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THE LEAF

SERVING WOLSELEY AND WEST BROADWAY

JUNE 2024

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY | VOL 12 NO 5 | FREE TO WOLSELEY & WEST BROADWAY RESIDENTS

WOLSELEYLEAF.CA



Council denies “transit pause” for Wolseley

By Patrick Harney
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Standing Committee on Public Works met to discuss several reports on June 11th, including the Winnipeg Transit Master Plan implementation plan - which Transit is calling the biggest change to Winnipeg transit in 70 years.

During the meeting, City Councillor Cindy Gilroy and four delegations made up of seven Wolseley residents came to share their disappointment with the Master Plan. Specifically, they levied complaints against the plan’s intent to discontinue the #10 bus and create a new #28 bus to go up

Arlington street.

Councillor Gilroy expressed concern regarding the transit plan’s incongruity with the upcoming changes to turn Wolseley Avenue into a greenway.

“I think there are those that feel the consultation wasn’t enough, and a big piece of that is that the consultation happened before we had this proposed greenway,” Gilroy said. “It’s going to [add] bump outs and speed humps and so adding a transit line along that route isn’t something the community would support.”

continues pg 4...

Sara Teshome gave a high five to Masaret Tilahunat the end of the 5ish Fun Run to raise money for West Broadway Youth Outreach, an afterschool program. More photos pg 4

Klinic: Pharmacare Bill C-64 could be “game changer”

By Terese Taylor

Local community health centres are calling the federal Bill C-64, An Act Respecting Pharmacare, negotiated between the governing Liberals and the NDP a potential “game changer.”

The Bill would provide for federal coverage of diabetes medications for type-one and type-two diabetes, and for contraception, and is meant to simplify the process to get the

medications.

Haran Vijayanathan, Director of community health and wellness with Klinic, said if passed, the coverage would add another layer of support and coverage for chronic health conditions that are a barrier for many Canadians.

“We are a community health centre and we see many folks that are living at or below the poverty line and who are

under-insured or uninsured. So those who worry about having to pay for their medication, even if it’s a small amount, versus buying some groceries, it can cause a lot of harm,” Vijayanathan said.

The simplification of the process, would also go a long way to ensuring that people stay on medications that are needed, said Vijayanathan.

“Sometimes people have

gone off medication just because of all the stress of having to continuously fill out forms for something they’ve already been diagnosed for.”

According to research released last year by the Canadian Diabetes Association, out of pocket expenses for type-two diabetes can range from \$10-30,000 a year, and \$30,000 for type-one diabetes. The rates of diabetes has been

climbing world-wide, and the prevalence of juvenile diabetes has been slowly climbing in Manitoba. Across the country, according to the association, every day “more than 20 Canadians die of diabetes-related complications, 480 more Canadians are diagnosed with this devastating disease, 14 Canadians have a lower limb amputation and our health care

continues pg 4...



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FIRST WORD

Hitting the road for peace Cross-country caravan raising awareness around war

By Patrick Harney
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

“That personal contact we have just talking to people, it’s like sparks,” Ellen Woodsworth says. “People are turning off their TVs, turning off their radios ... people are exhausted.”

Woodsworth is a member of the On to Ottawa Peace Caravan crew who were hosted overnight in Wolseley on June 2nd. They were returning from a cross country journey, starting in Vancouver and greeted in several Canadian cities, to advocate for peace and share the stories they gathered along the way.

Clearly identified by Sara Kirschenbaum’s peace car, adorned with one dot for every nuclear weapon on the globe, the caravan arrived at each stop to speak, sing, create and spark the fire needed to engage people.

On May 28th, the group, along with an Eastern contingent that left from Halifax, descended on Ottawa, to take their message to parliament and protest the CANSEC military arms fair, which is held in the capitol every year.

When they stopped in the neighbourhood on their return to Vancouver, they were accompanied by two former journalists, Masa Kateb and Donna Hessingson, and Jase Tanner, a documentary film maker with Independent Jewish Voices Canada. Throughout their journey, they were joined by other artists, activists and Indigenous leaders.

Woodsworth, who is co-chair of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), said the increase in the Canadian defence budget was cause for alarm. She felt that the announcement came “without much of a ripple” and that something should be done to raise awareness.

“They announced an increase to the federal defense budget to \$50 billion, and what WILPF decided is that we were going to do a peace caravan,” Woodsworth says. “We use our slogans of ‘demilitarize, decarbonize and decolonize’ to talk to people about how the federal budget could be used to address people’s social needs for affordable housing, health care, education, and to support refugees and immigrants.”

Woodsworth thought that when people understand how dangerous jet emissions and

arms manufacturing is for the climate crisis and how defense funding takes away from real gains in reconciliation, they would begin to make important connections between peacemaking and social and environmental equality.

Donna Henningson has been studying how people can learn to end conflict and acted as the group’s resident musician.

“We talked about the importance of art to engage people. It’s not just talking,” Henningson says.

“Whether you’re singing ‘peace train’ or ‘blowing in the wind’, [music] engages people on a whole other level.”

In Ottawa, the caravan hosted workshops to develop concrete recommendations on what can be done to build a better world.

Masa Kateb, a former journalist and Syrian refugee who acted as the group’s social media coordinator, says that one of the biggest contributions of these workshops was a focus on language.

“If you’re saying it’s a defense budget, then that assumes you are in danger and you are defending,” Kateb says. “But, if you call things what they are and if everyone shifts their language, we’ll call it a war budget.”

“We had different voices at the table. We worked with what we had, and what people could generously give,” says Woodsworth. “It’s just amazing how many voices we’ve been able to give a space for and learn from.”



Peace Caravan members (clockwise from top left): Jase Tanner, Ellen Woodsworth, Donna Henningson, Sara Kirschenbaum, Wolseley host Marianne Cerilli, and Masa Kateb. Sara Kirschenbaum’s car (top photo) is painted with inspirational quotes and the number of nuclear weapons held by countries across the world. She calls it an open letter to the president of the US.



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From back left to right:
Becca Sokloski
and Lida Szkwarek,
(Access Credit Union),
and KC Zenker,
parent committee
volunteer.

Front left to right:
Callum Taylor-Doucette
and Calvin T Darvill,
Grade 6 Wolseley
students with Access
Credit Union's Mascot,
Bill the D.O.G
(Director Of Greetings),
and Aven Taylor-
Doucette.



Parents plan Amazing Graduation

By Terese Taylor

Graduation Day can sometimes be a long and emotional day full of accomplishment and some sadness as kids consider that they will not be returning in September with their classmates to the same school environment. But a group of parents at Wolseley school decided they wanted to do something special to honor the increased independence their grade six students would be embarking on - and bring out their problem-solving skills.

Just like a very popular TV show that some families are big fans of, the parents decided to put their ideas together and create a graduation Wolseley "Amazing Race".

"We want them to stay in the neighborhood and enjoy themselves," said Jodi Hildebrand, chair of the volunteer

graduation committee and a local artist. "We built on what the amazing Wolseley School staff share with the students every day.. kindness, working together to build community, and getting outside to have fun adventures."

After the school ceremony and reception on June 26th, students will start the event by recognizing the history of the Treaty land they are on, and then divide into teams with challenges at different sites throughout the neighborhood that they will try to complete. Each team will have an adult "race official" with them and like in the actual Amazing Race shows - what might work - or not - might be a surprise and take some creative maneuvering.

Local community busi-

nesses have jumped on board to contribute to the event or host a challenge including Tall Grass Prairie Bakery, Wolseley Wool, Prairie Sky Books, Balance Jiujitsu, Prairie Velo, Organic Planet, Shorty's Pizza, Cilantros, Chatime, Deluca's, Sleepy Owl Bead, Burnell Shoppers Drug Mart, 7-11 at Portage and Wall, Save-On Foods St James, Uptown Alley, and Three Clicks Photo Booth. Access Credit Union and Realtor Eric Neumann are both generously sponsoring the end of year festivities and to add to the fun local sustainable fizzy water company, Brite Water, volunteered to be the "official beverage sponsor" for the events.

Although some students may already be familiar with some of the businesses where

they will need to complete a task, many of them may not have gone to them independently.

"It's a way to encourage them to learn about the local neighborhood businesses, and to connect them to things they might need as they get older. They are going to start to spend their own money," said KC Zenker, a parent graduation volunteer and local musician. "It's also nice to do something right here in Wolseley for their celebration. A lot of the kids have been together since nursery school and now will all go on to different schools and split up" she said.

Zenker, originally from East Germany, and her family moved to Wolseley after living in London, England, and she was so glad that the neighborhood was walkable for the whole family, she explained. "London was too busy, but here Wolseley feels like my son Calvin can go two streets over. I can send him to the corner store and he can pick something up. It helps

with a sense of identity," she said.

"Preparing the Amazing Race has been a bit more work than I anticipated," laughs Jodi Hildebrand, who has been amazed by the generosity of the businesses they have approached. "It's really fun to think about different stops, linking community building, and how we all support each other in our community."

Clues and hints will be given out at each location when teams arrive, and some actions such as politeness or cooperation skills might also go towards gaining points or acknowledgement for the team. But parents were careful not to share any of those details with *The Leaf*.

"The possibilities are endless!" said Hildebrand. "We want them to have memories of "We did that together!" said Zenker.

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NEWS

Adam Budowski of Winnipeg Transit talks to the crowd

TRANSIT from page 1

Councillor Gilroy also highlighted the challenge of moving large buses down Arlington's aging, tight street, arguing that the road's current condition was inadequate for an increased volume of buses, and sustained damage when the number ten ran only one direction on the street.

Each of the delegations emphasized that they support Winnipeg transit, but wish to meet with Winnipeg transit and discuss solutions that can better service the needs of the Wolseley neighbourhood.

"Transit told us they consulted, but their own reports show that they consulted just over %1 of Winnipeg's population back in 2019 and 2020," Wolseley Residents for Fair Transit member Margerit Roger said. "Most of that consultation was an online survey and the closest in person event was on Selkirk Avenue."

After learning about the changes, Wolseley Residents for Fair Transit collected their own petition, going door to door, which received more than 460 signatures in opposition to the proposed route.

"While we agree with the concept, we feel that they have to have some flexibility ... What we're asking for is for them to take a little time to talk to us about the plan, specifically in the Wolseley area," Wolseley Residents for Fair Transit member Rachel Morgan said in an interview with The Leaf.

Councillor Russ Wyatt countered that making changes to the route for Wolseley residents is "going to open a Pandora's box" regarding changes for other neighbour-

hoods. However, Councillor Wyatt along with the other Councillors agreed that they felt inadequately consulted on the new transit plan.

When City staff had the opportunity to explain the planning process, they said that the proposed Arlington route has been a part of the Master Plan since 2020.

"We really need to emphasize that the plan was developed in 2019-2020, and there was quite a bit of promotion for the opportunities for engagement at that time," a Transit representative said.

The transit representatives said that while the new route may seem like more buses, it is likely a change of one bus per direction per hour - the #10 currently runs three buses, at peak periods, while the new #28 will run four. However, potential bottlenecks and stress on Arlington Street was not addressed.

They also felt there was little time to pause the plan, as they intend to implement the changes during the summer season of 2025, to give users time to figure out the new system before the start of school in September.

When the over 10 hour meeting concluded, the implementation plan was approved and Wolseley resident's wish for Transit to "pause and consult" was unable to be met at this time.

"We're disappointed," Morgan said after the meeting. "We didn't feel we were asking for anything unreasonable. We just wanted to sit down with transit, go over our concerns and try to work out something that would be workable for them and for us."

"Every community is different. The newer suburbs have wider streets with better

pavement and houses set far back," Morgan said. "The master plan doesn't address the individuality of different communities across the city."

Now, Wolseley Residents for Fair Transit are reassessing before the Transit Master Plan goes to the Executive Policy Committee for final implementation later this month.

PHARMA, from page 1

system spends \$75 million treating diabetes."

Klinik, and several other health clinics offer free condoms as part of their services. "You never have to go to the pharmacy and be embarrassed at the checkout, you can just walk in and next to our washrooms is one of the dispensers with different types of condoms and people can help themselves and walk on out or can come in and get tested for STI's," said Vijayanathan. Although some of the details of the contraceptive coverage have not been established, the federal pharmacare coverage would likely be used for prescriptive birth control such as IUDs, which can cost as much as \$500, and hormonal injections and birth control pills.

Mark Holland, federal Minister of Health, thanked the NDP for their work to make the pharmacare act possible. "It is an example of what is possible when we, in this chamber, focus on getting things done and focus on working together, rather than focusing on what divides us..." He thanked colleagues "who have dedicated, in some cases, decades to fight for the moment when people are not forced to

make a choice between the medication they need to stay healthy or the essential goods and services they need to stay alive."

The Bill passed the House of Commons 3rd vote June 6, and requires a second and third reading in the Senate to become law. Senator Pate, who sponsored the Bill said "Bill C-64 is the first step in addressing current inequities in Canada's patchwork system of drug coverage. In Budget 2024, the Government of Canada announced \$1.5 billion over five years to support the launch of national pharmacare."

"I really hope that it goes

through the Senate," said Vijayanathan. "They can end up saving the government an expensive bill at the end. If we can get people tested and treated sooner, we can help people live happy and healthy lives."

"(The budget) might seem like a lot right now but then if you calculate the cost for care at advanced stages, you are booking up more hospital time, more EI doctors, surgeries, and dealing with pain medication. An annual doctor's visit is far cheaper than having people admitted in the hospital with untreated diabetes," said Vijayanathan.



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RUN FOR FUN



Top left: And they're off! Top right: Yonatan Gebere races to the finish line. Gebere explained that its a great way to support West Broadway Youth Outreach and to get ready for the Manitoba Marathon on father's day weekend. First woman to finish was Susan Tinsley(above). Students were all smiles at the end.(right)

Runners gave it their all to run the five km plus loop leaving from Mulvey school, to Omand's Creek, over the bridge and back down Wellington Crescent to the Maryland Bridge. Ramsey Zeid and Maryland Foodfare is an annual supporter of the event, providing food for a celebratory barbecue afterwards along with the volunteers from the Lion's Club. Runners and volunteers were also treated to a free massage afterwards from Evolve College massage therapy students.

Bottom photo: Mulvey School principal Peter Correa, WBYO ED Ken Opaleke, and Aster Wasyihun. Photos Terese Taylor

First place finish: Yonatan Gebere, first woman: Susan Ainsley, Nati Kelem and Masaret Tilahun were the first youth to cross the finish line.

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COMMUNITY

Celebrating Resilience of Newcomer Women

Winnipeg, MB (June 11, 2024) – Join us for a heartwarming and inspiring event at the Manitoba Museum where women from five countries and across different continents share their stories of courage, resilience, and transformation as they began new lives in Canada.

"Pathways: Stories of How We Got Here" is a storytelling and performance project aimed at empowering newcomer women by improving their communication skills, fostering community, and building capacity as mentors and leaders.

Under the guidance of writing coach Patle Creary and performance coach Rachel Smith, participants spent 12 weeks crafting and refining their stories for a live audience.

"Audiences can expect to feel a sense of upliftment through the power of storytelling and the joy that these women bring despite the challenges they have experienced," said Creary.

Showtimes are at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday June 22nd and Sunday June 23rd and will also include an opening and closing performance by Rodrigo Muñoz and Amber Epp of Latin jazz band, Papa Mambo.

Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased from the Manitoba Museum Website: manitobamuseum.ca/pathways

AMC Raises Concerns Over Appointment of Former WPS Detective to Head Manitoba's Police Complaints Agency

AMC, WINNIPEG

Treaty One Territory – Treaty One Territory, Winnipeg – The Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) says the recent appointment of a former Winnipeg detective to head Manitoba's police complaints agency is deeply concerning.

Justice Minister Matt Wiebe announced the appointment of former Winnipeg police detective Harmen Wouda to lead the Law Enforcement Review Agency (LERA), the public body in Manitoba to which individuals can file a complaint about the conduct of a municipal police officer. The AMC believes this decision raises significant questions about the independence and impartiality of the agency in

overseeing complaints made against municipal officers.

"Within the Justice and Law enforcement system, there remains a persistent lack of trust and transparency in policing matters. This distrust is rooted in previous conduct investigations such as the tragic loss of J.J Harper, Helen Betty Osborne, and recently Eishia Hudson. As First Nations, we need to ensure that the process for investigations is fair and impartial for those that want to come forward with a complaint," said AMC Grand Chief Cathy Merrick

The AMC believes Manitoba should follow other provinces like Ontario in enacting legislation banning the hiring of former police officers to lead such agencies.

"Oversight agencies should be led by individuals who embody diverse perspectives and experiences," said AMC Grand Chief Cathy Merrick. "Appointing individuals with extensive law enforcement backgrounds will absolutely perpetuate biases, create inherent conflicts of interest, and significantly undermine the integrity and credibility of the oversight process."

Grand Chief Merrick says there is a critical need for impartiality and transparency in the oversight of law enforcement practices. There is a legitimate concern that individuals with close ties to law enforcement may not provide the necessary scrutiny and accountability to ensure fair and just outcomes for complainants."

The AMC calls on the government to reconsider this appointment and prioritize candidates with backgrounds in human rights, legal advocacy, and community engagement. To build trust and legitimacy in the oversight process, oversight agencies must reflect the diversity and lived experiences of the communities they serve.

Moving forward, the AMC urges the government to engage in meaningful consultation with our 62-member First Nations. This will ensure that future appointments to oversight agencies are transparent, diverse, and accountable to the best interests of all First Nations and Manitobans.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It was interesting to read the article on page 5 of the May 2024 Leaf, "Wolseley Avenue designated as Neighbourhood Greenway". It indicates there is a big safety problem on Wolseley Avenue, which is not true. MPI statistics show the number of collisions for cyclists and pedestrians from 2005 to 2020 varies between zero and two per year, most often zero or one. There is no statistical difference before or after the 30 kmh school zones came into effect in January 2015. You can view these MPI statistics at WWBCsite.org (Issues part 3), or call MPI your-

self. The top 50 places for accidents and fatalities occur at busy intersections on busy streets.

The article also ignores the fact that many people (I would guess about 75%) are opposed to these measures. The so-called surveys that were conducted were not close to being scientific or statistically valid. They were designed to give the impression the majority of people in Wolseley (and other neighbourhoods) want more bike paths and slower speed limits for cars, but they are intentionally biased and skewed. They are misleading. This is also shown clearly at

WWBCsite.org (see Reference Links, Appendix B, page one).

The City of Winnipeg has many pressing problems, which are all getting worse. Homelessness, crime that is rapidly getting worse and more violent, crumbling streets and an inadequate sewer system are just a few of the problems. It is foolish to be spending millions of dollars on bike paths, making streets narrower and getting rid of parking - when we have many other problems that are much more serious, and should be dealt with first.

Ray Hignell

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our two book draw winners: Madelyn Mandryk won a copy of Chimwewe's Scientific Marvel, and Candace H. won a copy of Gerald Friesen's The Honorable John Norquay, Indigenous Premier, Canadian Statesman. Thank you to publishers Anansi Press, and University of Manitoba Press.

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The mission of The Leaf is to serve the residents of Winnipeg's Wolseley and West Broadway neighbourhood by providing a free forum for the expression of relevant news and opinion. The Leaf is distributed free of charge to all Wolseley and West Broadway houses by our own team of carriers.

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COMMUNITY



Grand chief Jerry Daniels, (center back) stands with Dakota and Anishinaabe community artists and visionaries who have participated in a new exhibit.

Manidoo Miiniigooizowin

A celebration of 34 Dakota, and Anishinaabe communities of southern Manitoba and the Southern Chiefs Organization

By Terese Taylor

"The sooner we learn to understand, to respect and support one another, the better off we are going to be, more so for those young ones coming behind us. That is what this is all about," said Robert Maytwayashing, a Lake Manitoba elder who offered a prayer with Mary Maytwayashing to commemorate a special joint exhibition *Manidoo Miiniigooizowin, A Gift from the Creator* at the Manitoba Museum that will be on display over the next year.

It was not that long ago, said Maytwayashing at a large gathering of participants and family members there to open the exhibit, "that we could be killed for expressing our culture and spirituality."

"This partnership brings a great honour to the museum," said Manitoba Museum CEO Dorota Blumzinska. "A museum is a powerful venue for sharing stories, amplifying them and celebrating them, and for inviting communities into conversation, and into difficult truths, and into witnessing the impacts, the continued impacts of what this country has done, and we thank you."

"This is an especially powerful 25th anniversary celebration of all 34 Nations, 87,000 citizens if you don't know, in southern Manitoba," shared Grand Chief Jerry Daniels, of the Southern Chiefs Organization (SCO). This celebrates the past, present, and future of the nations, the citizens of these nations," said Daniels. "The objects on display exemplify the beauty and resilience of the people, to broaden the perceptions of first nations art."

"It is a celebration of the incredible future... it tells the

story in a way that honours them, which has not always been the case in our museums across Canada. Today is a new day, a new era," said Minister of the Prairies Economic Development Canada Dan Vandal, who provided support to the project.

Artists whose work was contributed to the exhibition include Nicole Bester (Sagkeeng), Alexis Houle (Sandy Bay), Danielle Roulette (Lake Manitoba), Jenna Valiquette (Poplar River), and Kim MacPherson and Gerri-Lee Pangman, from Peguis.

"Not only is this important to first nations and Indigenous people, it is important to those who are not Indigenous," said Winnipeg Mayor Scott Gillingham. "This serves as a reminder of the enduring spirit, talent, history, and the visionary future of the Anishinaabe and Dakota peoples," he said. "It was it was only possible that Winnipeg come together as a

city, because of the visionary leadership of first nations and Indigenous leaders like Chief Peguis who played such an important role in helping people come to this community from other parts of the world, and other first nations leaders. As we celebrate we realize we have a long way to go." The Mayor shared that the city is marking its 150 year history this year and that the exhibition would play a part in educating communities to take steps toward reconciliation. "This exhibit is one more step... together we can ensure our shared future is stronger for everybody together."

The Southern Chiefs Association is celebrating its 25th year anniversary of advocacy and providing a voice for the 34 nations it represents.

In 2022, it garnered national and international attention with a project to redevelop Winnipeg's Hudson's Bay Company Store. It had become va-

Nicole Bester (Misko Memengois) specializes in traditional and contemporary beadwork, moccasins, and ribbon work.



cant two years before, but sits at one of Winnipeg's most central locations. The large store which covers a full half city block was one of the Hudson Bay Company's flagship stores that was built in 1926.

The project, named Wehwehneh Bahgahkinahgoohn, or "it is visible," won a Best World-Changing Idea, North America Award in 2023.

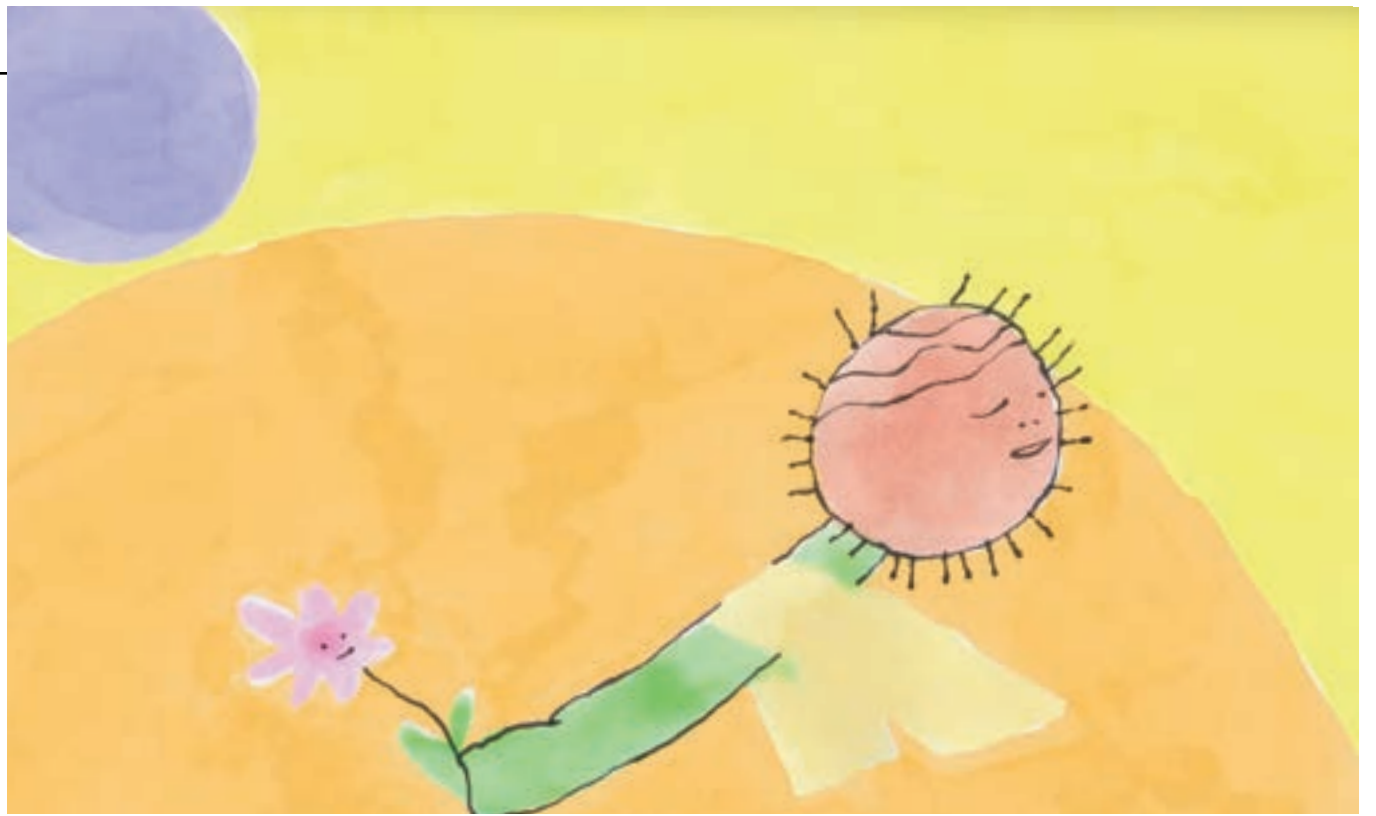
Grand Chief Daniels told *The Leaf* that the SCO is working on several exciting projects that have just been announced that will add to the kinds of revitalization and added services it is bringing to Winnipeg's downtown in partnership with

the provincial government and True North Development Corporation. In another project just announced in April, a new building at the east end of Portage Place Mall, and a new apartment block at the west end of the centre will provide affordable housing.

"It's looking really nice with our partnership now with True North that is adding a lot more to it," said Daniels. "There is another high-rise, more housing...with the hospital being on the east side of portage place there will more opportunity for health care for our elders, and assisted living."

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Movie launch at Misericordia celebrates imagination and love of 90-year-old star



By Mike Maunder

It was a day of celebration, imagination and history lessons all rolled into one for students from Mulvey School and residents of Misericordia Place when a movie starring 90-year-old resident, Edith Almadi, was launched by the National Film Board at the end of May.

The seven-minute movie was pure imagination – Edith’s drawings and words brought to life through the painstaking animation of local artists Toby Gilles and Natalie Baird. Imagination flowed through the room as 90-year-olds and 10-year-olds sat at tables together, drawing and talking.

And history came too, as the kids from Mulvey heard stories from seniors, some of whom had also attended Mulvey, but seemingly a long, long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.

Edith’s paintings of circles and moons and suns swirled into a wondrous galaxy of her own imagination in the animation on the screen.

“We met Edith ten years ago in our visits to Misericordia

working on art programs with residents,” explained Natalie. “We got to know her well, her quiet voice and gentle way.”

In 2014, they recorded Edith to capture some of her stories, memories and poetry. When Covid hit in 2020, they deeply missed working with residents because of restrictions. “We were thinking of Edith,” said Toby. “She has such a beautiful way of speaking. We knew her son had died and we wanted to connect with her.”

It was then that the two artists conceived the idea of animating many of Edith’s pictures and matching them with her words and a music background. They would take one of Edith’s original images – perhaps a fairy-like creature that represented her dead son—

and then repaint the fairy, movement by movement, as he flew through Edith’s other creations: butterflies and moons and stars and rising suns greeting new days – all of them also animated through hours of hand-painted work. Week after week they’d visit with Edith through her ground-floor window and connect with her by holding up the drawings they were working on. The drawings and poetry of her words

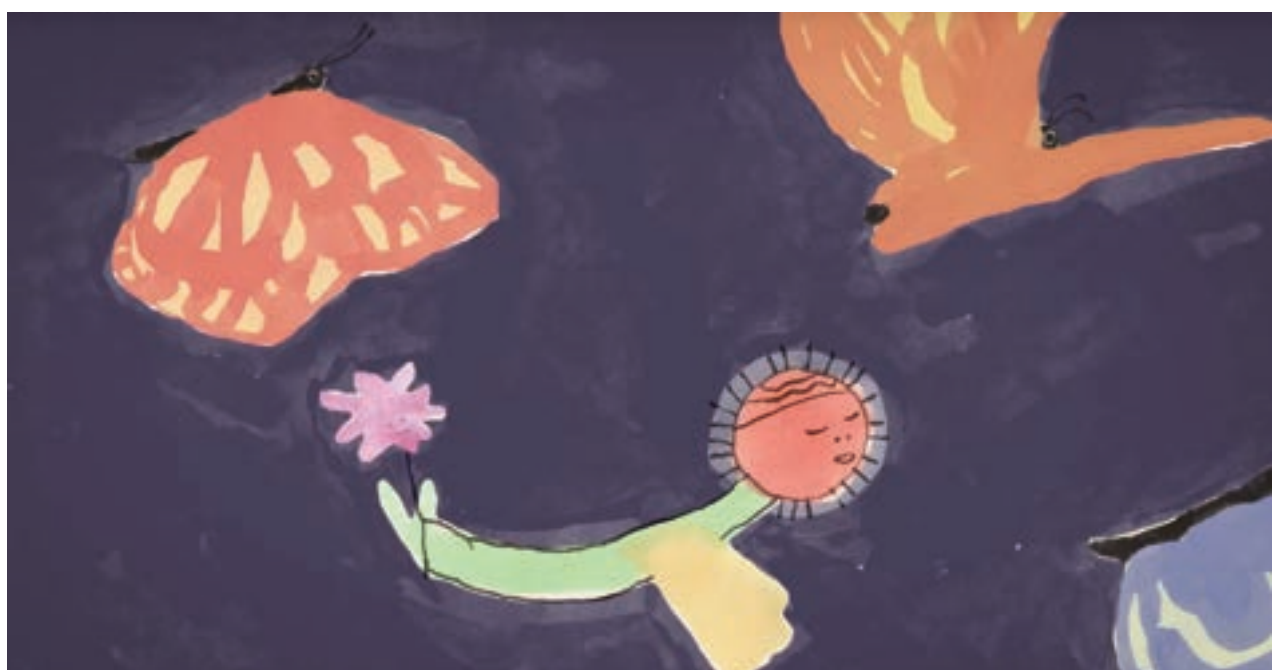
gained a new meaning of love and grief and connection.

It took 8,000 hand-painted drawings to create the material they could then turn into a film through digital technology.

Don’t Let the Sun Catch You Crying had its Manitoba debut at Misericordia in a special morning attended by seniors in her building and students from Mulvey School.

As students worked to-

gether with seniors filling big white sheets with colour, they heard other stories too. Like Misericordia Place resident Bill Pollon describing his school days at Mulvey when he was the same age as the students, in 1946, ’47 and ’48. “Mulvey wasn’t down here by the river,” he said, “It was at and Broadway.” Resident Michael Schick did attend the same building that the students know, but he attended in the 1950’s when it



Up-and-coming artist Tymofil Kvasnytsia with his imaginative contribution to the movie launch.

Perhaps in 80 years... ?



Images from Don't Let the Sun Catch You Crying from the National Film Board website:

(Left) the image of her son as a child? as a fairy? flying through the worlds of her imagination.

(Right) The sun rises – waking the creatures of Edith's imagination

(Left) Edith Almadi with film-makers Toby Gilles and Natale Baird.

(Below) Edith with kids from Mulvey.



(Left) Edith Almadi with film-makers Toby Gilles and Natale Baird.



(Above) Edith with kids from Mulvey.

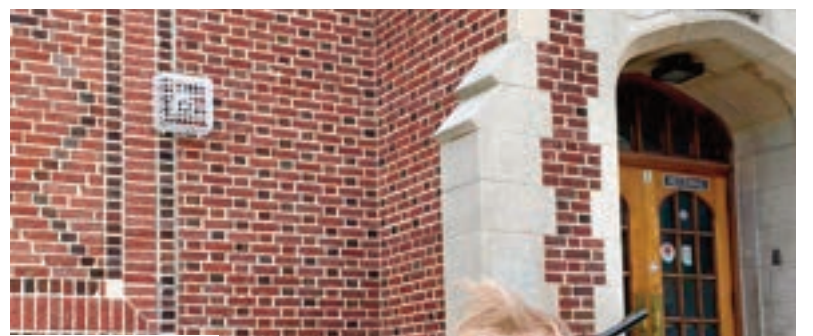
was still Gordon Bell High School. Both of them remembered the 1950 Flood.

Mulvey volunteer Millie Mercier was with the students, but dashed back to the school to get the seniors a limited-edition painting that showed the previous Mulvey School (built in 1884 and again, after a fire, in 1895) alongside the present Mulvey. "Miss Millie" had found the painting years before, in her first career at the school as an Education Assis-

tant from 2003 to 2023. But, even through retired, she's unable to leave the kids she loves and stays on as a volunteer.

Perhaps if there was one more word to add to the imagination, celebration and history that the movie premiere showed, that word would be "love."

If you want a dose of love, view this movie of a mother's soaring imagination, free on the National Film Board's website.



(Misericordia Place residents Bill Pollon and Michael Schick (Above) tell students of older days at Mulvey. When Mulvey volunteer Millie Mercier heard their story, she rushed back to the school to give them a painting of the old school.

ART & COMMUNITY



Two neighbourhood fixtures among the 60 photos in Art City exhibit at the Platform Gallery

Stories and photos by Mike Maunder

Art City's photo program was showcased in a recent exhibit at the Platform Gallery on Arthur Street – an exhibit showing scenes spanning the 25-year history of the program.

Outside at Young and Broadway highlighted the Art City corner – Young and Broadway – during that quarter-century. Two colourful corner landmarks were painted by Art City kids to anchor the exhibit – the old hand-lettered Pal's Supermarket sign (now gone) and the colourful mural painted years ago by Art

City participants on the Manitoba Housing building at 195 Young.

Among the many images created by participants over that 25 years, there were photos like the swings at the Broadway Neighbourhood Centre, and joyful pictures of kids on the swings; pictures of trees, and pictures of kids climbing trees. There were pictures of kids, taken by other kids, which always imparts a special spontaneity.

In an interview with the Free Press, Art City artistic director Eddie Ayoib listed

six instructors over the years who have made the program a mainstay at Art City, including the original instructor, Monique Lysak, who started the program in 1998 and Natalie Baird, who took over in 2017.

Baird helped curate the 60 photos from past and present – most of them black and white and processed by participants in trays of developer/stop bath/fixer in the Art City darkroom. As well as many other programs in digital photography and special effects, the photography program has carried on every Monday night,

teaching the basics of photography by giving out cameras, encouraging participants to see what makes a good picture among the ordinary things of life, teaching them to develop the film, and make black and white prints in the traditional way.

While instructors have changed over the years, and kids have come and gone, two stalwarts of the program have been attending for at least the last 19 years – Lise Labelle

and Robert Erbach. They credit their long participation to the understanding attitude and the talents of Art City staff.

Lise in particular, takes her digital camera everywhere she goes and there are few people in West Broadway who haven't been snapped by her.


Several of their photos over the years were at the exhibit, including self-portraits. Portraits are a kind of specialty for both of them, but not al-



(Above) Robert and Lise today.

(Right) Robert and Lise in an early Art City photo (circa 2006)



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Photos clockwise from left:
Art City's Eddie Ayoub is framed by photos of Robert and Lise at the exhibit.

Natalie Baird in front of one display at the exhibit – double exposure created by Kiara Beaulieu (in photo behind Natalie).

Eddie in front of the cardboard replica of old Pal's sign.

Lise's photo of the rink at Broadway Neighbourhood Centre: "Seeing what makes a good picture amongst the ordinary things of life."




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ways as you'd expect. On their smartphones, they delight in programs like Snapchat that enable them to manipulate their subjects: age them, or take away the years, or add horns, or convert their subjects to a likeness of Albert Einstein.

Outside at Young and Broadway featured many of the neighbourhood fixtures at the Young Street corner -- and not least among them are Robert and Lise themselves



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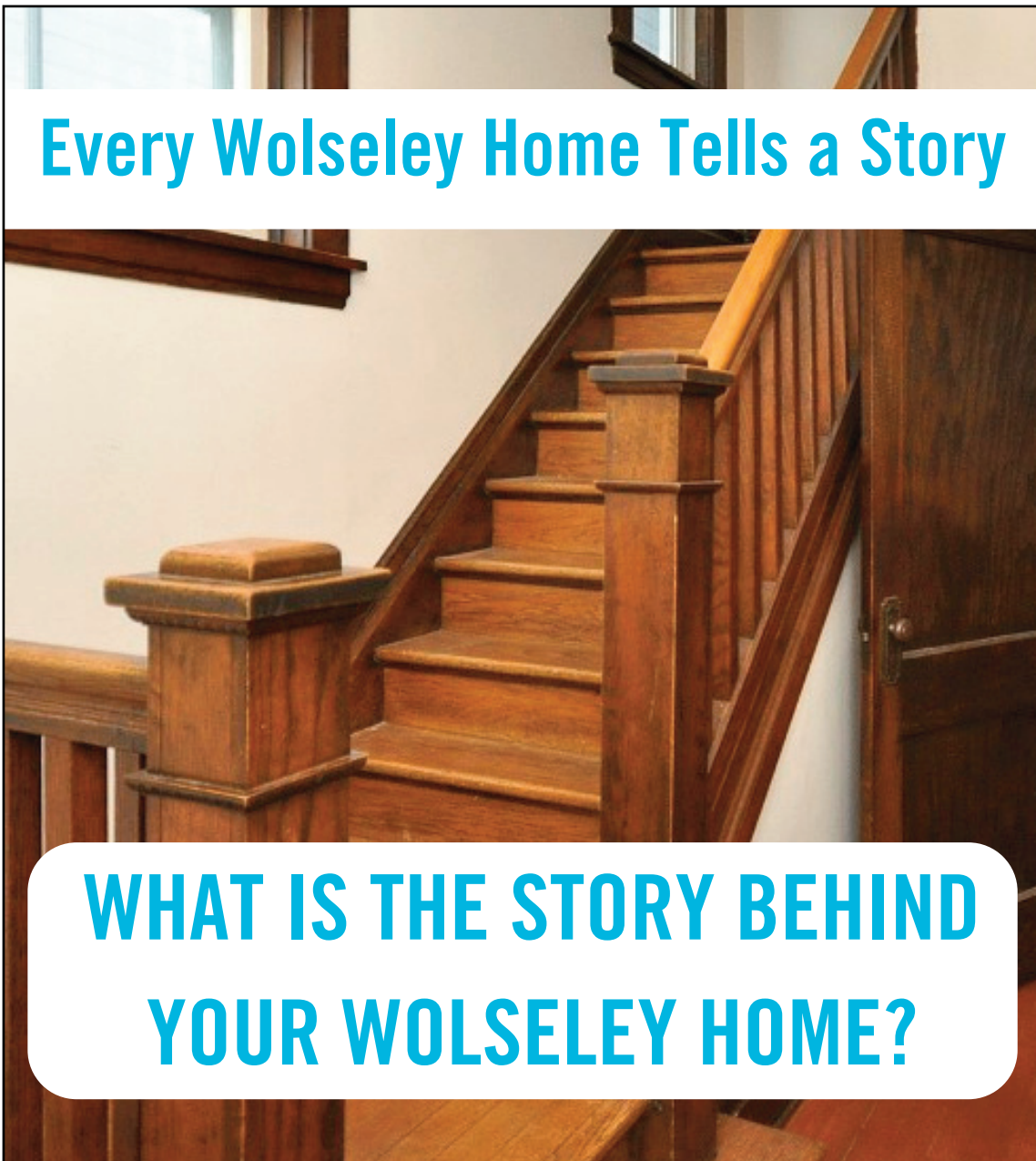
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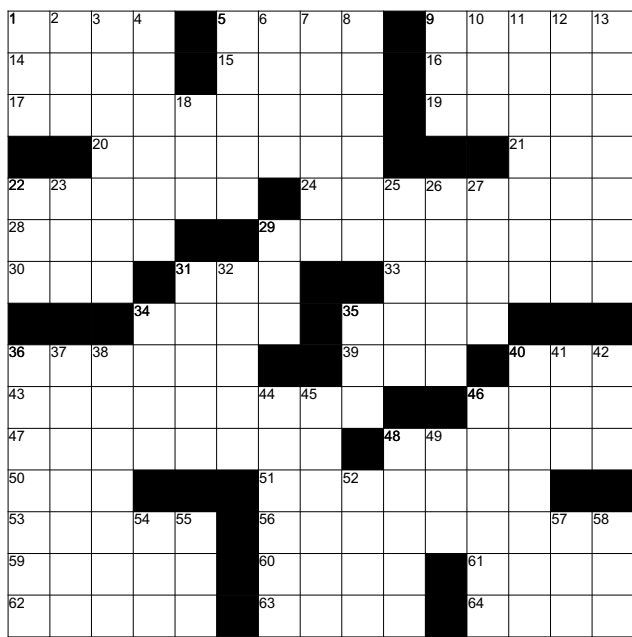
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- ACROSS**
- Salary
 - Baseball and cricket gear
 - Nonet less one
 - Open
 - Ottoman title
 - Terrible twos, e.g.
 - Wolseley Place or a novel by Michael Christie
 - Tallest spruce species
 - Shakespearean actor and EGOT winner
 - Spasm
 - Smart things in your pocket
 - Eye disease
 - Hamlet
 - Wolseley boundary Street twice named for ferry operator James Mulligan
 - Teen's room, metaphorically
 - Pre-A.D.
 - Salon foam
 - Flair
 - ___ to Avonlea
 - Gawker
 - Carney or Garfunkel
 - Sass
 - Wolseley Street or home of the Pentagon
 - Voice-mail cue
 - Exit that must be kept closed for safety
 - Released
 - Citrus drink
 - Enzyme supplement for intolerant folks
 - Quantities of paper



- DOWN**
- Museum at Portage Ave. & Memorial Blvd.
 - Most of it is nitrogen
 - Classic movie actor Peck
 - Looking at
 - Sobs
 - Super eager
 - However
 - Jockey's seat
 - Photo ___
 - Greek X
 - Inuit face markings
 - Former name of the Edmonton Elks
 - Sweet bread or cookie
 - Formerly named
 - Airer of Ken Burns' docs
 - Shack
 - Protective suit
 - WWII submarine
 - Muck
 - Ottawa NHL player, briefly
 - Mix
 - Freight
 - Niagara river's source lake
 - Managed
 - Kenyan treks
 - Neptune's prop
 - "So soon?"
 - Most garish
 - Quaint retreat
 - "The ___" (nickname for our city)
 - Ohio city on the Maumee River
 - Spoke eloquently
 - Social groups
 - Unsmiling
 - Buddy
 - Spiced tea
 - Wire measure
 - Observe
 - Fish closely related to a shark
 - (In)formal wear?

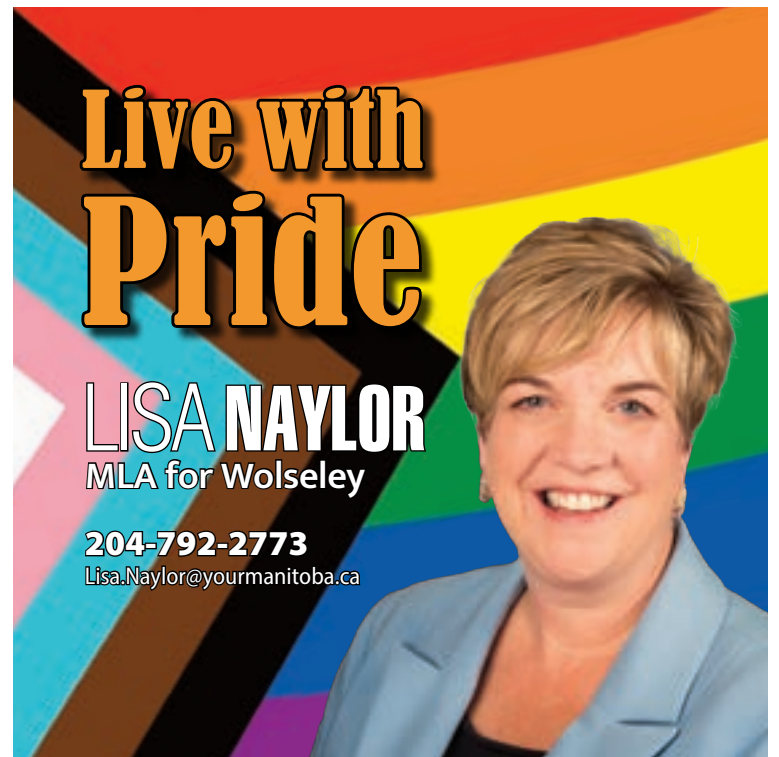
Last Month's Crossword Puzzle Answers:

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T	H	E	R	U	B	Y	W	E	S	T		O	R	A	
S	I	A	M		S	E	A	T			A	T	O	N	
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SONG FOR YOU

Isolated islanders incorporate tales, and travellers, into ballads, and dance

By Max Johnson



Remote areas are often overlooked, underestimated or simply ignored. Many of us will have on the way to or from Europe, cast a glance at the flight map and seen the groups of islands they lie between Scotland and Iceland, and even wondered, fleetingly, what goes on down there.

A lot, as it happens. The three groups are the Orkney Islands, the Shetland Islands (settled since at least the Bronze Age) and the Faroe Islands (settled since the ninth and tenth centuries). Orkney and Shetland are part of Scotland, and the Faroes are part of the Kingdom of Denmark. That is today; in the past, they were all important parts of the Viking world.

There are frequent flights to the Faroes from Iceland and most northern European capitals, and a weekly ferry from Denmark, which links the Faroes and Iceland. Orkney and Shetland are easily accessible by ferry from the Scottish mainland and air from a variety of southern cities.

Travel between Shetland and the Faroes is slightly awkward and requires backtracking to Edinburgh for connecting flights.

Once there, renting a car

Max Johnson, has done extensive island hopping and heard some of the long ballads remote communities have used to keep their stories alive. Photo above is at Skara Brae, a settlement thought to be 5000 plus years old.

and finding a base is the best way to explore. None of the island groups are big, although reaching the northern Shetland islands of Unst and Yell, well worth the effort, require coordinating the inter-island ferry schedules to avoid being stranded.

It is hard to say which of the islands are “the best”; they are all quite different. Orkney is surprisingly flat, pastoral and green. Farming is the main commercial activity, and the islands are all low-lying, sheltering cosy harbour villages from the North Atlantic weather. The capital, Kirkwall, is a serious and rather lively town, centred around St. Magnus Cathedral.

Built in the twelfth century, was a gift to the people of Orkney from Earl Rognvald as a recognition of their part in saving his son’s life. Today the cathedral remains active, and its façade, unscathed by the detritus of industrial smog, still retains a sharp and defined brickwork exterior.

Some fifteen miles away

lies Skara Brae, one of Europe’s most remarkable archaeological sites.

It is hard not to think of the Flintstones when you first approach the site. A small village, exposed in the eighteenth century following a dramatic storm, dates back to about 3200 BCE. A primitive, but effective sewage system links the cluster of houses, and each shows an attention to living detail that belies its five-thousand-year history.

An afternoon spent wandering around the site is a fine way to get lost in the history of life, and to picture oneself living back in the Bronze Age.

Shetland, in complete contrast to Orkney, even though it lies only sixty miles to the north, is a dramatic archipelago. Dramatic cliffs, teaming with seabirds, rise from the shorelines. For visitors, Shetland is a mind game. Part of the United Kingdom, yet so unlike anywhere else in Britain, physically and mentally. It is a land of eccentric crafts, mysterious

history and inimitable people. Shetland offers visitors who drive a few miles off the main roads a glimpse, it seems, into a parallel universe.

Flower gardens veiled inside walled graveyards, makeshift libraries in appropriated bus shelters, rain shelters in crashed aeroplanes and visitors’ books in glass boxes protected from the rail.

And all around, the aura and history of the Vikings and the knowledge that this powerful people spread their wealth and knowledge from these islands to North America, to the middle east and throughout the western shoreline of Europe.

As we venture further north, we reach the Faroe Islands, perhaps the most geographically challenged and culturally distinct of the three groups.

The chain dance is an old Faroese custom. Late in the evening, a group, friends, perhaps or family will stand and link hands, the right hand

overlapping the left, as a raconteur starts to recite a ballad. The ballad’s storyline is long, perhaps a few hundred verses, and tells the story of the community from a distant past to the present.

Caught in such an event some twenty years back in Kalksvik, myself, a Brazilian and a French visitor are perhaps now incorporated in the ballad of today, so unusual we were. The three of us, exploring the islands and innocently invited to join the evening, were overwhelmed by the presence of hundreds of ye’rs of local lore concentrated in the hour-long chain dance.

And such is life in the island. It moves seamlessly between centuries. They tease visitors into believing that they are understood. They are not. They are islands and cultures that have survived thousands of years and will survive thousands of years into the future.

They are, however, alive, secure and once on the ground, not remote in the slightest.

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SECOND LAST WORD

Winnipeg the only major city without a library department and other signs it's in decline



By Paul Moist

In recent months the long, steady march towards decline has continued in Winnipeg's inner-city.

The recent city budget saw the closure date for the Brooklands Pool set. Two outdoor pools in St. Boniface were on the chopping block and city council opted to close Happyland Pool. Residents have raised sufficient funds to operate the pool this summer but the City has rejected this option.

Closer to home, Sherbrook Pool is rumoured to again be on the chopping block, as it was 20 years ago. The city budget also continued the trend towards the closure of staffed wading pools and the move to splash pads which removes both summer employment for students and swimming options for toddlers and young children.

The recent cuts follow the closure of the Arlington Street bridge, which illustrates the default option after decades of capital planning avoidance. Winnipeg City Council has capital priorities such as widening Kenaston Blvd., and the extension of the Chief Peguis Trail, both projects that entail hundreds of millions of dollars to serve suburban interests.

In mid-May we learned of the Fort Garry library branch, with its leaky roof and strategi-

cally placed buckets, which patrons must navigate as they browse through the stacks.

Library activist Joe Curran, I think captured it well when he told local media that library funding has been so restrained that facilities are at "the point of collapse." This follows a similar track record with civic hockey arenas, most of which are in existing neighborhoods and have been allowed to fall into such a state of disrepair that closure becomes the default option.

The recent budget celebrated a modest expansion of some branch library hours, while closing the Millennium Library on Sundays. Inner-city patrons, some looking to get warm on a winter day, have lost one of the few remaining accessible public spaces in the downtown core.

Wolseley activist and author, Erna Buffie has raised this neglect of the inner city in several pointed public commentaries. She has profiled the fact that the city is still unable to remove diseased elm trees in a timely manner, let alone replace them.

In a recent Free Press op ed, Buffie asked just what our city's values are? She added, "Maybe we need to start measuring growth not in terms of the new and the bigger, but in

terms of human and environmental well-being."

Free Press columnist, Tom Brodbeck was equally blunt in saying recently, "Winnipeg's streets are in horrible shape; parks aren't maintained properly; pools are closing; transit is grossly underfunded..."

The neglect of the inner city has been well documented. What has received less attention is the fact that all this flows from political decisions designed to wrestle power from inner-city interests.

The Unicity legislation of five decades ago was designed to reduce duplication by merg-

ing 13 municipalities into the City of Winnipeg. A 50-person city council ensured strong representation from the inner city and unique features such as Community Committees and Resident Advisory Groups sought to solidify public input into civic affairs.

The Conservative government of Sterling Lyon cut council to 29 seats in the late 70's. Former Premier Gary Filmon reduced council to 15 full-time councillors in the mid-90's. This ensured that with the set up of many pie-shaped wards that the inner city would always be out-

voted by suburban interests. Today, the council has no representation on EPC from inner-city councillors. (Note: Fort Rouge Councillor Sherri Rollins serves on EPC, and represents a small section of West Broadway, but the bulk of her ward is south of the Assiniboine River).

The other decision from the mid-90's, was the Filmon government creating the City Charter and the so-called strong mayor system, which has given huge powers to the office of mayor. (This decision plus the decision to eliminate the former Board of Commissioners model, ensured a "strong mayor - weak administration system").

At the same time the former Parks and Recreation department was eliminated, its functions wedged into the Public Works and Community Services departments, ensuring that there is no "Department Head" level voice on behalf of parks and recreation interests.

This same void exists with library services. The former Library Department was eliminated in 1997 and this service was merged into the Community Services department, leaving Winnipeg as the only major city in Canada without a dedicated Library department.

Silencing the voices of professional parks and library leaders ensures that even if budget dollars were in plentiful supply, these services would take a back seat to emergency services and public works functions.

So, we have a host of immediate challenges, some of them structural. The solutions will not be easy, but they begin with strong voices challenging the new status quo. Our inner city deserves no less.

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CELEBRATE

Zyta's serving hangover soup in heaven today

Zyta Zepp, the long-time kitchen manager at West Broadway Community Ministry at Crossways, died May 17 after a brief battle with cancer. Zyta was cooking in the Crossways kitchen when Lynda Trono became community minister in 2012. Lynda may have been the boss of the ministry, but Zyta was the Mom.

Here former Community Minister, Lynda remembers:

When I would arrive at the Community Ministry sometime after 9 AM, Zyta and her sidekick would already be bustling around getting ready for the day.

Zyta always had a sidekick: a volunteer that she would take under her wing and who would become her Number-One helper and trusted friend. Together they would prepare soup or sandwiches for over 100 guests four days a week - Katherine, Monique, Angie... All became a bit like her children and she was a bit like a protective Mom.

First thing on was the coffee. It had to be ready for the card players ...some of whom would be in here as soon as the chairs came down. Most days, Zyta would serve up a dish of early morning pickles for Alida, our oldest and most frail card player. Zyta had a soft heart for the most vulnerable people in the neighbourhood. She was compassionate, and loyal to those she loved. But God help ya, you don't want to get on her bad side: Don't sit at the table that is for kitchen staff. Don't take too much sugar. Don't try to get seconds before they are called. Zyta was clear and her love was fierce. And so was her anger!

Every Monday Zyta would eye up the Harvest delivery and imagine what ingredients she would use to create her fa-

mous "Hangover Soup." It took some creativity. On more than one occasion she would contribute dill or fresh onions from her garden to add some extra zing. I think it's significant that two of the people who spoke at her celebration of life service spoke about that soup.

Sometimes when someone was having a hard time, Zyta would just put a bowl of soup in front of them and say, "Eat!" It usually worked.

As I looked back through sermons, newsletters and correspondence over the years, Zyta showed up over and over again... kind of a poster child for West Broadway. She represented what we were about.

Zyta was originally here as part of an experiment with a hot lunch program. West Broadway had received a special one-time grant from Westworth United Church to hire a kitchen manager to provide us with two hot meals a week rather than just sandwiches. Having a kitchen manager allowed us to access Winnipeg Harvest. Zyta proved herself incredibly capable and reliable. About 6 months into my new job I learned that there was no stable funding in place for this crucial job.

So began the annual project of asking churches to contribute to the Kitchen Manager's salary. It was hoped that we would eventually have

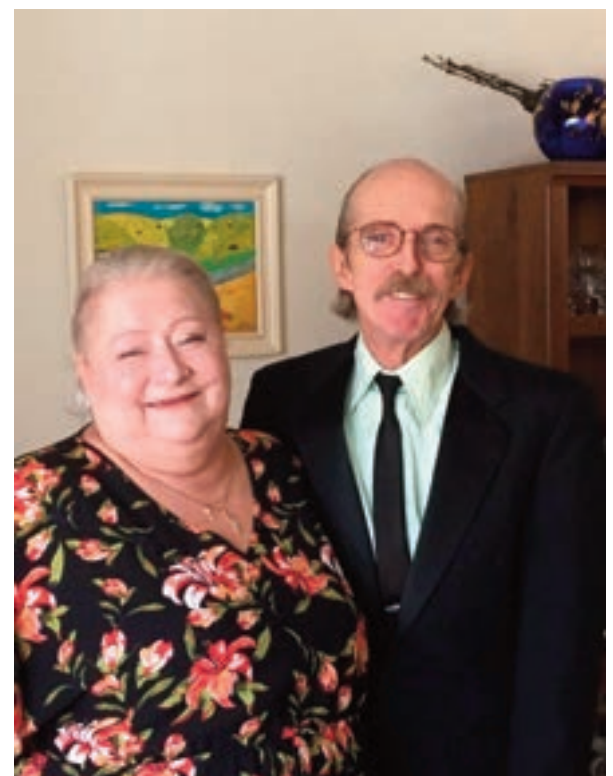
12 churches taking on one month each.

So it wasn't just the church volunteers who actually came here who knew about Zyta. It was also all our church partners.

In 2019, those churches held Zyta in prayer as she dealt with cancer. They celebrated with all of us when Zyta and Jim married in 2020. And today they mourn with us Zyta's passing, and remember with us her smile, her laughter and the fierce, loving Mom who, we are sure, is serving up a big bowl of hangover soup in heaven right now.



(Above) Zyta stirring the "hangover soup".



(Right) Zyta and Jim Zepp.

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FIRST EP

Danceable: Jace Bodner launching Don't Ruin The Love Home made tunes equal parts reflection, admiration

By Terese Taylor

Jace Bodner comes by his love of music honestly. His up-beat influences range from Stevie Wonder, to Vulpeck, to Marvin Gay and Tower of Power. But they also come from Wolseley and West Broadway musical powerhouses and the Juno Award winning band members of Indian City and Eagle and Hawk; including his father Jay Bodner, Gerry Atwell, Spatch Mulhall and Vince Fontaine.

Bring it all together and you have the next generation's "Don't Ruin The Love" Ep.

At 22, Jace Bodner is launching his first EP release with a six piece band, a sophisticated and intriguing layering of melodies and rhythms, with an evocative, and intimate feel.

In a video rendition of *Not Forever*, Bodner starts with an incongruous "When I was young..." (looking much too young to be singing the words) and you can hear the slow realization as it settles in. A young friend has died, and he didn't know. But the song searches for its meaning.

"Obviously you are distraught, and there is some guilt at not using the time the you did have," says Bodner. He says the song has a personal meaning that hits close to home for him; his grandfather passed away 2 years ago. But it also connects to the two musicians that were a part of his inner circle and had vast influence on the Winnipeg music scene; the loss of Gerry Atwell, and Vince Fontaine who both passed away at age 60.

"Death was on the mind," says Bodner, who wrote the song in 2022. "We were in the midst of it. Just in general, the feelings of losing someone you love." But also, because of Bodner's age perhaps, *Not Forever* turns the longing around in both melody and philosophical touch.

Bodner just graduated high school when COVID 19 arrived in the world, something he is grateful for, having watched younger family members have to close off from get togethers with friends. But as a musician, in some ways, it allowed him to cocoon around his music.

"It took all the momentum out of turning 18," he says. He had formed the band *Mother*

Funk in high school at Miles Mac, and got some experience under his belt performing with music teacher Mr. Rempel's high school band the *Supersonics*. He had just started performing his original music where anyone would take him.

Underneath it all he wondered if public performances would "still be a thing."

"That led to writing songs and learning to produce and different things that have been valuable to me," he says.

He wondered if he was going to get the lectures about getting a real job. But they never came.

Post Covid, with live concerts getting back on track, Bodner is using his creative energy to get into the joy of getting the music out.

He has performed on the Winnipeg International Folk Festival Youth stage, last year working with musician Julian Taylor, "a fantastic mentor," he says. Bodner will appear again this year and is looking forwards to working with mentor Ariel Posen. He will also perform solo at the Assiniboine Leaf on Canada Day.

Bodner has posted a few music videos on youtube (with several shots of the neighbourhood) Throwing together an "official" video to launch his song *Maisie* this past month, a reflective love tune on his EP, he tried to get together as many friends as he could who would spend the day practicing their moves to do a one-take video.

Things fell in to place - including the use of a horse, and a lot of good cheer evident in the production. He learned to ride the horse for the video, and the video finishes with the band playing on a rural Manitoba property that can handle the four piece brass section.

Bodner is launching his EP June 15 at the Park Theatre, and won't disappoint. Tickets online or at the door are \$15

*Jace Bodner
(photo above
provided)
writes
catchy, uplifting
tunes that will get
you on the dance
floor*



WINNIPEG FOLK FEST
EST. 1974
JULY 11-14, 2024

MT. JOY • ORVILLE PECK • LUCINDA WILLIAMS
BAND OF HORSES • SHAKEY GRAVES • NOAH CYRUS
KILLER MIKE • GRACE POTTER • COWBOY JUNKIES
JOY OLADOKUN • HALF MOON RUN • THE WAR AND TREATY
NEAL FRANCIS • BONNY LIGHT HORSEMAN • SYML • NOAH REID
LEITH ROSS • MOONTRICKS • GONE GONE BEYOND • NICK SHOULDERS
ARIEL POSEN • HELENA DELAND • STEPH STRINGS • IBIBIO SOUND MACHINE
ELISAPIE • ROMAN CLARKE • RUTH MOODY • ETRAN DE LAIR • THE GROGANS
DIRT WIRE • MAU VELASQUEZ • THE MESSTHETICS • POSSESSED BY PAUL JAMES
MEDICINE SINGERS • THE FRETLESS • THE LOSTTIMES • JAKE BLOUNT • BENDIGO FLETCHER
CHOIR! CHOIR! CHOIR! • WYATT C LOUIS • MAMA'S BROKE • SHE RETURNS FROM WAR
BCUC • TRAY WELLINGTON • KAIA KATER • ROSALI • JERRON PAXTON • NEW DANGERFIELD
ZOOM • RAINBOW GIRLS • TOM PAXTON • DON JUANS • TAIL TAIL TREES • MADEIRINE ROGER
JOH MUQ • MISCELLANY OF FOLK • SHOOGIENIFTY • IBBY DECAMP • CALEY WATTS • TIFFANY LIU
TIA WOOD • SAM POBBLEY • OLD TOMORROWS • NADAN EL SHAZLY • THE STANLEY COUNTY CUT-UPS • POLNY
JAMES CULLETON • PALMYRA • MARJO ET MICAH • INN ECHO • SHANE GHOSTKEEPER • MAMA CUTSWORTH

BERDS HILL PROVINCIAL PARK • TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WINNIPEGFOLKFESTIVAL.CA

Enter our draw for tickets to Jace Bodner's EP Release Party **Don't Ruin the Love** at **The Park Theatre June 15!**
To enter send an email to info@wolseleyleaf.ca with "EP Release" in the subject heading.

Enter our draw for tickets to see **A Midsummer Night's Dream** at **Shakespeare in the Ruins!**
To enter send an email to info@wolseleyleaf.ca with SIR in the heading by June 20th.

Enter our draw for tickets to see **IAGO SPEAKS** at **Shakespeare in the Ruins!**
To enter send an email to info@wolseleyleaf.ca with IAGO in the heading by June 20th.