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JANUARY 2019 NEWS AND VIEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY | VOL. 7 NO. 1 | FREE TO WOLSELEY AND WEST BROADWAY RESIDENTS WOLSELEYLEAF.CA

Group creating a voice For West Broadway Tenants

By Mike Maunder

The West Broadway Tenants Committee has recently been created as a voice to improve the lives of tenants in the neighbourhood.

“This is important in a neighbourhood like West Broadway which is 94% renters,” explained Scott Price, one of the organizers, “There’s never been an effective way of tenants coming together to make input into issues that affect us. We’re hoping to change that.”

A core group of about six tenants has been meeting for a year. They’ve studied Tenant Associations in other cities, met with organizers of rent strikes in cities like Toronto and Hamilton, and held two public forums, attracting over 30 tenants to each.

Continues page 4



Beautiful ice sculpture on Westminster and Walnut St

WELCOMING
2019



HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!

Government ought to make some new year’s resolutions; Lynda Trono

By Terese Taylor

Lynda Trono just shakes her head at the announcement that the provincial government wants to do more research on meth use before they consider opening safe consumption sites. “It’s proven that they work. We don’t need more research. It’s ridiculous,” says the minister for West Broadway Community Ministry.

WBCM runs a free lunch program 4 times a week, serving more than 100 people every day when they are open, out of Crossways in Common at Furby and Broadway.

Over the past two years, Trono

had first hand experience with people using meth, and when the ministry is open, there is often a row of people (who may or may not be active users) sleeping along the edge of the wall in the common room. Trono says that they deal with issues with love and kindness.

We handle it by building relationships and being kind and not forcing them to suffer the stigma of poverty. They may have walked all night because they don’t have a place to stay,” she says.

Trono says that many people are dealing with mental health issues, and often it’s

difficult to tell exactly what they are dealing with.

“How do we know if its meth or schizophrenia? We just don’t know.”

But if you ask Trono what would make the biggest change in the lives of the people that attend the drop-in, it’s affordable housing.

If she could direct the city budget she says she would make transit free, and everyone who drives a car would pay a toll. “You’d have to have more buses,” she concedes, but the dire poverty that affects people who drop-in

Continues page 4



Anna, Sam and Scott are three of the founding members of the West Broadway Tenants Committee which meets monthly (free pizza included!).

Joy!
Learning
the art of
singing
gospel
page 5

Share
your best
routes!
Calling all
walkers
and
cyclists-
page 8

The power
of the
written
letter
page 11



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



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THE FIRST WORD — EDITORIAL

Citizenship and cell phones

We at The Leaf attended a lot of get-togethers over the holidays, and we noticed something that’s happening more and more. Half the people at any given event weren’t interacting with the people there at all – they were on their phones. Some were texting; some were checking Facebook, Instagram or other sites; some were playing games; but the common feature was they weren’t communicating with the people all around them.

We’ve gained a lot with new technologies, but everything comes with a price tag. It seems one of the price tags of having the world in your pocket is that it often means we don’t get out into the real world as much. And for a group of family and friends who probably won’t see one another again for another year, that’s a loss.

Sure, during that year, we’ll be texting back and forth and sharing pictures and “engaging.” TIME Magazine points out in its year-end issue that “engagement” used to mean face-to-face, reading a person’s expression, responding, relating. But now “engagement” is the way social media sites and advertisers measure their success – it’s how many times we click or swipe on a site.

“Machines are not friends of civic engagement,” says TIME. “Within the bubbles they help us build, the algorithms tend to produce negative messages. Fear and anger produce a lot more engagement and sharing than joy.”

This year-end issue of TIME is kind of special to those of us at The Leaf, because TIME has chosen journalists as their person of the year – “The Guardians.” They’ve highlighted nine journalists who were murdered

or imprisoned for telling their stories last year. And like Jamal Khashoggi’s murder by Saudi authorities, many times it is social media that continues to allow the murderers to lie and hide behind bubbles of “fake news” and disinformation.

“Whom do you trust,” asks TIME? A communication system guided by software, or one guided, however imperfectly, by the judgment of its citizens?

On the editorial page published the same day that a dissatisfied reader murdered five of its staff, the Capital Gazette, in Annapolis, Maryland simply printed the names of the dead reporters, and a brief statement:

“Tomorrow this page will return to its steady purpose of offering our readers informed opinion about the world around them, that they might be better citizens.”

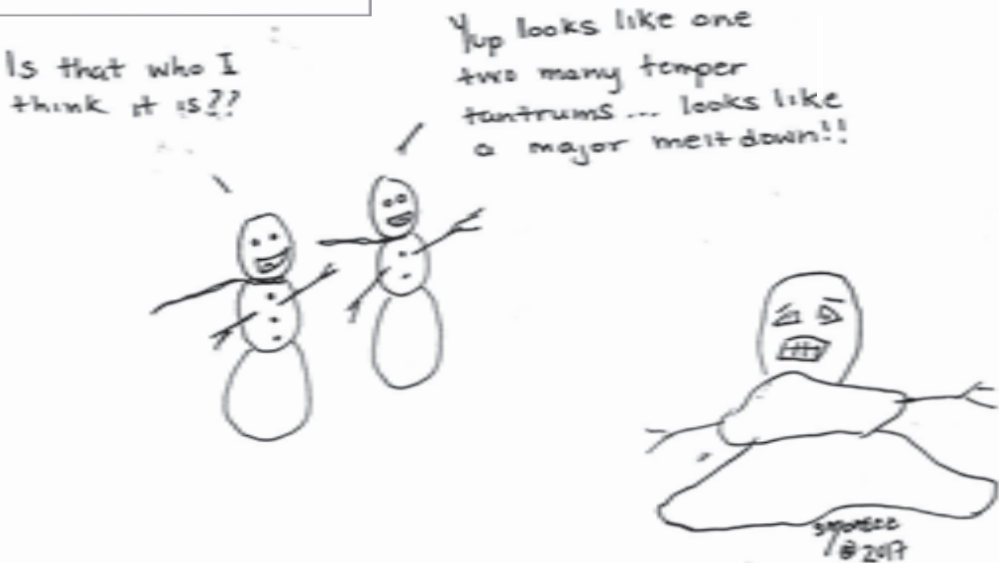
We don’t put The Leaf in the same category as the Guardians that TIME honours, but we are proud to be in the same profession. The Capital Gazette was a community paper that covered kids’ basketball games, local lifeguard training courses, local elections.

“A lot of people don’t understand how important what goes on in their community is to them and how it affects their quality of life, until it’s gone,” explained Andrea Chamblee, wife of one of the reporters murdered in Annapolis.

We’re afraid that what we saw at so many gatherings over the holidays was a loss of a bit of that community.

Let’s all turn a little more towards each other in the New Year—even that annoying nephew who’s a fan of Donald Trump—and a little more away from our devices. Maybe we’ll save some important things—like engagement, community, citizenship—before they’re gone.

LAUGH TRACK



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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COMMUNITY

Pay for success in social services instead of failures

*Shaun Loney is optimistic that government is approaching a new paradigm to truly pay for social services. (See December's Leaf.) This is the second article on ideas in his book, **The Beautiful Bailout**.*

By Mike Maunder

In the first half of his book, *The Beautiful Bailout*, social entrepreneur Shaun Looney argues that a number of factors are now converging to pave the way for governments to adopt an "Outcomes-Based" way of paying for social services.

As a simple example, government now pays large amounts of money to child welfare service agencies who determine that a family is troubled, then remove the children into care, and then continue to pay money to care for the children outside of the family.

Alternatively, Loney suggests, child welfare systems could be paid to train and support parents so a family could be reunified. Under the present system, if the family is reunified, then the funding to care for the children ends.

Thus, Loney says, the government is creating a system that only continues to pay as long as the problem continues to be a problem. Instead, they could pay for a solution, and continue to support that solution.

That's "Outcome-Based" spending – determining that the reunified family is the desired outcome, and paying for that.

Loney stresses throughout his book that his main attribute as a social entrepreneur is his optimism, and it clearly takes a lot of optimism to make the case that this is the direction governments are headed. In the second half of his book, he

does just that, by taking readers on a "whistle-stop tour" to four communities to show how governments are supporting this new paradigm.

1. On a tour of Scotland, Loney and his partner (old Wolseleyite Fiona Muldrew) visit dozens of social businesses that receive significant government support. Many of them credit a 2015 government policy that directed all publicly-funded agencies to have at least one contract with a business that provides training and employment for people normally disadvantaged in the workplace.

2. Loney visits programs like BUILD in Winnipeg and Building UP in Toronto that hire ex-prisoners for construction and retrofit work. The Winnipeg program has operated for 12 years with support from Manitoba Housing, which, Loney says, is leading the country. Marc Soberano, of the Toronto program, is most optimistic about a Toronto and Ontario government proposal to include a "social benefit clause" in tendering agreements, like the Scottish government's policy. (This proposal is presently in limbo, since the provincial election of the Doug Ford government in June.)

3. Loney visits several northern reserve communities that are establishing energy-efficient programs, replacing diesel (in the Yukon) and developing

geo-thermal, in northern Manitoba. These programs have faced hurdles through the former set-up of INAC (Indian Affairs) but Loney says these are being sorted out through the reorganization started by the Trudeau government in 2017, including Indigenous Services Canada. The model Loney describes most clearly is Aki Energy, which he helped found, and which has received investments (not grants) from the McConnell Foundation and nine other foundations whose community focus makes the Outcomes-Based approach a natural fit for their terms of reference.

4. However, the area of Loney's greatest optimism is that the Outcomes-Based approach could happen soon right here in Manitoba for child welfare services. At least three child and family agencies in Manitoba are proposing family reunification models. Loney argues:

"The Progressive Conservative government of Manitoba has made two really important and helpful policy steps to begin to move away from epidemic levels of child apprehensions towards family reunification. First, they announced their intention to shift funding of family services agencies from a per child basis to block funding."

Block funding will give financial incentives for service agencies to get involved with supporting parents, he argues.

"Second, Manitoba has announced its intention to support a family reunification project with a social impact

bond. I sincerely hope this works out, but as I've written earlier, SIBs are notoriously slow and expensive to get off the ground. Anything, however, is better than the status quo, so they should be commended for giving the system a badly needed shake-up."

Loney's book, as optimistic as it must be, is also likely to give the system a good shake-up.

The *Beautiful Bailout* is available at McNally Robinson, or on-line at www.encompass.coop



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Depots are open from December 27 to January 31.

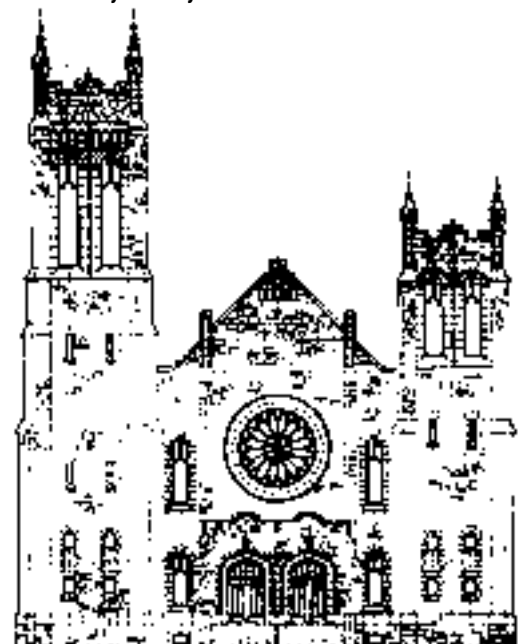
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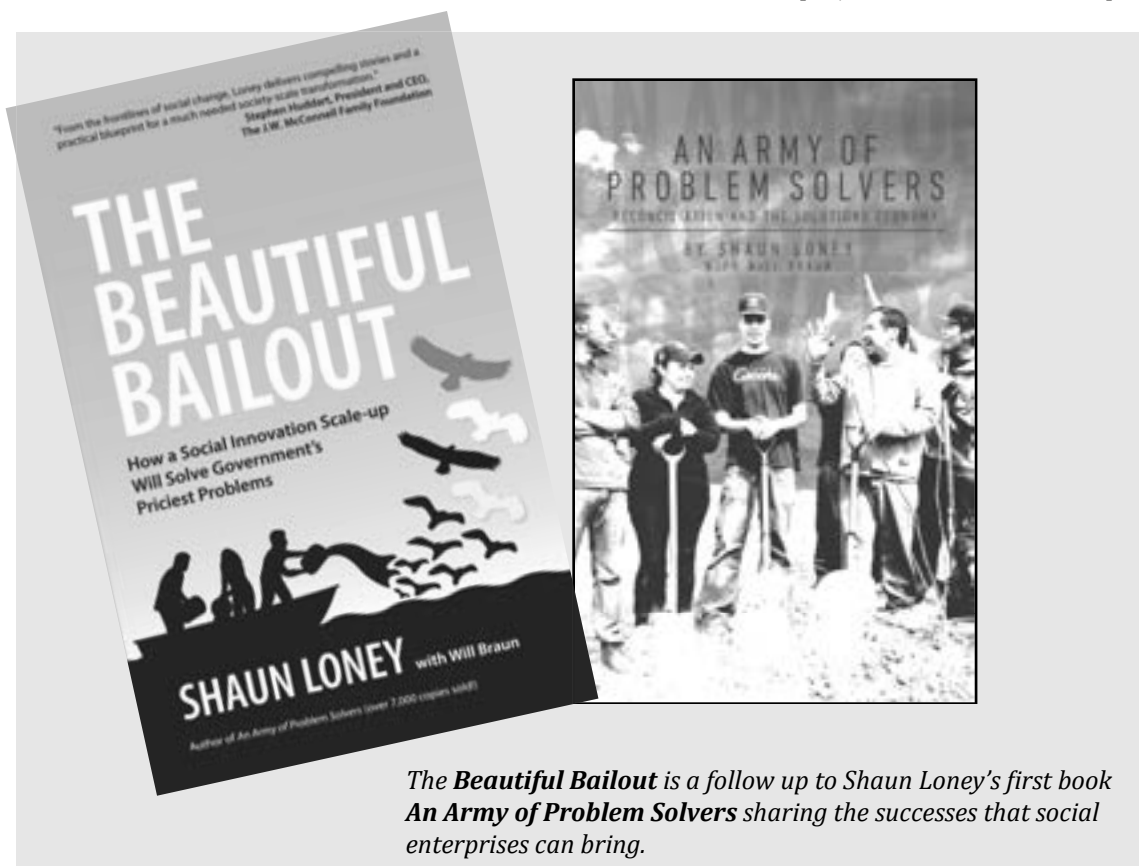
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*The Beautiful Bailout is a follow up to Shaun Loney's first book **An Army of Problem Solvers** sharing the successes that social enterprises can bring.*

SEASON’S GREETINGS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Tenants group continued

Through these forums, the issue of “renovictions” arose – the practice of landlords evicting tenants, sometimes without proper legal notice, in order to renovate a block and then increase rents to levels the tenants can no longer afford. This is an issue now facing several long-time tenants in West Broadway. A sub-committee of the Tenants’ Committee is meeting, supporting tenants affected, and trying to figure out courses of action.

The renoviction issue fits well with one of the committee’s draft terms of reference – to create an organization that “operates explicitly in opposition to exploitative, negligent and absentee landlords that fail to provide safe and affordable housing.”

If we can connect tenants, we can build tenant power,” explained Scott.

“What would really be great would be a network of people in various buildings who get to know one another and support one another.”

They are consulting with other community-based organizations to learn about possible directions: eg. North End’s Tenant Landlord Co-operation program, which helps with Residential Tenancies Branch complaints; West Broadway’s Bear Clan patrol, to increase safety and security, particularly with issues of crystal meth use in apartment blocks. They may consider expanding beyond West Broadway, since tenants in areas like the West End, Central Winnipeg and Centennial face the same issues and deal with the same landlords and management companies.

There are several other directions the committee might move in the months

ahead, depending largely on the voices they hear from tenants who attend their meetings

Hearing tenant voices is a huge challenge in West Broadway where Resident Associations in the past have always represented property owners rather than tenants. West Broadway is a neighbourhood rich in tenant diversity – from those in extreme low-income, to the increasing numbers of hip and trendy people who find West Broadway an increasingly trendy area.

The Tenants Committee is committed to community-based action that arises out of its different meetings.

The Tenants Committee meets Jan. 14., 6 pm, at 545 Broadway (buzz at the back door). Or contact wbtentants@gmail.com

Resolutions cont...

has compounding effects, and often simple solutions. “Someone gets out of jail and they have to see their probation officer in Charleswood. They can’t get there, so they are in breach of their parole and then the police are looking for them. They end up back at the Remand Centre with lawyers and all those people involved. It ends up costing thousands of dollars when it could have cost the price of a bus ticket.”

“People are blaming the poor,” Trono says. But she adds, “It’s clearly a systemic thing.”

Trono recently witnessed a conversation about meth use that she says illustrates her point. A young man at Health Sciences Centre was talking about how he wanted to get off the drug

because coming down off the drug is so bad. “Crack will make you feel like a million bucks for three hours, but meth will make you feel like a million bucks for three whole days, he said. “Well, who doesn’t want to feel like a million bucks?” asks Trono.

“How do you feel like a million bucks when people are kicking you down all the time? If you don’t have a home and you are sleeping in a bus shelter and you get kicked out and you go to try to keep warm at Portage Place mall but the minute you sit down they kick you out. It would be nice to feel like a million bucks when you don’t even feel worth s#*^ most of the time. The stigma is killing people too. There is a definite shortage of kindness and

understanding. It’s just brutal.”

WBCM is part of Just City, an organization spearheading “Just a Warm Sleep,” which will offer an emergency warming and sleeping area for 25 people at Augustine United Church.

“They are fundraising for that because it costs \$250 a night to run it,” Trono confirms.

The government ought to make some New Year’s resolutions, says Trono.

“They’ve done the research [on safe consumption sites]. Build the facility or build 5 of them. And staff them adequately. Get the people some help.”

“They are wasting our money by leaving people addicted to meth,” she says.

Wolseley Residents’ Association

By Pat Briggs-McCarthy

Did you attend an open house, or complete the online survey, about the Cycling-Walking Plan from Raglan Rd to Osborne St.? Those attending the December WRA meeting heard the results of both from CoW staff and the project consultant. The Cycling-Walking Plan is designed to “accommodate new or improved facilities so people of all ages feel safe and comfortable cycling and walking”.

Project staff were pleased with response to community consultation: 840 surveys and 600 interviews.

The main concern identified in the survey was traffic using streets in the Wolseley neighbourhood to avoid Portage Ave. Respondents suggested reduced speeds limits*, installing speed bumps and traffic calming features to slow down/discourage traffic.

*It was noted that the province sets speed limits on all streets/roads in Manitoba. A bill currently in the legislature (Traffic Transportation Modernization Bill 14) would move that responsibility to CoW for city

streets; making it possible to work with city councillors to modify local speed limits.

We will receive a preliminary report in March 2019 with opportunity for input before the report is finalized. The final report will be presented to City Council. If Council approves the plan & budget, the Cycling-Walking project will be listed with other projects waiting for funding.

WRA meetings will now be held on the 2nd Monday of each month.

Next meeting: 14 Jan 2019 (and February 11th) at RA Steen Community Club, Fireside room 7:00 p.m.

ART AND SOUL

“Holding them in our hearts” Local gospel choir explores joy and spirit from around the world

By Terese Taylor

If you are going to do gospel, you gotta go big.

Founders of World Village Gospel Choir Neil Weisensel and Rachel Landrecht are a husband and wife duo who have spent their whole lives involved with music. When they returned from Vancouver to Winnipeg, they wanted to build community, and thought that the inclusive nature of the southern US African American style of music might be just the thing.

The call and response style of many of the songs allows for almost anyone with a good voice to participate, whether they can read music or not. When they offered the opportunity for interested singers to join the choir, they had no problem filling the rosters, with several neighbourhood participants joining in - including Daniel and George Koulack, Jason Tuesday (who passed away in September 2018), and Sara Neufeld.

Landrecht is a trained opera singer with a love for sacred and world music. Songs that she has brought to the choir are in many different languages, ranging from South African Xhosa songs, Hebrew, Icelandic and Arabic.

“There are so many great African composers and so many languages,” says Weisensel. During one practice, an African man walking through Knox United church recognized what the choir was singing. “That’s my language!” he exclaimed, and soon after became a performing member. “That was the highest compliment”, says Landrecht.

“I think when we sing the music of our brothers and sisters around the world it is like we are in communion with them. We are thinking of them, holding them in our hearts and we like to honour them by singing their music,” adds Weisensel.

Putting words and music together is a powerful activity for both the spirit and brain. “I still remember songs I learned in grade one,” points out Landrecht, who is aware of the research looking into the cognitive health effects of singing.

“Neil always says your brain will thank you when you are older,” she laughs.



“There is something exciting that happens when you are singing in a group,” says Landrecht. “For me the ultimate choir experience is when you as a singer disappear and you are now part of this beautiful sound.”

For Weisensel, gospel is about joy. “I found that in classical music you are so beholden to the score. That gets drilled into your head. Gospel is much more free.” For people interested in soloing, Weisensel and Landrecht hold workshops to develop singers’ skills, which includes improvising. “We watch them do something they never thought they could do,” he says.

“Most of what we do is sacred in some way,” says Landrecht. “We have people of all different faiths as well as agnostics and atheists. I love hearing songs from different places around the world and how people interpret their relationship with spirit.”

World Village Gospel Choir’s next session starts January 26th at Knox United Church with monthly practices, and a performance in May.

“We are doing some reaching out and are really interested in increasing our diversity. Our dream is ‘come to our choir and bring us your songs,’” says Weisensel.



World Village Gospel Choir, above, performs at Knox United Church. At left, the late Jason Tuesday, on guitar, performed a solo. Neil Weisensel and Rachel Landrecht encourage people to feel the spirit. Sara Neufeld, right, takes the mic. Photos T. Taylor



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ENVIRONMENT

Let's Make 2019 a year for climate progress

By MLA Rob Altemeyer

Late December is usually a time for reflection on the year that has passed. But let's be honest: for progressive people who are passionate about issues such as human rights, social justice and the environment, 2018 pretty much sucked.

So rather than dwell on 2018's many depressing chapters, I prefer to focus on the exciting year ahead. 2019 could be – and should be – a year for real progress. I suggest that climate change be a top priority for our efforts, for two reasons:

- The science is clear that if we don't smarten up very quickly, we doom our children and grandchildren to a disastrous future of runaway climate change.
- In Manitoba, we actually have incredible opportunities to save people money, support existing jobs and create tens of thousands of new green jobs while also reducing our harmful greenhouse gas pollution.

Here's just a few of the ideas we should push for:

Climate science first. We should require any political party or candidate asking for our support to first publicly state their support for climate science. We also need to see their plan to help cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030, as recommended by the United Nations Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change.

Carbon Budgeting. Normally we make a budget to keep track of money, because there's only so much

of it available. Governments need to apply that same principle of scarcity to greenhouse gas emissions to ensure that "carbon budgets" stay on track each year.

Paid-to-Save Financing. Most of us know electric vehicles and more efficient buildings using green sources of heat are better for the environment. The problem is we often can't afford them. Paid-to-Save Financing is a solution I have been promoting whenever a bit more money upfront can create savings over the long run. Let's use your home as an example. It starts with an assessment of your property to identify the best opportunities for savings. You then use a zero-interest loan from government to cover the entire costs of the retrofit, so you don't pay anything out of pocket. Your utility bills for heat, water and electricity drop as a result, and you keep 10% of those savings from day one for yourself. The remaining 90% of the savings is used to pay back the no-interest loan over 20 years or more. The money you pay back is recycled to fund another project, so the same dollars are used over and over again. This is how Paid-to-Save Financing enables you to save money, while also supporting local construction jobs and reducing greenhouse gas pollution.

Curbside Composting. I actually did my Masters thesis back in 1996 on a potential large-scale food waste composting program for the University of

Manitoba. Twenty-two years later it still hasn't happened, though the great folks at www.CompostWinnipeg.ca certainly deserve your support in the meantime if you are able. Composting reduces greenhouse gases twice – first by reducing the organic material that turns into methane when dumped in a landfill, and secondly when the finished compost is used instead of industrial fertilizers. Again, hundreds of new jobs would be created province-wide if composting became a priority.

These are just a few of the ideas that make me hopeful about 2019 and the years to come. We can do this, and the rising climate activism of young people is as inspiring as it is unsurprising – their future is the one hanging in the balance. By working together (and working our butts off), this could be a year worth writing about. Please share your thoughts with me anytime at Wolseley1@yourmanitoba.ca, and a Happy New Year to all.

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Gathering community input for the new Wolseley to Downtown Walk Bike Project

By Daniel McIntyre Councillor Cindy Gilroy

When I was meeting people going door to door in Wolseley this past summer one of the main issues raised was concerns over traffic.

The area faces a lot of cut-through traffic as vehicles use residential streets instead of main traffic routes. This occurs especially during the afternoon rush hour when drivers pile up trying to get onto the Maryland Bridge.

With this in mind the City is undertaking the Wolseley to Downtown Walk Bike Project to identify options to improve travel choices, accessibility, and connectivity. This project will look at all modes of transportation on both Wolseley and Westminster Avenues between Omand Park and Raglan Road to Osborne Street and Assiniboine Avenue.

The goal is to make traffic better for everyone, whether they're walking, biking, or driving. When completed, the Wolseley to Downtown Corridor will provide connections to the Omand's Creek pathway, the protected bicycle lane on Assiniboine Avenue, Sherbrook Street, the bike lane on Maryland Street, and the greenway on Ruby Street.

How do we reduce traffic? This could include traffic-calming measures like making active transportation



Cindy and her family took part in last year's first Winnipeg Family Bike Jam

easier or making some residential streets one-way to reduce cut-through traffic.

The first phase in this project was public consultation. Signs were put up in the community asking What would a new bike route look like here? This included online feedback and engagement in person through a series of pop-up events throughout the area and a meeting with the Wolseley Residents' Association where people could share their opinions.

In the next project phase, this public input will be used to develop several design options that will be presented back to the community.

Local people always give the best advice about their neighbourhoods. Last year, I was happy to announce the Please Slow Down Lawn Sign Campaign to encourage drivers to slow down on residential streets. The idea for these yellow and blue coloured signs came from a Wolseley resident who wanted to help protect our children.

If you would like more information on this project visit winnipeg.ca/walkbikeprojects.

Wishing you and your family all the best in 2019!

• my BFF for New Year walks



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KIDS' PAGE!

Colour or paint!



Illustration by artist Ildiko Nova

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Call (204) 260-6861 to list your event or e-mail calendar@wolseleyleaf.ca

January 2019

Art City

Week 1: Jan. 7-11 Guest Artists Alien Sound Scapes-
Audio Workshops- Alien Planet Sound Shapes
Week 2: Jan. 14-18 Stephen Simms- Catie Curtis- Art
City Improv Show

**Last 2 Weeks Prep for West Broadway
Snowball- Outdoor Community Festival,
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Art in the Kitchen - Tues 1:30-2:30pm
Breakfast Club - Fri 9:15-11:15am
Crafts - Fri 1:30- 2:30pm
Activities every afternoon 1:30 pm

Broadway Neighbourhood Centre

185 Young St
Youth Drop-In, every week day, 4-7pm
Seniors Bridge, Tuesdays 9:30-noon.
Just TV, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30-8:30

Good Food Club

204-774-7201, ext. 6
Indoor market 3-6 185 Young, Weds Start- January 3,
17, 31
-order your good food club boxes- Vendors places
available, free,
Healthy Seniors & Friends Group, Tuesdays 1:30-2:30,
345 Broadway, followed by Chair Yoga & Meditation
(2:30)

***Community Safety Concerns?** Calls to Community
Safety Coordinator for Info on Public Meetings TBA.
ext. 4, or email community@westbroadway.mb.ca,
visit [http://www.westbroadway.mb.ca/wbco-](http://www.westbroadway.mb.ca/wbco-programs/good-food-club)
[programs/good-food-club](http://www.westbroadway.mb.ca/wbco-programs/good-food-club)

The Handsome Daughter | 61 Sherbrook St

Karaoke Tuesdays,
Comedy Thursdays-hosted by Mike Green:
1st Thursday of every month - is "New \$#!%" Night-
Try out new material!
Last Thursday of every month is Battle Royale, all the
comics draw topics and 4 teams go head to head!
Live Bands, DJ's, Poetry Slam Monthly,

Breastfeeding Support Group

755 Portage Ave.
Breastfeeding Clinic
Wednesday, 10:00 - 11:30 am
9:00-10:30 am-individual consults with a lactation
consultant.
Phone ahead for an appointment:
204-940-8711
24 Hour Breastfeeding Hotline
204-788-8667

West Central Women's Resource Centre

640 Ellice (204) 774-8975
Mondays Drop in sewing 1-3, e.g. Hem pants,
machines & Facilitators avail
Wednesdays, 2 classes, 10-12, 1-3, call to
register, Learn New Skills!
Healthy Baby Group
Family Night 4-6pm Alternate Tues
Conversation Circle 1-3 pm Saturdays
Come practice English for fun! Child-minding, bus
tokens and snacks are provided. 1-3
Program open to all permanent residents. Please bring
your PR Card to the first class you attend.
For more info: 204-774-8975 ext. 216, 219 or 225.
Wednesdays: Sewing 10am-12pm, 1pm-3pm
Thursdays: Crochet/Knitting Circle 4-6pm (Bring your
own supplies)
Fridays: Beading 9:30-11:30
Drum Group 2:00- 4:00
Child minding while parents are on site, Hours 12-
4pm, M,W,F, Tuesday Thurs 1:30-7, Saturday 9-12

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Snoball Winter Carnival
at the BNC
Sat. Feb 2nd / 185 Young St /
12-4pm!

R.A. Steen Community Centre
Winter Carnival
Feb 2nd / 980 Palmerston
Ave/ All day!

Bell Tower Community Café

(204) 250-6768
Westminster Church, 745 Westminster Ave
Join us for a free community meal and live music.
Alternate Fridays- Call for dates s.v.p.
Food bank registration through Winnipeg Harvest.
All are Welcome!
Volunteers needed for unloading & sorting deliveries
Friday afternoons. Please direct enquiries to Meaghan
Pauls at 204-250-6768.

West Broadway Community Ministry

222 Furby Corner of Broadway and Furby
Drop in Soup Kitchen
-Urgent Call for Emergency Groceries,
Canned Food, Esp. Peanut Butter, Tuna, Canned
Soups,
Kraft Dinner, Easy Open Cans

Envision 2019

**3 & 4 May at RA Steen
CC**

Looking for volunteers with
ideas and gusto to make it all
happen.

Contact Jim at
envision.festival@gmail.com
and join the fun while
making our 12th festival
the best ever

Wolseley Residents' Association

Next meeting: 14 Jan
20, 7pm, at RA Steen
Community Club,
Fireside room



There's no fun like snow fun!

COMMUNITY

Winnipeg is shimmering under a blanket of snow

By West Broadway Councillor Sherri Rollins

It's a great time to pause and reflect on some key milestones for Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry, and look forward to smart investments that will promote safety and a socially rich, exciting, and inclusive community life in Winnipeg in 2019.

Winnipeg is a winter city and many Winnipeggers embrace the cold weather. Ice rinks are already in abundance across the city at local parks and community centres and gathering places are buzzing. I have had the opportunity to speak with several constituents about the location of some of the pleasure rinks. As the new Chair for Protection, Community Services and Parks, I have also begun to look at how to better ensure the safety and security of fishing shacks on the river. For pedestrians and winter cyclists, 2019 - 2020 should

mark important and increased investments in street clearing and active transportation.

For those wanting a warm destination to walk to, the Winnipeg Public Library's bimonthly "At the Library" magazine has been revamped including new design and exciting new content; its January-February edition is chalk-full of ideas and activities. The fourth annual Take Your Child to the Library Day is coming up on Saturday February 2nd. I really encourage families to visit your library and help celebrate early learning, literacy and the love of reading. Need to re-pay library fines? If you pay your fines on Saturday January 26th and you will be supporting The Winnipeg Foundations' Literacy for Life Fund which provides grants to family literacy

programs. And as part of ongoing library renewal investments, I am excited that the Cornish Library (20 West Gate) will reopen later this year with new accessible features for all, among other improvements.

Creating a safe, inviting, and pedestrian-friendly city for every season requires smart investments. I was pleased to join Mayor Bowman for recent announcements. The first was related to Community Centre investments designed protect and enhance building envelopes with energy efficient lighting and other improvements that will encourage healthy play and quality community services all year round. I was also pleased to join with members of downtown BIZ to announce the new Building Exterior Lighting Grant



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Program which will work with building owners to support investments in increased exterior lighting.

In 2018 I was honoured to become City Councillor for Fort Rouge-East Fort Gary and am pleased to be able to serve our community. In 2019, I will also continue the work of my appointment by the Mayor as Chairperson of Protection, Community Services and Parks Committee, in addition to the Mayor's Indigenous Advisory Circle and the Housing portfolio. As a member of the Executive Policy Committee I will also serve on the budget working group; I look forward to the intensive work required to present a draft budget ready

for public review and consultation in the first weeks and months of this New Year.

I continue to focus on setting up ward assistance and supports and speaking with residents in the ward. I've enjoyed meeting ward residents in my office as well as in the community. Following up on the commitment to "meet people where they are at" I have initiated community updates in 2018 which I will continue in 2019.

Please contact my office to arrange a meeting or gathering in 2019 at 204-986-5878 or srollins@winnipeg.ca.

Young United Church

An affirming congregation
Furby @ Broadway



Sunday services 11 AM
Staffed nursery available for children 3 and under
Orff music program restarts Jan 13 at 10:30 AM.

Theology on Tap Jan 16, 7:30 PM
at the Handsome Daughter.

Check us out on Facebook or our web page at youngunitedchurch.com

THE SECOND LAST WORD



Words Matter!

by Paul Moist

The first week in office in 2009 Barack Obama received 250,000 letters from Americans. Eventually, the volume levelled off at about 10,000 letters each week for the entire eight years he served as President.

The letters came from all walks of life. From children, from veterans, from the unemployed and from victims of crime, to name but a few examples.

Each and every letter to the President was answered by the appropriate department of government or a dedicated team replying on behalf of the President. Pretty standard stuff, save and except for an initiative Obama brought to his Presidency.

Five days a week for the entire eight years that he served, Obama received a folder at the end of the workday containing ten letters and he himself replied to these.

He had no role in selecting the letters and offered only one direction to his staff. He did not want congratulatory letters only. He wanted a sampling of everything that came in from people from all walks of life.

On this page you will see an exchange he had with a seven year old named Emily. It is heart wrenching to read, a young girl whose mother died and she writes the President to share that her Mom voted for him and now prays for his safety.

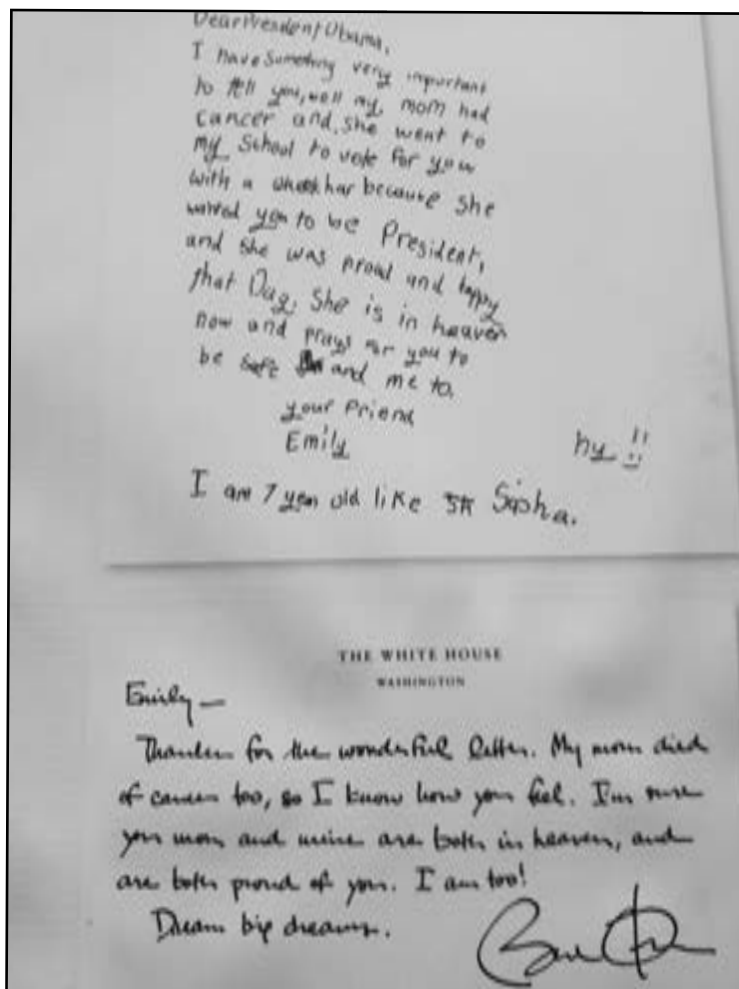
Obama's reply is both poignant and uplifting. We do indeed have some leaders who understand the importance of their office and the power of their humanity.

The book is full of many such exchanges on a fundamental and humane basis between Americans and their President.

This serves in stark contrast to the approach Obama's successor has adopted in his ongoing discourse with Americans.

In the midst of the Republican nomination battle in 2015 Donald Trump had this to say about the only female candidate in the race, businesswoman Carly Fiorina, "Look at that face, would anyone vote for that?"

Or his comment on Senator John McCain where he said, "He's not a war hero. He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people that weren't captured."



Obama shared that he adopted this practice of regular correspondence with Americans because he wanted to maintain some direct link to people and their everyday issues. What a refreshing thought in today's cyber-world where many never send and certainly don't receive hand-written letters in the mail.

It is clear in the book that the letters had an impact upon Obama and by extension his Presidency.

In 2009 a cancer survivor from Ohio, Natoma Canfield wrote the President outlining the enormous health care premium costs associated with her treatments. Obama framed her letter and put it on the wall of his private study in the White House. And in the ensuing Affordable Care Act debate he referenced the letter.

On some occasions staff would receive the file back from him and there were only nine letters and replies. Obama had kept one letter back, sometimes for up to a

week, and then it would appear with his hand-written reply. On these occasions he had simply not known how to reply and needed a few days to think things over.

There is something humbling about the incumbent of the most powerful office on earth taking the time to think things through prior to penning a reply. Very different from the vile tweets that pass for Presidential correspondence today.

Kenny Jops, a grade school student from Chicago sent Obama two pages of his homework and asked if he would review and correct it. Obama's reply said: "Kenny. Nice job on the homework. I caught only two words misspelled on the vocabulary list. Dream big dreams."

At a dark time in terms of leadership in general and politics in particular, Laskas' book offers both hope and evidence that responsible leadership indeed exists and makes a difference.

Amongst the toughest letters were those at the end

of Obama's Presidency, people lamenting the election of Donald Trump with many asking, "what happened?"

As always Obama was thoughtful in replying, his words indeed matter:

"Progress doesn't come easily, and it hasn't always followed a straight line, but I firmly believe that history

ultimately moves in the direction of justice, prosperity, freedom and inclusion – not because it is inevitable but because people like you speak out and hold our country accountable to our highest ideals."

(To Obama, by Jeanne Marie Laskas, Published by Random House, 2018).

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Winnipeg, MB
R3G 1P1 (
or to
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REFLECTIONS

Classical up close; house concerts a way to bring added dimension, nuances of music history to life

by Terese Taylor

Getting up close and personal with classical music is something that Nicola Davies loves to do and is hoping you will too. "I think it's one of the best ways to enjoy a concert. It's so much more relaxing and intimate."

Davies has started Living Room Live, a non-profit organization that is arranging to bring duos and ensembles to your house to perform and is looking for interested hosts.

It's a trend that has taken off with folk, country and blues music, and Davies wants to add classical to that list.

Hosts agree to sell at least 20 tickets for \$20 each, and all of the money goes to the musicians. The rest of the set-up will be as unique as each homeowner creating the event. Often hosts will make some snacks or a bit of a potluck. "I've seen simple cookies and coffee - to a really elaborate spread. I've seen some pretty small spaces and you would be surprised what you can fit 20 people into," Davies suggests.

Websites with "how to host a house concert" check lists advise hosts to let people know in advance what kind of seating arrangements are available, and to tailor that to the audience. Seating arrangements can include chairs, couches and pillows on the floor.

"As a musician I prefer these smaller spaces because in the concert hall you kind of feel removed from the audience," says Davies, who has a degree in Cooperative Piano. Most people have heard classical pieces, but often audiences know little about the composers. "Audiences love when the musicians talk about the music and put it in a context or give it some background."

"We want to make the season as diverse as we can, with different instruments and singers" says Davies. The organization featured a saxophone piano duo to start and also arranged for a soprano cello piano trio. This February, Living Room Live will feature a guitar duo.

"It's so cool getting to know [the composers] through the time periods," says Davies. The classical period runs from about the 1600s to the present, and sheds light on the culture and customs of the times with many fascinating stories that people often find inspirational. Just like many of today's musicians in the spotlight, many composers

went through trials and tribulations to get their compositions performed. Sharing their stories can really open people's eyes. "This is a human just like I am. I love that side of it," she says.

Davies is beginning by organizing tour routes through Manitoba and Saskatchewan - as far north as Thompson and as far south as Estevan so far and in BC. Davies hopes eventually to expand out east. She is also trying to coordinate with Home Routes, a local start-up promoting folk music home concerts, so that hosts and audiences can have more music year round.

If you are interested in hosting or learning more about Living Room Live, dust off your piano and go to their website at www.livingroomlive.ca.



Jayne Hammond, soprano, Nathaniel Froese, cello, and Nicola Davies at the piano perform in the cozy atmosphere of a house concert where the audience can ask questions and learn something new. Photo livingroomlive.ca

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