

# THE LEAF

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JULy 2025 NEWS AND VIEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY | VOL 13 NO 4 | FREE TO WOLSELEY & WEST BROADWAY RESIDENTS THELEAFNEWS.CA

### Great reads that should be on your bedside table this summer

By Terese Taylor

Zilla Jones' widely awaited novel **World So Wide** takes readers on a long-standing story that has existed on a fine line in North America's history. It's a story both powerful and devastating, exploring the depths of the dreams and convictions of a country finding its own voice.

Jones grew up hearing adults and family members telling the stories of the political movements in the Caribbean country of Grenada, and of the political protests in the 70s that united students and youth across the world against inequality, including an active community in Winnipeg.

"It's this tiny country, and yet it spawned this great

revolution that was inspiring America and all these other countries that were having socialist movements. This tiny island of less than 100,000 people somehow was able to do that," said Jones at her book launch at McNally Robinson Booksellers. It's a story that "just calls out to be told," she said.

Jones is an award-winning

*continues pg 4...*



Author Zilla Jones (photo provided)



Climate activists screen printed posters in an event at the Handsome daughter

### Seen that, done that

**Federal plan will make climate worse, say activists**

By Terese Taylor

Winnipeg climate activists gathered to screen print posters drawing attention to climate issues, saying that moves the federal government and the provincial government are making in response to much more frequent "climate catastrophes" and trade pressures from the US government "aren't connecting the dots," and have the potential to make increasing climate disasters worse.

Manitoba evacuated almost 20,000 northern residents from their homes in June due to the threat of massive forest fires, the largest evacuation in its history.

"Obviously we need to be responding to the fires and putting resources into emergency preparedness and protecting evacuees, but (the government) should be dealing with the real causes at the same time," says Hannah Mu-

harajine.

Activists suggested that terms to describe what is happening make it sound like it's simply a natural phenomenon, instead of disasters being caused by human activities.

Calling it "wildfire season" is something that Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition took issue with. A better name might be "manfires," suggested a participant.

*continues pg 11...*

**West End Fights to Save Last Bank on Sargent**  
**Community members organize to prevent closure of RBC branch serving area with city's highest senior population - see page 4**



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# COMMUNITY

## PRIME celebrates 10 years

By Terese Taylor

"This is exactly what health care should be, where someone knows your care, and you get the right care," said Candace Blundell, a social worker at the Misericordia Health Centre's PRIME program for seniors.

The five-day-a-week drop-in program celebrated its 10 year anniversary in June. PRIME provides services for seniors with complex medical and health needs, supporting them in ways that allow them to continue living independently in the community. They provide transportation to and from the program for clients, where they can socialize with others, get involved in fitness activities, and meet with staff

regarding health needs.

Elsie Griffith celebrated the anniversary with her two sons and daughter-in-law. "We're always happy to know that she's here because she's in good hands and always looks forward to the times that she knows she's coming here," explained her son Glen. "I think it's a really, really badly needed program, and I think we're very fortunate to have it in this community and that my mom can be part of it because other than this, she would never really be stepping outside of her apartment."

One of the activities in the PRIME program is gardening, something that a recently retired volunteer, Karen, has as-

sisted with. She has enjoyed witnessing the "amazing transformation" over the last three weeks since planting began. Clients planted tomatoes and flowers on the roof-top garden which has a beautiful view of the trees around the centre.

Participants also opted to create a mini-magical garden with glass beads and mini gnomes. "It was really good for dexterity, and stretching," said Karen.

"People really come alive when they come up here," she says. "You know, there's one client who said she raised a family of nine on her garden."

Blundell, who has a background in social work, says staff try to stay flexible when assisting clients, and sometimes it's the small things that can really make a difference. As a case manager, she sometimes has helped clients to read their water meter, helped with getting groceries, or helped with online communication. Although it's portrayed as more efficient to make appointments or communicate online, for many seniors it isn't, Blundell explained. "It sounds really accessible, but often seniors can't hear (miss the cues) to push the automated buttons. Once they get through the system they can advocate for themselves, but sometimes they can't get through the system."

One of the greatest benefits of the program, said Blundell, is that seniors who may have fallen through the cracks, and were using emergency services much more often, are regularly connected to staff and doctors who can give more consistent care and attention.

Some of their clients were referred through EPIC (Emergency Paramedics in the Community) - a program run by Fire and Paramedic Service, that identifies frequent users of 911.

Blundell said the emphasis in PRIME isn't to make people better, because often participants join at a time where that's not likely to happen. Some are dealing with cognitive decline, increasing mobility issues, sometimes grieving changes in their life, and may have limited family supports. "We really believe in a holistic model. Everyone is very unique and we try to look at the recreational, social part of things, to the medical part, to mental health, and to cover it all," she says. "We're giving them better quality of life, whatever that

Glen Griffith and his mom Elsie, 90 years old, celebrated with PRIME



Candace Blundell (second from top) works with staff at PRIME to help maintain independent living for seniors. Karen (above) assists seniors on the rooftop garden.

looks like," says Blundell.

Misericordia Health Centre is one of two sites in the city that runs the program,

along with Deer Lodge Health Centre, and the Misericordia program serves 70 clients from age 65 up to 100 years old.

## WRA launches a plea for the elms

Wolseley Residents' Association launched a campaign in June to save some of the neighbourhood's elms from the Dutch Elm Disease which is destined to totally change the character of the neighbourhood in the next ten years.

The "red dot of death" marks trees to be cut down. Up until recently it seemed losing all the neighbourhood's elms was inevitable over the next ten years, replacing our now-shady streets with blazing sun. The Tree Committee of the residents' association has created a neighbourhood-wide plan

that can save many of the elms - at a cost of \$650 or more for each tree.

They suggest that you take a walk through a few Wolseley streets to appreciate the big elms, most of which have another century of life in them, and compare those streets to the sections which have already lost their elm trees. If nothing is done, all of the big elms you see will be gone.

If you want to help save some of the trees, contact the tree committee at: [www.wolseleytreecommittee.org](http://www.wolseleytreecommittee.org)

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# GREAT BOOKS

author and lawyer who also sings opera, and her main character in **World So Wide** is a biracial (Canadian and Grenadian) opera star who has travelled the world and wants to see a former love interest who is a leader in the country. Jones intersperses real events with a character who knows both the inner and outer workings of the many communities that were connected to its fate.

People don't know a lot about the history of this region, says Jones, but it was a region that had created massive wealth on the back of slavery and indentured labour as one of the biggest producers of sugar in the world. Another lesser-known story, says Jones, are some of the first democratic systems formed by pirate associations who held that women and all racial groups were equal.

## Let Us Be True

Like what seems to be a particularly pronounced skill in this neighbourhood - women writing about women's lives - Erna Buffie's novel **Let Us Be True** is beautifully written, and her characters seem like they live up the street. And remember that older woman who could slice a mean emotional piece off of her kids? She's there too.

Buffie grew up on Dominion Street near Notre Dame, and many of the classic elements of Winnipeg Culture run through the pages of the story. And although it a fictional landscape, explains Buffie, the book

When people told stories about the Grenadian revolution, it was often as a cautionary tale, says Jones. 'It was always like well, they got too cocky or they didn't really see the reality of what was at stake and just wanted too much. But in some ways,' she says, "there was this aspect of if (Grenada) didn't do this who would?"

"The United States was scared of them. Of this tiny country, and it took them days to take it over... And I know the US didn't bargain for the fight that they got."

"It's really important for people, and my kids to know that we had such strong movements and throughout the Caribbean there are so many great stories."

**The World So Wide is published by Cormorant Books.**

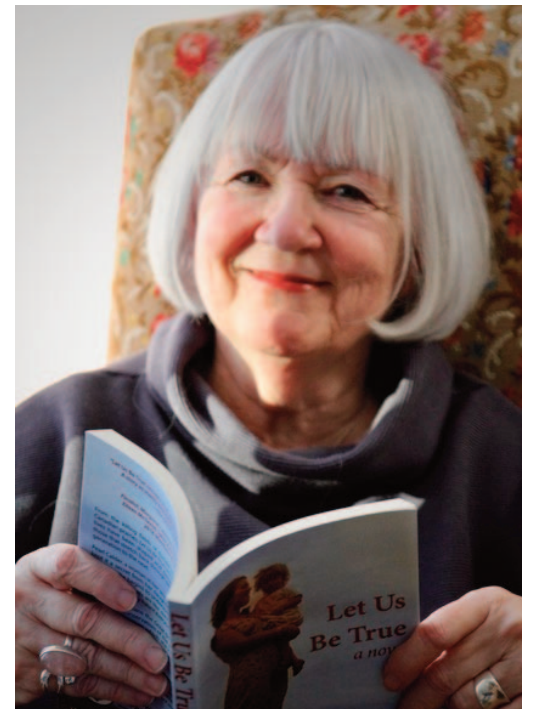
(an academic working at the university) partner Athena is a massage therapist who, used to following the quieter and less guarded communication of the body, can sense something doesn't add up.

It's looking at intergenerational trauma. It's it's looking at how, you know, whether it's a Holocaust survivor or it's someone who survived the depression in the war, that we pass on the damage is done to us, and often, despite our best intentions.

"I would hope coming away from this book that people would be more sympathetic towards women like

Pearl and not just assume anything - that that they would give them room, just knowing that there might be something in their lives, something in their background, something in their families that have made them the women they are, and that we would be more forgiving of that."

**Let Us Be True is published by Coteau Books.**



Author Erna Buffie (photo provided)



Author and journalist Josiah Neufeld (photo provided)

## The Temple at the End of the Universe, A Search for Spirituality in the Anthropocene

"The old story was no longer working," Josiah Neufeld quotes in **The Temple at the End of the Universe, A Search for Spirituality in the Anthropocene**, and Neufeld came to feel a slow reckoning in his heart and his body. The community that he had grown up in and had loved had become part of a movement that would run roughshod over another truth that he deeply felt; the earth and its living organisms, its evolution, needed to be incorporated into a spiritual understanding.

In his beautifully written exploration, Neufeld takes us with him on his journey to reconnect to a meaning behind the science and environmental movements trying to bring the urgency of environmental degradation to an evangelical and political

stage.

His journey and curiosity takes him on numerous adventures, including an outdoor workshop where he is instructed to throw everything off, stripping naked in a

lone campsite in the Arizona desert, and trusting that he will come out OK.

Winnipeg author Joan Thomas said it made the hairs on the back of her neck stand up. Neufeld's beautiful prose deeply touches in a subject matter usually scientific or technical. **Temple at the End of the Universe is published by House of Anansi Press.**

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## COMMUNITY

## The West End Fights to Save Last Bank on Sargent

Community members organize to prevent closure of RBC branch serving one of the city's highest senior population

By Ralph Bryant

The Royal Bank of Canada branch at the corner of Sargent Avenue and Sherbrook Street will close its doors on July 11th, leaving the West End of Winnipeg without a single bank in a neighborhood that houses one of the city's highest concentration of seniors and newcomers to Canada.

At a community meeting at XCues restaurant this week, dozens of residents, business owners, and representatives from local politicians gathered to voice their opposition to the closure and strategize ways to keep banking services in their neighborhood. The meeting highlighted the profound impact this closure will have on a community where many residents rely on walking to conduct their banking business.

"This is a very strong ethnic community. There's a lot of seniors and there's a lot of people that just don't drive cars," said Michael Paille, owner of Cobra Collectibles and president of the Sargent Business Community. "You're taking that convenience away from them and telling them this is for the better of the community. How is it better when people have to take a bus across the city?"

The closure represents more than just the loss of a single business. According to community organizers, the West End has lost 36 businesses over the past few years, with many replaced by cannabis dispensaries. The departure of RBC means residents will face significant barriers to accessing basic financial services.

Ella, a longtime bank customer who relies on the branch to pay bills and withdraw cash, doesn't own a smartphone or computer, making online banking impossible. "I have social anxiety and health reasons," she explained during a meeting with bank management. "And online banking, I don't have any source of a computer."

Her situation reflects that of many neighbors. As Lynne noted, "A lot of people don't have phones. People with disabilities don't necessarily cotton on to how to do all of this stuff on the phone."

In a meeting with community representatives, RBC branch manager Patricia Halstad explained that the closure stems from changing customer needs and a desire to provide expanded hours at the consolidated Ellice Avenue location. The bank claims customers are demanding more digital services and extended operating hours.

However, community members challenged this narrative. During an hour-long observation period in front of the bank, organizers noted the diverse clientele - predominantly Indigenous people, seniors, and newcomers - who conduct banking "the way my grandmother banked," going to tellers for personal service rather than using digital alternatives.

"The needs of our clients have changed," Ms. Halstad, the bank manager stated, but couldn't provide data supporting this claim when pressed by community members.

The branch closure consul-

tation process also raised serious concerns. Letters notifying customers were only sent to those who originally opened accounts at the Sargent location, meaning many regular customers who bank there but opened accounts elsewhere never received notification. An April consultation meeting was similarly limited in scope.

What makes this closure particularly devastating is the unique character of the RBC branch. Staff members speak Tagalog, English, Arabic, Spanish, Tigrinya, Hindi, Gujarati, and Punjabi - reflecting the neighborhood's incredible diversity.

Local residents described how newcomers to Canada would be brought to this branch to set up their first accounts, creating a network where people from the same countries would naturally bank together. This personal, culturally responsive service cannot be easily replicated at distant locations.

The closure forces residents to travel to Ellice Avenue - a 20-minute bus ride that costs \$7 round trip. For seniors and people with disabilities, this creates significant hardship.

"What about the ones that can't walk, like the elders or the people with disabilities that can't walk far?" asked Sal, owner of X-Cues. Another res-

ident using a walker explained he could manage the distance to the current branch but would be unable to reach Ellice Avenue.

Local business owners typically visit the bank twice weekly, with travel time potentially increasing from 10 minutes to 45 minutes each trip. Many ethnic business owners in the area don't use smartphones or laptops and rely entirely on in-person banking services.

The closure has drawn attention from multiple levels of government. Federal MP Leah Gazan has written to both the Minister of Finance and Minister of Industry, urging intervention to prevent a "banking desert" in the community. Provincial MLA Uzoma Asagwara and City Councillor Cindy Gilroy have also expressed support for keeping the branch open.

"The letter urges the Minister to direct the Director of the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada to intervene in the closure," explained a representative from Gazan's office. The letter emphasizes impacts on newcomers, seniors, and low-income residents for whom a three-kilometer journey to the next bank "is not a small thing, it's a big deal in our community."

Faced with a July 11th

deadline, community organizers are planning multiple strategies. A petition is circulating, and on July 3, a demonstration to draw media attention to the closure will happen in front of the bank.

"We have two weeks before this bank is scheduled to close," noted Cheryl Martins, who is one of the leaders of the organizing. "From an organizing standpoint, what are the levers we're going to need to pull to try to inspire them to keep the bank open?"

Some community members are already looking beyond RBC, reaching out to credit unions and other financial institutions that might fill the void left by the closure.

The RBC closure reflects a troubling trend in Canadian banking. As Cheryl, a 30-year neighborhood resident, observed: "I was at Royal Bank since I was five years old. They shut the Royal Bank in my neighborhood and told us we could go to the branch downtown for our convenience and to serve us better. On what planet does this serve us better?"

The closure also represents what some see as corporate abandonment of lower-income communities. "Banks make huge amounts of money," said a community member at the organizing meeting. "One of the things that you're supposed to do as a bank is be responsible to the neighborhood."

As the July 11th closure date approaches, the West End community continues fighting for a basic service that many Canadians take for granted. Their battle highlights fundamental questions about corporate responsibility, community access to financial services, and whether Canada's banking system truly serves all citizens equally.

For a neighborhood that has already lost so much, losing their last bank feels like another step toward being forgotten entirely. As Michael Paille said: "We see things lost in a neighborhood like this, and they don't come back. And people are just left out."

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(Above) Zilla Jones (from left), Elliott Walsh, and Tasha Spillet at *Threads of Kin and Belonging* at the WAG. Photo Ralph Bryant

## Zilla Jones and Tasha Spillet explore unexpected connections at WAG-Qaumajuq

By Ralph Bryant

Sometimes the threads that bind us together reveal themselves in the most surprising ways. At a packed storytelling workshop on June 8 at the Winnipeg Art Gallery-Qaumajuq, Wolseley resident and writer Zilla Jones discovered she shares ancestral connections with fellow author Dr. Tasha Spillet through a family name that carries centuries of complex history.

The event, part of the fourth annual Trinnipeg Live Mixtape and inspired by the *Threads of Kin and Belonging* exhibition, brought together two of Manitoba's most compelling voices for an intimate conversation about identity, belonging, and the stories that shape us.

"Which one of your grandmothers are you prepared to deny?" Jones shared, recounting advice from a Black elder that helped shape her understanding of her mixed Afro-Caribbean, Chinese, and European heritage. It's a question that resonates in a city like Winnipeg, where so many residents carry multiple cultural threads in their DNA.

Spillet, who is Michif and Anishinaabe from Minegoziibe Anishinabe First Nation and of Trinidadian descent, read from her picture book *Beautiful You, Beautiful Me* – a story about a mixed-race child learning to embrace the beauty in not matching her mother's appearance.

"I'm part of you and you're part of me. I'm beautiful like me and you're beautiful like you," she read, her voice carrying the tenderness of bedtime stories shared with her own daughter.

But it was the revelation about their shared Cumberbatch ancestry

that demonstrated how deeply intertwined our stories can be. Jones's research into her family history revealed that her ancestors were enslaved by the Cumberbatch family in Barbados – the same colonial family that connects to Spillet's paternal lineage through Trinidad. Jones even described family silverware, engraved with a 'C', that her ancestors took from the plantation house when slavery ended.

"I was like, wait a second," Spillet recalled, remembering Jones's sister posting about the family silverware on Facebook.

"In a very Winnipeg way, we might share an ancestry and figured it out through this Facebook post."

The conversation, moderated by Elliott Walsh aka Ness Wynrush, co-curator of the exhibition and founder of Trinnipeg Live Mixtape, wove between the personal and political. Jones spoke about her recent trip to Ghana, where she experienced both the profound sense of "coming home" to the African continent and the complex reality that 200 years of diaspora had created its own distinct culture.

"We always kind of saw Africa as one place," Jones explained, describing how diaspora peoples often lose the specific knowledge of their origins.

"When you're landing and you see the red earth... it was just like this sense of coming home. But it doesn't feel like home because I've been gone too long."

Spillet reflected on her own journey of reclaiming her Black identity, particularly after becoming a mother to a daughter whose dark skin surprised her expectations.

"The only way she's going to learn how to be a proud woman is if I first healed the parts of me that are sad and broken," she

*Continues page 7...*



# Affordable housing needs beauty too: Rotary clubs step up

Story and photos  
by Mike Maunder

Rotary members from several Winnipeg clubs spent June 14th helping to create and beautify a tenant green-space for Westminster Housing Society on Spence Street in West Broadway.

The clubs are entering a partnership with Westminster Housing which provides affordable housing for over 100 units in West Broadway. When a group of Rotary clubs decided to form the partnership to help Westminster, the idea of doing exterior work rose to the top of Westminster's needs.

"The cost of renovations and the low rents we charge leave little left over to beautify our properties," explained Brian Pincott, chair of Westminster's board. "The green-space at 189 Spence is a good example. It's a large garden that tenants at 189 Spence and 182 Spence have maintained over the years with Westminster's support. But as tenants have changed and aged, their ability to maintain the garden

has declined."

The front room at 189 Spence is a Tenant Hub where tenant-based activities and meetings are held during the year. But the once-beautiful garden needed work.

Rotary members arrived June 14 and worked a whole morning. Weeds were a major issue and the first few hours were spent pulling them. They were loaded into a trailer provided by Rotary and hauled to a composting site.

Then Rotary members planted a variety of perennials to fill in the green-space: most particularly a basswood tree in the centre. The tree replaces seven trees that once shaded the green-space, but have been lost to various causes, including the red dot of death on four elms.

The green-space at 189 Spence is built around a patio area which Rotary will continue to improve for Westminster tenant's use. In the week following the clean-up and

planting day, two community groups held community meetings in the green-space.

Amanda Emms, is the Tenant Support Worker for Westminster Housing's tenants, employed in a partner-

ship with West Broadway Community Organization. She'll be hosting a variety of activities for tenants in the green-space during the summer.

The biggest smile of the day came from Sheila Head who lives in a Westminster property across the street. An avid gardener, Rotary pur-

chased for her a crabapple tree and five blueberry bushes, which she promises to tend and make into blueberry pie for a celebration with Rotary in the Fall.

Rotary plans to continue the partnership in the Fall and beyond, by doing fence work and other needed improvements to Westminster properties.



**BEFORE (above):** Frank Cosway, president Downtown Rotary, and Terry Dick, Winnipeg West Rotary, were two of about a dozen Rotarians who beautified the tenant green-space. This photo shows one part of the green-space before they began work, infested with weeds.

(Left) Amanda Emms, Westminster Tenant Support Worker and Bob Foster, president, Winnipeg West Rotary, pose with three Westminster tenants: (l to r) tenant Brianne Anderson, Amanda and Bob, tenant Sheila Head, and journalist and tenant Mike Maunder.

(Bottom) The Rotary group in the centre of the new Tenant Green-space.





## AFTER:

The same part of the green-space: weeds removed; brick path improved; new basswood tree planted.



## CONTINUED: Zilla Jones and Tasha Spillet

said.

The audience – a mix of longtime Winnipeggers, newcomers, students, and families – asked thoughtful questions about courage, identity, and raising children with complex cultural backgrounds. One father spoke about his mixed-race sons navigating questions about their identity in a city that, despite its rich multicultural history, remains "incredibly segregated."

"Don't let anyone say that you're less than," Jones shared, recounting her mother's advice when facing racism at a prestigious English school where she was the first person of color to attend.

The event exemplified the goals of both the Threads of Kin and Belonging exhibition and the Trinnipeg Live Mixtape project – creating spaces where Indigenous and Black communities can see themselves reflected, share their stories,

and discover unexpected connections.

"We are living archives," Walsh noted during the discussion, pointing out how community members often recognize each other's family connections across generations. "Our job is to honour what has been before and add what is part of us into it to make sure it never dies."

As visitors left the gallery that afternoon, many stopped at the interactive desk where they could add their own reflections to the exhibition's ongoing record. The stories continue to grow, one conversation at a time, proving that sometimes the most profound connections happen when we dare to share our truths in community.

The *Threads of Kin and Belonging* exhibition continues at WAG-Qaumajuq until National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30.

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SCAN ME







## A Pharmacy at Broadway and Young for 100 years Part I – The First 55 years in Old Winnipeg, 1925-80

*(Northway Pharmacy celebrated 100 years as a pharmacy on Broadway this June. Looking back 100 years is hard to imagine – but we try to capture it in this story, the first of two. Our thanks to Christian Cassidy of West End Dumplings, from whom we have freely borrowed many details.)*

by Mike Maunder

Broadway Pharmacy, now known as Northway Pharmacy, at the corner of Broadway and Young, celebrated its 100th birthday in June.

Constructed in 1923, it was operated by E.J. Golden for two years and then became Broadway Pharmacy, operated by Samuel Ringer until 1944. This was the heyday of “Old Winnipeg. 1925 was the same year Margaret Chown was born in the Chown house just down the street (now Wasabi Restaurant). Her father was the chief pediatrician in the city for 30 or 40 years. She remembered walking to church at All Saints, and dated one of the boy scouts at the church in the ‘40s, Duff

Roblin (later premier).

That period, 1925-44 saw huge changes in Winnipeg and the world – stock market crash, depression, World War Two. The Ringer family was part of West Broadway’s changing geography -- they lived in one of the fancy new apartments coming to dominate the neighbourhood: Asa Court at 212 Langside

In the ‘20s, the neighbourhood was high class, filling with the latest in luxury housing –fancy new apartment blocks. Lt. Gov. Sir James Aikins lived in his mansion at Westminster and Langside



*Circa 1944: Harry Stitz behind the counter (but where’s the computer?)*

*Circa 2025: Oumad Khalek, Northway partner/owner behind the counter today.*

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(now Balmoral Hall School). “A nice house on a swell street,” reported one attendee of the Jewish Ladies Stag Party of a house on Furby in 1920.

It taxes the imagination, thinking back to the West Broadway and the world of the 1920s – the Roaring ‘20s: flappers, the charleson, vaudeville; the first radio stations (1920); the first “talkie” movie – The Jazz Singer (1927); the endless reign of William Lyon McKenzie King; Prohibition in the United States; the “Lost Generation” (Hemingway et al) in Paris; civil war in Ireland; the discovery of insulin (1922) and penicillin (1928); women becoming legal persons in Ca-

nada (1929). It was the age of Charlie Chaplin, Babe Ruth, Charles Lindbergh flying the Atlantic, Louis Armstrong, Al Capone, Henry Ford, Joseph Stalin, Albert Einstein, and, from Canada, Mary Pickford. A young group of artists (the Group of Seven) was beginning to define a unique Canadian identity

In the 20 years that the Ringer family ran Broadway Pharmacy, West Broadway was a happening neighbourhood: the Osborne Stadium, home of the Bombers; the Velodrome; Shea’s Brewery, Picardy Candy Factory (all later demolished to create Great West Life).

In those days, a lot of pharmacies, including Broadway Pharmacy, were multi-purpose neighbourhood gathering spots. The rear building at Broadway housed a soda fountain (possibly restaurant) and a post office. An advertisement for the Ringers chain of drug stores in 1939 touted them as perfect “air-cooled comfort” for dining after the game or seeing the circus. They stayed open late for sodas and gatherings. A 1939 Tribune story described a late-night robbery at midnight, just before closing time, where robbers made off with

*continues next page*





## Scenes of the neighbourhood in the '40s and '50s:

(Above) The Golden Boy looks down on the Bombers at Osborne Stadium.

(Below) Broadway Pharmacy in 1955

(Above Right) Harry Stitz, lookin' good!



\$800 (about \$15,500 today).

The Ringer family sold the drugstore in 1944 to Harry Stitz and concentrated their attention on their other drug stores, particularly the large Ringer's drugstore on Pembina Highway in Fort Garry, one of the newly developing suburbs rapidly extending the city outwards.

Harry Stitz also operated Times Drug Store at the corner of Balmoral and Broadway. Partnering with him was Sam Diamond, who operated the Times Soda Bar. Sam Diamond had a long association with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, who, at that time, played out of Osborne Stadium. Probably many famous Bombers of the day hung out at Sam Diamond's soda bar. When Stitz retired in 1960, Diamond took over the pharmacy.

One feature of this iteration of Broadway Pharmacy was Diamond's connection with the Bombers. At one time, Broadway Pharmacy was one of only three outlets in the city

where you could buy Bomber tickets.

Jack Matheson, Winnipeg Tribune sports editor, wrote in an April 1978 column, "Sam

Diamond, the best friend the Blue Bombers ever had, has always peddled season tickets from his drug store, Broad-

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way Pharmacy, and this year he expects to sell 250, no problem."

In 1980, Sam Diamond moved on to establish Diamond Athletic Medical Supplies in partnership with the Pan Am Sports Clinic. He sold Broadway

Pharmacy to a young pharmacist, Larry Leroux, just as the pharmacy, and the neighbourhood of West Broadway was entering its most dynamic – and difficult – years of change.

(Part II will appear in September.)

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Ads from the Winnipeg Tribune, 1939 (above)  
 1980 (left)





## American ICE Wars

By Paul Moist

Jose Ortiz emigrated to the United States as a young man, from his home in Guanajuato, Mexico, 30 years ago.

He worked a series of minimum wage jobs, and for the past 18 years has worked at Ambiere Apparel in Los Angeles, working his way up to Floor Manager. Ortiz is married and has three adult children, all born in the U.S. and pursuing post-secondary studies.

Ortiz, a dedicated churchgoer is also an undocumented immigrant, one of 11 million such citizens in the U.S. In early June he was arrested by ICE agents in a wide sweep throughout the city of 4 million.

The White House confirmed its goal to enforce immigration laws to remove illegal aliens. The administration claimed to be targeting "the worst of the worst", their goal being to, "take all such actions to liberate LA from the migrant invasion and put an end to these migrant riots."

Notwithstanding there was no request from either the Mayor of Los Angeles or the State Governor, a standard practice, President Donald Trump activated 4,000 National Guard members and 700 Marines. These troops, alongside U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) personnel targeted libraries,

car washes, and Home Depot stores, in short, likely spots where minimum wage, largely immigrant workers, would be present in large numbers.

White House Deputy Chief of Staff, Stephen Miller was angry at low arrest numbers and deportations, he ordered senior ICE officials to begin detaining 3,000 immigrants each day or be fired.

So, the Trump 2.0 administration continues to both dominate the news cycle and to cause upset wherever it turns its attention.

The immigration push plays itself out in a number of ways. Firstly, in the courts with countless lawsuits launched by opponents of the crackdown. The latest setback occurred with the recent Supreme Court ruling allowing the administration to continue to deport people to countries other than their own, without allowing an opportunity of individuals to show the harm they might face by such deportations.

In terms of affected individuals, many fearing arrests have stopped going to work. Los Angeles high schools put in place Zoom options for parents fearing arrest at their children's graduations.

The Los Angeles Dodgers ball club had to ask ICE officials to leave the Dodger stadium parking lot where they were parked. Over 40 per cent

of the Dodger fan base is Latino, and baseball games are fertile ground for more arrests.

Some high-profile arrests have occurred, including a U.S. Senator, a prominent California labour leader and Democratic candidate for Mayor of New York.

Our news cycle seems so chock full of misery that local writer and activist, Martin Zeilig, shared in a recent opinion piece that he feared, "...we are becoming numb. That we are scrolling past suffering. That we are mistaking fatigue for neutrality."

Trump has moved past border issues, to the 11 million so-called illegal aliens. People who toil daily in jobs most Americans do not want. People without proper documentation, who have no criminal record and pay taxes while raising their families. Their children are American-born

and the threat of breaking up families is front and center.

Hoping for Trump to change his ways is futile. Remember, on his first week in office he pardoned 1,600 people convicted in the January 6, 2021, assault on the Capital building in Washington. Convicted felons in support of his false claims to have had the 2020 election stolen from him have more support than hard working immigrant Americans.

One has to wonder where corporate America is? Those billionaires who rely on minimum wage work force largely made up of immigrant Americans.

The Business Roundtable, a corporate lobbying group, made up of CAOs, has recently flagged the fact that 400,000 U.S. manufacturing jobs are currently vacant. The CEO of Carrier Global, a firm that makes and services air con-

ditioner and furnaces, said recently, "For every 20 job postings that we have, there is one qualified applicant."

Globally, there are 120 million people who have been displaced by wars and conflict. All nations, including Canada, must face the failings of their current immigration systems. Activist and immigration consultant, Karl Flecker, commenting on the Canadian system, summed it up in a thoughtful fashion when he said recently:

"Immigration is about people. Sure, there are economic motivations, but there is also family reunification, and humanitarian objectives we are all obligated to meet. It is also about nation-building, not just staffing Tim Horton's or Amazon with low-wage, vulnerable workers."

Amen.

### CONTINUED from front page: Climate activists

The government's response has been "reaction based rather than solutions based," said Ken Harasym.

Muhajarine, an activist since her youth, said "this summer and the last few summers have been really shocking. I think I first learned about climate change 20 years ago in school. It's been very eye-opening to now see it happening before our eyes and to be living it and knowing that it's really gonna get worse from here. It's frustrating to see the government not connect the dots publicly... the government has a responsibility to be leading some of the messaging on this. The provincial government doesn't even have a climate plan yet."

Activists referred to the new federal government's 'elbows up' plan, and Bill C-5, which is supposed to enable large cross-Canada projects to

get underway because of the volatility of the US administration, and US tariffs. "We are all in favour of building a Canada that we want," said Harasym, "but if we are talking pipelines then we're not on the same page."

"It's disheartening when you hear about a northern access pipeline or a northern energy corridor and refer to it as "building infrastructure", that's going to be obsolete in 10 years. We have to move away from fossil fuels... instead of building more pipelines to put more carbon into the air," said Harasym.

Shawn Kettner, a long time activist also said nuclear energy has come up in discussion for Canada's future energy needs, but it's a bad choice that has already been debunked. Canada doesn't have the components needed to build it - that would have to come from



Hand made screen printed posters were hung to dry on a hotter than usual June evening at the Handsome Daughter. Organizers hope to inspire action on climate issues. Photo Terese Taylor

either the US or Russia, she says, and "we still haven't figured out how to get rid nuclear waste."

"Countries can survive and thrive on green technology," she says. "If they cared about us or the world, and not about the bottom line, then they would do something different. But here we are. "We can't breathe, we can't go outside because it's too hot. We need to figure out how to engage to make it better."

The passing of Bill C-5, the Building Canada Act (including the Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act), has been highly criticized by Indigenous

organizations across the country and in Manitoba including the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Manitoba Keewatinowik Okimakanak Inc. (MKO), and the Southern Chiefs Organization. "Our Nations are not stakeholders. We are rights-holders. We must be involved from the outset and not as an afterthought when decisions are already made," said SCO Grand Chief Jerry Daniels.

"Any approval of 'national interest' projects must include enforceable conditions that reflect our rights and our role as decision-makers on our lands and fully uphold the Treaty promises of the Crown," said

MKO Grand Chief Garrison Settee.

"Canada proved it can act quickly when it wants to. Now we need that same level of action and urgency when it comes to our Treaty agreements," said AMC Grand Chief Kyra Wilson. In a statement, the AMC said it is ready to work in partnership to co-develop a Treaty implementation framework that upholds the spirit and intent of the Treaties. "If Canada can move mountains for provinces, it must do the same for its Treaty partners — with honour and political will at its core."



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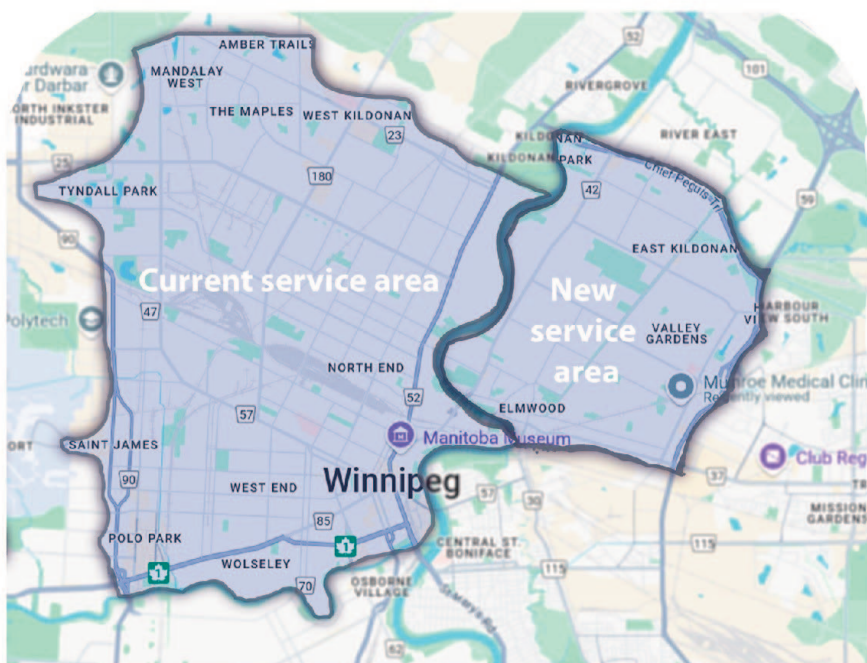
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## Colleen Rajotte shares love of Indigenous gardening

By Terese Taylor

In a lesson shared with elementary school students at Laura Secord School, Colleen Rajotte passed around a medicinal plant with a beautiful smell. Black Diamond willow fungus has a mild scent of lico-rish or cedar and can be used as a tea or a smudge for a variety of health concerns.

Pieces of the fungus were found in an archeological dig in Manitoba that dated back to the 1400s; but for several years were mistaken for decoration, said Rajotte.

Discovering the history and teachings of Indigenous gardening and plant medicines has become a profound quest for Rajotte. So much so that she started a television show - Vitality Gardening, that has been running on APTN and the US channel PBS. It's a show that has taken her across turtle is-

land, from the mountains of California to northern Ontario, travelling by foot, or boat, sometimes spending days locating medicines like the black diamond willow fungus, that are hard to find.

But it all started, for Rajotte, when she attended a sweat ceremony.

Rajotte shared with the class that she was born at the Old Grace Hospital in the neighbourhood, and then grew up in a loving adoptive home with a white family. But when, as an adult she joined Indigenous elders at a ceremony, she was given a spiritual name that surprised her. It was a name that meant she would learn about the value of sacred and healing plants.

"Sure enough, I am a very passionate gardener," she laughs, and began by sharing



(Clockwise from far left) Colleen Rajotte gets ready to add sage to a smudge : The fire catches with help from many hands. Rajotte explains how to plant baby tobacco plants in a hot and sunny area of the garden at the school.

one of the sacred plants that she now grows in her Wolseley yard. Dried sage is used in smudges and imparts a calming and memorable scent, like other sacred plants. The class crowded around an abalone shell to protect it from the warm breeze that blew out the first few matches. The class then passed the shell with the scented smoke that people sometimes whisper around their bodies, leaving its subtle scent

on their skin.

Rajotte brought baby tobacco plants to plant with the class, who gently packed them into a full sun area of the school garden. Although tobacco plants can grow quite large, the seeds are tiny and can be thrown on top of the soil to germinate. Once they are grown, they produce beautiful white flowers, which attract pollinators in the evening, but also keep plant pests, like

aphids away.

But as Rajotte tells the class, her own journey of learning about gardening and cultural teachings is something anyone can grow to love. Before she received her name, and began to teach, she began with the basics. As she realized during her first show, she didn't have a watering can. It's one of the things, along with heart and respect for Mother Earth that can begin your journey, she says.

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