longer than the items
 we have stripped bare from the shelves

out in the snow
 i hear a crunch and a crackle
 and peer to see coming
 not the sweeping feet of the reaper
 but a half crazed red squirrel
 chasing another
 his enemy, not his brother
 as he fights for his little space
 in this world
 stopping only once
 to catch his breath
 concerned only with his life
 and by extension his death

Illustration by Brian Rougeau

A Widower's Winter Morning

by A.E. Millward

A cup of hot tea will go down very well;
 I'll get me a biscuit and sit for a spell.
 The milks in the mug, the kettle is singing:
 Visions of ease in it's song it is bringing.
 Alas and alack! The cookie jar's bare!
 What pleasure in tea if nibbling on air?
 My own cookie-making's uncertain at best;
 I decided last week to give it a rest.
 Where can I turn, for instant relief?
 Who has the balm for the widower's grief?
 There's Joan at my doorstep, Georgina not far,
 Redoubtable both, but, as bakers, 'bove par.
 What can I do to attract their attention,
 What move, or what ploy, or artful invention?
 On with my jacket, my mittens and tuque:
 Up with the shovel, to pathway and nook,
 Sidewalk and curb stone, grating and stair,
 Then back to await in my own little lair.
 A knock at the door: now who could it be?
 Why! Joanne! What a pleasure this morning to see!
 What? Cookies? Fresh baking? And all this for me?
 How kind, and how thoughtful: a blessing on thee!
 Before I have time to settle down
 To watch the tea turned perfect brown,
 A second knocking at the door:
 Georgina! Come in, don't mind the floor.
 You cannot stay? Just dropping by?
 A little surplus of cake and pie?
 Well, this morning has been quite a treat.
 Now to my business, to drink and to eat.

COMMUNITY NEWS

cohesion are really necessary, especially during an emergency like this.”

In addition to this block-by-block drive, the WRA is working to organize a virtual town hall to hear residents' concerns and ideas about how to better ensure the safety and well-being during the pandemic, scheduled for May 11 at 8 p.m. The tree-planting workshop offered by Trees Winnipeg will take place online on May 22. For \$55, workshop participants will receive two trees for their yard and instructions for how to plant and care for them. There are also plans to host sessions on plastic use and energy efficiency.

The WRA requested that the City limit vehicle travel on Wolseley Avenue to one block during the pandemic. The City complied earlier this month, and announced that this restriction would remain in place until May 29th, as one of a number of active transportation routes set up throughout the city.

The association produced posters, designed by WRA member and architect Ken MacKinnon that depict



The Omand's Creek foot bridge is completely submerged beneath exceptionally high water levels in April. Birds are making the best of it

physical distancing guidelines for walking and biking. Although a number of the posters have been removed from their placements along Wolseley Avenue, Cerilli says that members of the

community have also expressed support for them. She also hopes that the City will put up official signage for social distancing and walking directions in addition to the road barriers in the middle of

the street that announce the vehicle travel restrictions.

Cerelli lauded the Province's creation of the "Help Next Door" website (helpnextdoor.ca) where Manitoba residents can both

offer and request assistance for getting groceries and other goods. To connect with the WRA activities, go to wrawpg.ca

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Wolseley Law

Responding to the pandemic

We asked our local representatives to share what our governments are doing and if the pandemic has the potential to lead to positive social change

By Nathan Dueck

Daniel Mac City Councillor Cindy Gilroy

We have been monitoring other cities and learning from their experiences in dealing with COVID-19. Many employees are working from home, including myself. A decision was made by council to support those residents who are in a position where they need to defer their property or business tax payments. We have been working with many community organizations like Main Street Project, End Homelessness and Winnipeg Harvest. We have changed out the transit fleet to allow for effective social distancing. The City of Winnipeg updated processes to accommodate electronic meetings of Council and Committees of Council. This includes public participation in the same format. *

I am concerned with Pallister's cuts to programs and services that help support our most vulnerable people. For example, Spence Neighbourhood Association, West Broadway Community Organization and Daniel McIntyre St. Matthews Community Association and the West Central Women's Resource Centre have played a critical role during this

time. Funding cuts to these groups would be devastating and directly impact our neighbourhood.

However as with many pivotal moments of history there is an opportunity for great socio-economic change. Many of us are working from home, and are asking: is this the new normal or do we need physical spaces to do our work? We have businesses that have had to be creative. Restaurants have moved to only delivery and pick up options and supermarkets are overwhelmed by the demand for online options for groceries. What does this mean for our environment, transportation and how does this affect our decisions as we deal with the imminent threat of climate change. When I am outside my observations are increased pedestrians and cyclists and less vehicles. I know as I reflect at home with my family it is with some joy that I see Mother Earth heal as we are forced to step back from our fast-paced lives. This could be the moment where we start to live in a more sustainable way with our natural environment.

Wolseley MLA Lisa Naylor

Sadly, Manitoba is the only province that has not provided direct emergency financial aid to workers, families or small business owners, other than in the form of no-interest loans. Small businesses are the heart of our community and a key part of our economy.

It is simply not enough for the province to just be cutting insurance taxes. We need a better plan. That is why we continue to call on the government to provide immediate direct financial aid to Manitoba's businesses. *

I'm an optimist by nature but you are asking me to see the potential long-term positives to come out of the pandemic when we are just at the beginning of it. We are going to be in the middle of this thing for a long time and the economy will not begin to recover anytime soon. If anything, the pandemic has shone a brighter spotlight on socioeconomic disparities. Folks with housing instability or food insecurity – just got a lot more insecure. The loss of school meal programs has been devastating for many families and I don't think we have begun to see the long

Continues page 8

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ART AND SOUL DUNCAN MERCREDI



Continued from front page

writers recommend you." One of them, Katherena Vermette, has won several awards including the Governor General's Award for poetry, and Amazon's first Novel Award. Mercredi was a mentor who supported her and helped her to get there.

Stepping into the limelight isn't something the longtime Wolseley resident ever planned to do.

Mercredi first found himself writing as a young man when he moved away to Cranberry Portage to study high school. It was his first time living away from his community of Misipawistik Cree Nation (formerly Grand Rapids First Nation).

"I've always kind of been a solitary person even as a boy, but it is a different kind of solitary feeling when you are in a school away from home."

Originally poetry was a way to relieve the stress of being away from home, but a few years later with a few years of work for Manitoba Hydro and the Department of Highways under his belt, Mercredi moved to Winnipeg and joined the Indigenous Writer's Collective. It was a time to settle his family in the big city, but also something new.

"In Winnipeg you were expected to share in person. You are expected to read." It provided a greater structure for Mercredi to dedicate to his writing; and it also began the introduction to Mercredi as a mentor and sought-after advisor to fellow writers in the collective.

His quick wit and keen observations made people feel welcome. His poetry became a powerful voice in response to contemporary issues. Like close friend and writer Marvin Francis (who passed away in 2005), Mercredi worked in bush camps across the province, where groups of workers were thrown together temporarily for short term jobs. It made for interesting encounters.

"The people that work in the camps are quite diverse. Some are there because they need a job, some are there because they are hiding. You get to know these people. Not close. People working in Bush Camps never get close."

Mercredi says that there was also a bluntness in the blue collar work environment. "I appreciated that honesty," he says. Sometimes something would strike a chord. "I have to respond to this but I don't want to respond as an attack, but as a point of view. Trying to use the words that are directed at me and putting them back."

Covid-19 conditions requiring social distancing have meant that some of the planned poetry events Mercredi hoped to launch his two year appointment are currently on hold, but some organizations have been able to arrange online workshops. These unusual circumstances are made worse by current political trends that Mercredi finds troubling. In his typical fashion, he's found an apt play

Duncan Mercredi's poetry has inspired many of Winnipeg's most prominent writers. Photos T Taylor

on words that explains it. He calls it "Trumpelstiltskinism."

"It's that old fairy tale. It's made it safe for people to come out and express their hatred."

Perhaps poetry is one way to defeat Trumpelstiltskinism.

"I tell people I'm opening up that last door inside your heart," explains Mercredi. "That very last door down the hallway of your heart and letting people have a peek. Letting them know how you feel."





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WOLSELEYITES

The birth of the Granola Belt

By Mike Maunder

One of the big historical questions that *The Leaf's* **WOLSELEYITES** project hopes to uncover over the next year is how and when Wolseley became Winnipeg's Granola Belt.

The earliest precise date the identity was established might be as early as the '70s, but more likely the '80s.

In the '70s, Wolseley was experiencing the arrival of many young people who could afford the cheap rents and even home purchases. Also in the '70s, many people were discovering granola as a healthy lifestyle choice.

Granola had existed on the fringes for a long time. By 1978 it was mainstream. That year, a *Rolling Stone* article —“The Social History of Granola”—traced the way granola had entered the common cultural lexicon. They traced it to a 1972 ad for granola, marketed as “Heartland Natural Cereal” by Pet Foods Inc.

Packed in a simple sepia-toned box, they pitched granola with nostalgia for a simpler time (before Watergate, before the Vietnam War, almost, you might say, granola would make America great again.)

By the mid-70's granola was a hit (Pet's brand alone had over 3% of the



cereal market), but still not the trademark for Wolseley.

However, that granola advertisement might very well describe the cultural consciousness that was then beginning to make itself felt in Wolseley – a consciousness around health, lifestyle, spirit.

To explore that cultural consciousness, we talked to Paul Chorney and Grant Pastuck.

Paul Chorney was a member of Harvest Collective opened in the summer of 1978 at 875 Westminster. Grant Pastuck and a group of friends opened Prairie Sky Books a few months later.

If any Wolseleyites might remember the origins, Paul, as a maker of granola, and Grant, as a student of consciousness, might know. “We were a group of about 70 people from all over the city buying organic food,” recalls Paul. “We looked in three neighbourhoods to set up a store. Someone mentioned there was a closed grocery store at 875 Westminster and they’d throw in the old store’s equipment, so we moved in...”

“But it wasn’t a Wolseley thing; more New Age. We were interested in holistic

health, spirituality, environmentalism.”

Similarly, Grant Pastuck and his friends shared an interest in consciousness, spirituality and New Age thinking. “We were definitely alternative,” he recalls, “But we weren’t flaky. We were able to put together a plan and pull it off.”

Grant worked as a biochemist for the government. He had lived for a while as part of a Buddhist community on Wellington Crescent. His friends came from many spiritual traditions; they talked about metaphysics around a friend’s kitchen table, loved watching “Saturday Night Live” together, and decided: “What Winnipeg needs is a good Dharma bookstore.”

Paul and Grant remember the neighbourhood in 1978 as very different from today. They had chosen Wolseley because it was cheap, not because it had any particular reputation for being alternative. Neighbourhoods like Osborne Village were much trendier.

“There was a little bit of culture,” remembers Paul. “Karen Johhannesson ran Mrs. Lipton’s Restaurant down the street (opened 1977). But generally it wasn’t a prosperous neighbourhood.”

When they moved into the building, Grant describes it as on the verge of being condemned. It took three months to strip paint and discover the beautiful woodwork beneath.

“The neighbourhood was at a low ebb, a lot of rundown houses, terrible rooming houses,” recalled Grant. Just the year prior, eight people had died in a fire at the Town and Country Lodge on Preston Avenue.

When they moved into 875 Westminster, only two of the building’s eight apartments were rented. Within a year, the owner of the building defaulted and the building was taken over by Astroid Management.

And now, perhaps, we begin to discern the seeds of the Granola Belt being planted:

“I remember Astroid telling us they were taking it over because they had two stable commercial tenants,” remembers Grant. “And within six months of renovating, all eight apartments upstairs were filled, and they’ve been filled ever since.”

That was 1979. Some new kind of consciousness was starting to flow and it wasn’t just renovations and young people. It was not, strictly speaking, the famed counter-culture of the '60s and early '70s. Well, maybe... a little. When we asked Grant when the hippie presence had ended in Wolseley, he responded: “Ended?”

What was happening in Wolseley in 1978 was much more than hippies arriving. A kind of spirit was moving; a lifestyle; a feeling; a movement. In 1980, the Wolseley Residents’ Association was formed. In 1981 another spiritual group, Grain of Wheat Church, created a home church. Also in 1981, the area, which had been small-c-conservative for most of its life (Duff Roblin’s and Izzy Asper’s riding from the '50s to the '70s) elected its first NDP, and—with one notable exception—has been NDP ever since. For three years the old bank building beside Prairie Sky was home to the Winnipeg Chautauqua Learning Community, offering classes from vegetarian cooking to tai chi, yoga and the Jewish mystical texts of Kabbalah. In 1982 Mark Hayward moved Wolseley Bike Shop in to the old bank building, bringing mountain biking to Winnipeg.

All pretty alternative for the Winnipeg of the early '80s, but all coming to symbolize Wolseley.

A 1983 *Free Press* article on Wolseley was the first time a commentator used the

continues next page

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WOLSELEYITES

The two stories on these pages begin *The Leaf's* year-long series: **WOLSELEYITES**. We hope you'll contribute story ideas by phoning or e-mailing us at *The Leaf*.

Before the axes made an appearance

By Linda Taylor

None of us who know Wolseley should have been surprised when over 1,000 responses were provided to Winnipeg city staff after they inquired about our thoughts on possible street closures and new bicycle paths. We probably

all know the story of the Wolseley Elm, the tree in the middle of the street that a group of women circled around to protect from being cut down by City workers. However, not many know the long history of

civic unrest in our community about streets and trees.

Mary Ann Kirton moved to Wolseley with her husband Joseph Good in the 1860's. They owned a long strip of land off the river near Basswood. Fortunately for us, Mary

expression: "the Granola Heights label and the suggestion that the area is inhabited by the quiche and white-wine set are unfair." This generally upbeat article already showed how others could use the "granola" label to talk about the area in a derogatory way.

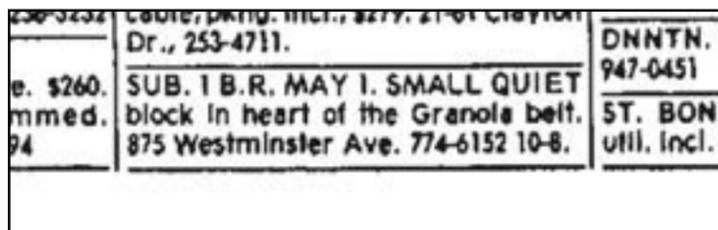
But to the Wolseleyites actually living here, the label was becoming an affectionate way to describe the spirit of Wolseley.

continues below

"Small quiet block in heart of the Granola belt" were words penned, not by an outside observer, but by an actual Wolseleyite (who admittedly wanted to sublet). "Granola belt" is part of the ad because the writer saw it as a positive identifier for the neighbourhood.

From granola to bookstores to Birkenstocks, Wolseley was becoming the main neighbourhood in Winnipeg that welcomed

continues below



The actual earliest printed reference to Wolseley as the granola belt came a full year-and-a-half before that *Free Press* story: an ad for a sublet in the *Free Press* on **April 21, 1982**.

alternatives and embraced change, both physical and metaphysical.

It had become, proudly, the granola belt.



As far as we know, axes became part of the stand off with the city only once, in 1957. But the photos were picked up by international media outlets and appeared in *Life Magazine*, one of the most popular US publications at the time. Photo Winnipeg Tribune, University of Manitoba Archives

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BEFORE THE AXES *continued...*

continues from page 7

Ann loved trees and set about planting trees all around her home, up Newman and other streets nearby. One was planted in the middle of what would become Wolseley Avenue.

It grew into a magnificent tree over 50 years and then when Mary's husband died in 1907 the City saw their chance to get rid of the tree. They wanted to build a road and they wanted it straight. Mary rallied people to keep the tree in its place and she petitioned City Council to ensure its protection. Council agreed and the road was laid with a bend to accommodate the tree.

Then in 1925 the City decided to lay asphalt on the road. Again, Council decided to straighten the road and arrived to cut down the tree. This time Anne Borrowman - who lived at 1192 Wolseley and faced the big tree in the middle of the road - organized to stop the plan. Mary Ann helped but was now 84 years old. When her husband died she built a smaller home at 484 Newman just around the corner where she could still gaze upon the big trees she had planted earlier.

Again this band of tree protectors succeeded in

keeping the grand tree in its place. A concrete curb was built around it. It became like a modern traffic circle. It was widely enough known by then that Ripley's Believe it or Not called it "the smallest park in the world". You might think this would cause the

City planners to pause, but no.

In 1936 they again made efforts to remove the tree but their efforts were defeated by the leadership of Councillor Margaret McWilliams, one of our first female Councillors. McWilliams was a highly respected woman, the



*"Wild women of Wolseley" knew how to get the attention of the press, the Winnipeg Police, and the Mayor.
Photo Winnipeg Tribune, University of Manitoba Archives*

first female graduate in Political Economy at the University of Toronto, and the first President of the Canadian Federation of University Women.

In 1959, for the fourth time, the City wanted to cut down the tree. Apparently there were some complaints that cars were being impeded on their way to sporting events at the Winnipeg Stadium and the Arena; both in the Polo Park area.

The citizens of Wolseley, however, were happy that cars had to slow down when traversing Wolseley and when local women including Borrowman learned that the civic workers were coming again they quickly mobilized to link arms around the trees. A raucous protest was held. When one woman picked up an axe and threatened a worker with it, the police stepped with, "Now lady, is that any way to behave".

This brought a swift retort, "Don't lady me, we know our rights around here."

When the police tried to remove people, one of the women yelled, "Get your

dirty hands off me, you, you, you, cop."

Around this time Mayor Steve Juba showed up in his luxurious convertible and told the civic crew to stop work. He was then informed that as the actions had been approved by the Works Committee of Council that he could not unilaterally overturn it. Juba, never one to take no for an answer, decided that as Chief Magistrate for the City he would order the Police to leave, knowing the workers would follow. However the Police Chief heard about this and angrily informed him he did not have the authority to do that.

By this time the Deputy Chief Engineer John Tauton arrived and demanded the tree come down. "No," said Juba. "Do you order me to stop the work?" said Tauton. "Yes", the Mayor said triumphantly. "Public safety, that's it. I order you to stop endangering these woman." And the tree cutting and the protest stopped. It was reported that Borrowman and the Mayor then went off for tea.

Of course it wasn't the end. It went back to a City committee where a "knock down drag out" fight ensued. The City's chief engineer sided with the community and the Head of the Traffic division said it must come down. The Council was divided, - nine in favour of leaving the tree standing - and eight to cut it down. One was non-committal so Council voted to keep the tree in its place.

It stayed up for a time, but sadly was eventually destroyed by vandals.

It was never replaced. Maybe now with this new plan being considered to make the community more bike and people friendly we should put giant planters in the middle of a bunch of our streets with trees in them in honour of our past and make cars slow down to get around them?

What is the message here? First, in this community -if you want to get something done- call upon the women. Second, always be vigilant. - bureaucrats like things simple. And last - don't mess with our trees.

Linda Taylor loves our community's principles.

With appreciation to Bruce Cherney, former editor of the Real Estate News.

Responding to the pandemic *continued from page 4*

We asked our local representatives to share what our governments are doing and if the pandemic has the potential to lead to positive social change:

term impact of the malnutrition and education deficits for those who are most marginalized. I commend school divisions who have been working overtime to mitigate those deficits but mostly without government support so there are limits on what is possible.

Local economists and business leaders have criticized the Pallister government's fiscal approach to COVID-19, warning that some of his choices are going to badly damage our economy. In the last two months alone the Pallister government has overseen more than 6,500 public sector layoffs in universities, municipalities, Crown corporations and schools. Combined with the 23,800 private sector jobs lost last month, more than 30,000 Manitobans have been laid off since March.

Winnipeg Centre MP Leah Gazan

The Federal Government has done some positive things, but there are a lot of people who are falling through the cracks. Including small and medium-sized businesses that are the heart and soul of Winnipeg Centre — we are

nothing without these businesses.

The other area is although the CERB does help many, very often it does not help the most vulnerable of society. So I think the Federal Government has really failed in providing adequate funding to ensure that members of the homeless community can have what they need during this time and keep themselves safe.

I've been advocating for a 24/7 safe space for women and girls — I've gotten a clear "no" from the government so far, even though we are the only municipality in the country that doesn't have a 24/7 safe space for women and girls. We know that there are increases in domestic violence during the pandemic and I think the Federal Government has failed to respond adequately to our riding in that regard.

When the government came out with support for students it was a good first step. However, why are students not getting that same amount on the CERB as other Canadians. They pay rent; many have families. We need to make sure that students are looked after during this time.

This government's first response to COVID was bailing out big oil. We need to get rid of off-shore tax havens; we need to stop corporate welfare and invest that money in people; it is a choice. And I'm hoping going forward that this government and all future governments focus on people first and not corporate privilege.*

While I think the Federal Government has made a lot of positive efforts, I think they need to go further and guarantee an annual livable income for all Canadians. I hope we don't go back to normal, and I would like to see that for everybody going forward, especially seniors who need to be taken better care of in our society and make sure they always have what they need. [This needs to happen even] after COVID is resolved. I think if there's anything we've learned about the pandemic is that we have real inequality in this country including many people who don't have basic human rights. If you look at the situation in First Nation communities, and the whole discussion around social isolation even for the homeless communities in

Winnipeg, you can't socially isolate if you don't have a home. You can't socially isolate if you live in overcrowded conditions, and you can't maintain regular frequent handwashing if you don't have access to clean drinking water. So, absolutely, I think let's not go back to normal. Let's ensure that everyone is afforded minimum human rights; let's ensure that people have a guaranteed livable annual income, something that many Senators are pushing for. Our party has talked about a universal income; I'm talking about a guaranteed annual income going forward. We know studies that show guaranteed income doesn't cost money — it actually saves money on things like lower amounts of money needed to be spent on healthcare, because people [on universal basic income] are healthier. It reduces crime. We know that looking after people saves money.

All responses submitted were edited and condensed due to space limitations.

for your fridge

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES MAY 2020

HUMAN CONTACT - DIGITAL/ ONLINE

Wolseley Residents' Association
- on Facebook

West Broadway Voice
- on Facebook

Good Food Club
- on Facebook
(By April: Activities together on Zoom)

Wolseley Parent
- on Facebook

HUMAN CONTACT - PHONE

Senior Centre Without Walls
Phone for Daily Hello Program
- 204-515-1147 (Access code 731967548)

West Broadway Community Ministry
Help with issues: Wed. & Thurs
12:30-3pm
- 204-774-8685 Lynne Somerville

SHELTER
Just A Warm Sleep
Emergency sleep
Open 9 pm, 7 days
- Augustine United Church, 109 Pulford

Salvation Army
- 72 Martha St. 204-946-9404

Siloam Mission

Drop-in space open for meals
8am-4:30 pm, Mon.-Fri.
- 300 Princess St. 204-956-4344

EMERGENCY FOOD

West Broadway Community Ministry
Bag lunch at 222 Furby (12:30 M. W. T. F.)
- Phone for emergency food,
204-774-2773

Agape Table
Bag lunch at 364 Furby
(8-10:30 am weekdays)

Winnipeg Harvest
- appointment@winnipeg Harvest.org
204-982-3660

NEED HELP? GIVE HELP?

Mutual Aid Society
- on Facebook

(created by Wolseley's Omar Kinnarath)

Winnipeg One Neighbourhood
- web (created by Sheilah Restall)
Connects those who need help w/
helpers

Grocery Delivery Winnipeg
- on Facebook, txt and email
Txt: 204-619-1705

email: mkwestwood@hotmail.com

Help Next Door
- web: helpnextdoormb.ca
Manitoba government

**INFORMATION / WHAT'S
OPEN / HOURS etc.**
wfp.to/buylocally

- web
Free Press listing what's open

Broadway Seniors Resource Ctr
- bsrc.ca
Guide to services and ideas

COUNSELLING
Sara Riel: Seneca Warm Line
- 204-942-9276 204-231-0217
24 hr. peer support for anxiety,
loneliness

Liminal Space Therapy
- 204-799-380 204-290-5161
5-7 pm weekdays and anytime
weekends

Therapists Ben and Megan Capili

**Anxiety counselling from Manitoba
government**
- Web: Provincial government
COVID-19
Cognitive-based-therapy (coming by
Apr 10)

POINT OF VIEW

Confinement – for us, temporary; for factory animals, a daily nightmare

by Debbie Wall

During this pandemic, many of us have had to self-isolate for a month or more. We've been able to feel the stress of confinement.

Maybe this is a good time to consider the stressors experienced by animals that we keep in confinement for our food supply.

Sows are kept in 7 by 2 foot stalls, essentially the size of a coffin, for most of their lives.

While in quarantine, we've been able to move from our dining rooms, to our bathrooms and to our bedrooms. Sows, unable to even turn around, are forced to eat, urinate and defecate all in the same place and have to sleep on concrete floors.

We have myriad ways to entertain ourselves – internet, reading, writing, and much more. Pigs are limited to biting

the bars of their prisons in a futile attempt to alleviate a boredom that will never end. Possessing an IQ higher than that of our beloved companion canines, many will go insane from the extreme confinement.

There are parents who see our isolation as a chance to spend quality time with their children. Mother pigs are unable to engage in nurturing activities, not even that as basic as building their babies a nest. Instead, they are reduced to nothing more than milk dispensers, lying on their sides so their young can suckle through the bars that separate them until they are prematurely and permanently removed so the whole breeding cycle can begin again.

We've been able to spend time outside on walks in the Spring air. Pigs will never experience the simple pleasures of feeling the earth beneath their feet, the warmth of the sun on their backs or taking in a sweet breath of fresh air.

At the beginning and end of their lives, pigs face the kinds of horrors we only find in nightmares -- Baby pigs endure mutilations such as tooth clipping, tail docking and castration, adults face the trauma of transport and the terror of slaughter.

Maybe our brief taste of isolation can help us understand more of what our lifestyle means to others on this planet.

What diet do you think will optimize not only your immune system, but your

over-all health? One that features fear for breakfast, misery for lunch and death for dinner? Or one based on whole plant foods that focuses on a rainbow of vibrant,

living fruits and vegetables that have harnessed the power of the sun and are bursting with vitamins, minerals and anti-oxidants?

Envision, Festival of the Arts DATE CHANGE!

Reschedules to October 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

POINT OF VIEW

Pharmacist's 90-Day Policy gouging seniors and others

By Liz Cronk

In recent days there has been some public debate regarding the limiting of prescriptions from three months to one month. I would like to add my voice to this concern.

This policy has been instituted by the government as recommended by the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA). The CPhA claims that this policy prevents a shortage of drugs. While there is a shortage of some drugs, to institute a wide sweeping policy to include all drugs is ludicrous.

Simply put, this policy is ill-conceived, self serving and is gouging consumers in the midst of a pandemic.

Many citizens have several prescriptions. This policy triples the cost of dispensing fees which are paid per prescription. Such fees are up to \$15.

One pharmacist complained to me that his workload has increased significantly. Well of course this has occurred as they are filling prescriptions three times as often! He does not have my sympathy. In fact, it appears as

though pharmacists are taking advantage of consumers and are profiting from this pandemic.

I do not accept any of the CPhA explanations for this thoughtless policy. The pharmacists say that this is to prevent hoarding. But our pharmacare program already limits us to a 90-day supply; thus it is impossible to hoard.

One local doctor pointed out in a *Free Press* op-ed article (April 16) that purchases are already monitored by an on-line program that requires entry of each dispensed

prescription by the pharmacist. This enables front-line pharmacists to prevent hoarders.

Willson Caetano, a pharmacist, is quoted in the *Free Press* (April 20): "We have waiting lists of patients wanting two, three, or six inhalers (Ventolin) to have on hand, just in case." So why is the pharmacist refilling these prescriptions at this quantity?

I would say that this is a pharmacist-induced issue.

My fear is that some seniors and others are who are unable to afford the triple fees will

ration their medications, i.e., take them every other day or decrease it in some other fashion. Other provinces like British Columbia cover dispensing fees for many people with low income or medication costs. Alberta adjusts their co-pay structure for seniors and those without private insurance to offset those costs.

I urge consumers to discuss their concerns with their pharmacists. They need to hear our displeasure.

Winnipeg Awareness Group advises caution on 5G antennas

by Mary Jane Eason

5G, an "upgrade" of 4G technology used for many of our wireless devices, is designed to enhance our wireless connectivity. The tech industry has spent huge sums in research and development; governments and public utilities throughout the world are being brought into play.

But the public has been caught off guard and many have little or no knowledge of

this technology, let alone the scientific concerns being raised.

The mandate of 5G Winnipeg Awareness is to create awareness and understanding of the health and environmental issues concerning 5G, and to advocate for a halt of 5G rollout until it is proven to be reasonably safe by scientists independent of industry.

Full rollout of 5G includes frequencies that cannot easily penetrate objects such as windows and walls. Therefore, cell antennas must be located close to our homes, for example, on hydro poles, such as those we have in our Wolseley back lanes. This will result in our exposure to radiofrequency (RF) radiation on a continuous basis; the "new" 5G frequencies as well as the RF frequencies already in use (pre-5G).

Scientists worldwide are urgently warning of the potential health risks to human and environmental health. Included are Canadians like Dr. Anthony Miller, Professor Emeritus of Dalla Yana School of Public Health, University of Toronto; Dr. Riina Bray of

Toronto's Environmental Health Clinic; Dr. Magda Havas, Professor Emirates, Trent University and Dr. Dr. Paul Héroux, McGill University.

At the heart of the matter is that there has been no long-term health safety testing on exposure to 5G and, even for the pre-5Gs, our health guidelines appear to be inadequate.

There is much evidence in peer-reviewed RF radiation studies that there are adverse effects, some at thousands of times lower than Health Canada's guidelines. Evidence exists for cancer, sperm damage and neurodegenerative and other conditions from long-term exposures. Symptoms such as headaches, sleep problems, heart

disturbances and tinnitus (ear-ringing) may occur from shorter term exposures.

The opportunities and risks of 5G technology will be explored in more depth in a future forum on 5G to be hosted by 5G Winnipeg Awareness. The group is open to all concerned Winnipeg residents and meets every second Tuesday in the Wolseley area.

For more information go to: Email: 5g.winnipeg.awareness@gmail.com
Website: <https://5gwinnipegawareness.ca/>
Face Book: https://www.facebook.com/5GWinnipegAwareness/?modal=admin_todo_tour
(Mary Jane Eason is a member of the 5G Awareness Winnipeg.)



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Zoomers and Boomers

Thanks, Terese, Mike, & the Leaf contributors for another great paper! I loved the "Zoomer & a Boomer" article with Mike & Keestin, told so lovingly & with humour. I also enjoyed the story about the young writer, Clary Ines & learning about the fine CBC Point of View Project. I love CBC & it is such an important national asset.

Finally, thank you to both you & CCPA for including the Alternative Provincial Budget Supplement in the paper. What a great way for the Alternative Budget ideas to get broader coverage. It's great to have it in paper form, too, as the digital one sometimes gets lost amidst the many important readings coming our way.

Keep up the "old-fashioned newspaper for this newfangled world." I love it!

A dedicated reader, I am,

Ellen Kruger

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

THE SECOND LAST WORD



Ragging the puck during COVID-19

By Paul Moist

Notwithstanding that all hockey ended last month, here in Manitoba we have had a rink side seat watching Premier Brian Pallister rag the puck.

During the current COVID-19 pandemic he regularly meets the media and offers his version of a pep talk. Beyond this he hasn't offered up anywhere near what other governments have, thereby earning the title of "resident scrooge of the Council of the Federation."

Manitoba has offered nothing to top up incomes of workers forced on to unemployment lines through no fault of their own. Nor has the province offered rent assistance to those in need of it.

Similarly, beyond a phone-line to help navigate federal support services, the Pallister government has offered little to small business. One local columnist called this failure on the part of the government "negligent" and showing poor judgment.

A prominent business leader recently suggested that province is leaving it to the federal government to do the "heavy lifting," and that Mr. Pallister is more concerned with his government's financial position than helping citizens who are hurting "through no fault of their own."

For those workers still on the job and in need of child care services given school closures, Premier Pallister ignored existing certified child care operators, all of whom have existing capacity during the pandemic, opting instead to create a \$18 million fund, given to the Winnipeg and Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, to create home-based child care spaces.

Ideology trumps practical public policy solutions when it comes to child-care and other critical services.

Doing nothing is bad. Even worse is the province's dogmatic commitment to its austerity agenda.

This is the only explanation for the March provincial budget introducing a one per cent reduction in the provincial sales tax as part and parcel of Manitoba's ongoing fight with Ottawa over the carbon tax. The fact that Pallister retreated from implementing the sales tax reduction a couple of weeks after introducing it speaks to both the folly of the budget itself, and this rigid commitment austerity and reducing the size of

government. The exact opposite of what is required in the current pandemic-induced recession.

Not content to confine the austerity fixation to his own government, Mr. Pallister has written to Universities asking them for plans to reduce expenditures by 30%.

Municipalities have received similar letters suggesting they reduce expenditures. The facts are that universities and municipal governments have services that citizens need, and the last thing that should be occurring is provincially directed austerity.

Turning to the federal government, notwithstanding their COVID-19 response which has directed billions towards unemployed workers and relief for businesses forced to close for public health reasons, Mr. Pallister has more suggestions.

He proposes that provincial civil servants agree to forgo three days per week of work and that their unions lobby the Trudeau government for access to Employment Insurance top-up.

This is an unprecedented move. The EI system does not exist to prop up provincial government payrolls. But it is a guaranteed win for Pallister once the unions and the fed's say "no." He tried to avoid layoffs, but they wouldn't listen.

In a similar vein during week two of the pandemic Pallister stuck up his hand and suggested that the federal government borrow funds that provinces need, given that its triple "A" credit rating means they can borrow more cheaply.

Forget for a moment that federal-provincial fiscal arrangements have not included such borrowing given that it would amount to federal underwriting of borrowing they have no control over.

The federal government supports provincial administrations in a host of ways, including its increased commitment during this pandemic to

purchase provincial bonds, but it will not give any jurisdiction a blank cheque, nor should it.

Again this is a win in the world Mr. Pallister lives in. He tried his best, they wouldn't listen, so the size of the Manitoba deficit is not his fault, voters can blame Mr. Trudeau.

The above conduct is not governing responsibly, it shows an incredible lack of leadership.

At its core it is both cynical and amateurish in the extreme.

Not a huge surprise when you consider that Mr. Pallister opposes school meal programs because they in his view represent a failure of parents to fulfill their responsibilities.

Nor if you recall the Premier's view that indigenous night hunting was a "dumb practice," one that could lead to a "race war."

Such Trumpian pronouncements foster disunity, and are unbecoming of the individual who occupies the most important job in our province.

This month's meme:

World: there's no way we can shut everything down in order to lower emissions, slow climate change and protect the environment.

Mother Nature: here's a virus. Practice.

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**HAPPY
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THE LAST WORD

Glen Murray brings electoral expertise to Greens Race

By Mike Maunder

Glen Murray's announcement that he will run for the leadership of the Green Party has been a great addition to the race, explains Wolseley Green Party representative David Nickarz, especially because he has a proven track record of winning elections.

"I'm in the process of considering all the candidates," explained Nickarz, "But his experience in putting together coalitions is important. The Green Party has always been a party that brings together Left and Right, different people of different backgrounds."

In an interview with *The Leaf*, Murray praised the diversity of the candidates now running for the leadership, and emphasized both his electability, and his ability to bring people together.

He reminisced back to early days living on Langside in West Broadway, and projects as Mayor such as supporting the development of the 96% retrofitted Mountain Equipment Co-op building. After being Mayor in Winnipeg, he moved to Toronto and was twice elected to represent Toronto Centre. He held several portfolios (including environment and climate change) in Ontario's Liberal government.

He moved back to Winnipeg two years ago and had been content acting as a consultant in environmental work. But after seeing much of the environmental work he helped pioneer now being dismantled under Ontario's PC government, he realized long-lasting environmental change is only going to come through changes in politics, and that means the Green Party.

"One of the things Covid has done is give us a picture of what our future could look like. Clean water in the canals of Venice, clear air and healthy outdoors: these were powerful images of what a healthy planet could look like. That part was good.

"But Fighting Covid is the direct opposite of what fighting climate change is. Fighting Covid is isolating people, closing down large parts of the economy, emptying out our city streets. Fighting climate change is about stimulating the economy, building the tax base and reducing the tax burden."

Murray describes this as creating a circular economy, one that reuses resources,

rather than continuing to extract them. A good example is retrofitting buildings so they stop creating 40% of our emissions. Through clean energy like solar, geo-thermal and others, they can become energy neutral or even produce energy. "In modern development, you have entire subdivisions now that when you buy a new house, you're never getting an energy bill. You're providing energy, not using it."

A major retrofitting program in Canada would be the biggest job-creation program in our history, he says, providing careers, opportunities for social enterprise programs like BUILD (pioneered in the city's North End), and worldwide investment opportunities in clean energy.

But doing this means getting elected.

Murray emphasizes he's done this multiple times in some of Canada's most diverse settings. "We need people who can demonstrate that they can build a coalition from a diverse electorate, that they can bring lots of other people into the process, and I think I've demonstrated that," he says.

Murray believes his political experience can help the party move from three members to fifty: what would be a virtual flood.

One of his signature accomplishments when serving as Winnipeg's mayor was a redesign of the Provencher Bridge that many critics at

the time called "Glen's Folly." But it's now become part of the look of a new Winnipeg, standing strongly in the skyline.

Down at water level on a recent visit, ducks and geese were squabbling, the willows were bursting into bud, and the spring flood of the Red River roared past.

It's to be seen if Murray's – or any candidate's – ideas and expertise can produce a similar flood when the Greens choose a leader in Charlottetown



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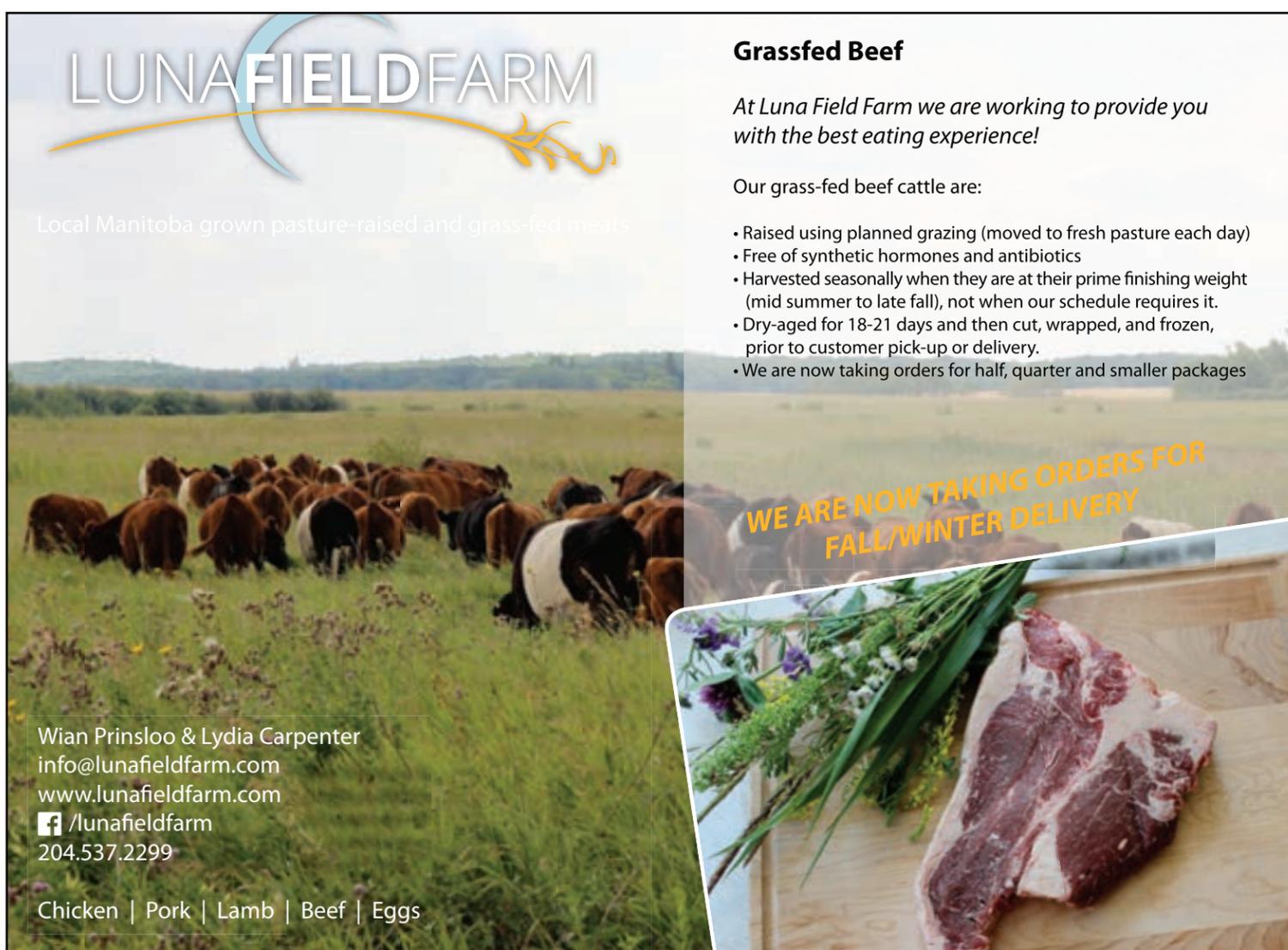
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