

THE LEAF

SERVING WOLSELEY AND WEST BROADWAY

JUNE 2025

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY | VOL 13 NO 4 | FREE TO WOLSELEY & WEST BROADWAY RESIDENTS

THELEAFNEWS.CA

Disabled users of social chits say “blindsided” by changes to program

By Terese Taylor

Wheelchair users Paul Langrell and John Turner used to receive paper vouchers for transportation to social visits of their choice but now are facing the headaches of a new system. Instead of making their

own arrangements for transportation by taxi or other wheelchair transportation service, and presenting the paper voucher to the driver,

continues pg 4...



John Turner (left) and Paul Langrell used to be able to arrange their own transportation for social activities. The new system doesn't feel private, say its users, and takes hours to arrange.



Mwansa Mwansa leads the chorus of Roots in Harmony with (from left to right) Hafiz Jatto, Emannuel Allieu, Moses Mseluka, and Nadine Powell.

Photo by Terese Taylor

Black Heritage Experience Manitoba launches pop-up at Doors Open

WINNIPEG, MB — A newly founded organization, the Black Heritage Experience Manitoba (BHEM), was proud to an-

nounce its launch with a public exhibit debuting at Doors Open Winnipeg. The grassroots initiative aims to preserve, cele-

brate, and share the rich legacy of Canadians of African descent in Manitoba—past, present,

continues pg 4...



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COMMUNITY

2SLGBTQ+ library to be part of Rainbow's Place of Pride

Payworks made a gift donation of \$250,000 to Rainbow Resource Centre towards a new library dedicated to the 2SLGBTQ+ Community. The donation is coming at a time when fears of book bans have resurfaced.

"We specifically chose to support the library because it creates a place to access knowledge, open dialogue, and create community," said Payworks president Michael Penman. "Libraries are more than collections of books; they are homes for ideas, empathy, and connection. In fact, we're pleased to have started up mini-libraries in many of our own offices across Canada."

"We are so grateful for this generous gift," said Patrick O'Reilly, Chair of the Place of Pride Capital Campaign. "It's a powerful affirmation of the value and resilience of the 2SLGBTQ+ community in Manitoba. Payworks' support helps bring to life a key component of Place of Pride, one that affirms our existence by making

room for a welcoming and inviting space that will foster joy, inclusion, and belonging in the heart of Winnipeg."

The library is part of developing a welcoming campus linked to Rainbow Resource Centre and its affordable sen-

iors' housing apartment on Broadway. The campus will include counselling services for individuals and families, meeting and event spaces, a community kitchen, and an outdoor garden.



An architect's rendering of a meeting space soon to be built at the Place of Pride Campus (above left)

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Editors
Terese Taylor
tt@wolseleyleaf.ca
Mike Maunder
mike.maunder@gmail.com
Advisor Kelly Dueck
kd@wolseleyleaf.ca
Publisher Terese Taylor

Advertising
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The Leaf receives funding from the Local Journalism Initiative

Funded by the Government of Canada | **Canada**

Manitoba Library Association's Prison Libraries Committee (PLC) and Bar None Prison Visiting Rideshare are hosting their eighth annual Book & Bake Sale

by Terese Taylor

Kirsten Wurmman calls problems around access to reading and access to information in Manitoba's prisons a problem that is "out of sight, out of mind."

"As soon as we talk about it, people are like, what?" ...people just don't know, and it's something that is just so basic, that people are so willing to support the work that that we do."

Wurmman's work with the Manitoba Library Association's Prison Library Committee (PLC) includes prison activities like pop-up libraries, book clubs, author meet-and-greets and a variety of reading circles.

That work is supported every year by the annual Prison Libraries Committee Book and Bake Sale, being held June 14, at First Mennonite Church, 922 Notre Dame Ave, from 10 AM - 3 PM.

The sale is a "beautifully curated" collection of great reads and something that Manitoba Library Association's (MLA) Wurmman hopes will raise enough funds to continue the advocacy and outreach of educational and community connections to Manitoba prisons. She also puts in a plug for the bake sale, saying they are not to be missed.

Wurmman worked at the West End's Harvey Smith library before getting involved in information advocacy, and has seen support for libraries in prisons building across the country. Libraries are mandated in all federal prisons but currently, only the province of Ontario has mandated that libraries (and staff) must be available in all provincial prisons.

Wurmman loves a good

book, and loves the excitement she has seen expressed at prison visits.

She remembers the woman at the Manitoba Woman's Prison in Headingly who said: "I wish I could curl up with a pillow and a blanket here." And she'll never forget the time an inmate called out "You can't even read," to another inmate who replied that it was OK, his cell mate would read to him.

The library association began a new project in 2024 to get books into the Manitoba Youth Centre in a monthly pop-up.

"The youth are hungry for reading material," says Anna Leventhal, in a statement by the PLC. "And it's a challenge for us to consistently provide the kind of books they want to read. If we could bring in a

truckload of graphic novels and Rick Riordan books every month, they would be thrilled."

The PLC has recently started a new project in partnership with the Manitoba law library and funded by the Manitoba Law Foundation to build a collection of legal information materials, after a survey of inmates identified that it was of high interest. So far, Wurmman and colleague Karen Zotsky have curated 60-75 books that are in a plain language format, that can help self-represented litigants.

The value of books is immense, says Wurmman, whether they are instructional or creative fiction. She has seen the profound connections inmates have felt meeting Manitoba authors such as Katherine Vermette, and Nigaa Sinclair.

In memory of Joe Big George who worked for 16 years getting books to inmates, his family started a collection of books in 2023. Big George especially found a profound value in sharing books written by Indigenous authors. Contributions of books to the collection can be dropped off at the Millenium library, or Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba.

The PLC holds their sale in partnership with Bar None Prison Visiting Rideshare, an organization that coordinates a fleet of volunteer drivers who offer free transportation to people looking to visit their loved ones in out-of-town jails or prisons.

"There's only one prison inside the city limits" says Wurmman, "so the prison ride share is really, really important to get folks out."

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BLACK HERITAGE

BLACK HERITAGE. ...from page 1

and future.

Co-founded in early 2025 by Judy Williams, a lifelong Winnipegger and descendant of one of the province's earliest Black settler families, BHEM emerged from a growing effort to preserve family archives and community stories often overlooked in dominant historical narratives.

"When we began going through our family home after my parents passed away, we found photos and documents that told powerful stories about Black life in Manitoba," said Williams. "I had questions about how to preserve them—and realized many others in our community had similar discoveries and stories to share."

That realization led to a pilot project in 2024 and culminated in a founding meeting on February 1, 2025, which brought together over 27 attendees, including representatives from leading nonprofit organizations across the province. The outcome was a un-

ified vision: to create a dedicated space for the history and contributions of Canadians of African descent in Manitoba.

The Black Heritage Experience Manitoba is built around three core directives: Honor the Past: Recognizing the legacies of African-descended peoples who helped shape the Prairies and the nation.

Celebrate the Present: Uplifting elders and today's leaders who continue the work of advocacy and excellence, and

Build the Future: Empowering the next generation to write their own history through education and storytelling.

The organization is rooted in a decolonial, community-led approach, and already includes over 50 members and eight working committees actively shaping its development.

BHEM's inaugural exhibit, hosted inside the historic Millennium Centre—originally the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce built in 1912—of-

fered a compelling exploration of the Black migration experience to Canada. Visitors engaged with audio stories, video interviews, handmade quilts, maps tracing the transatlantic slave trade, and rare documents from early Black Manitoban families. With a nod to the next generation, the exhibit also featured short films from the Black Film Collective, which fosters the preservation, cultivation, and promotion of Black cinematic art from the unique perspective of Prairie Black folk.

"More than an exhibit, this is a declaration," said Williams. "We were here. We've always been here. And we will continue to tell our stories."

The organization extended heartfelt thanks to Cindy Tugwell, Executive Director of Heritage Winnipeg, for providing exhibition space and support during Doors Open Winnipeg.

BHEM sees an exciting future ahead, and invites interested Manitobans to contact thebcmuseum@gmail.com



Joe Collins and friends perform at Millenium Centre

WHEELCHAIR TRANSPORT ...from page 1

they are now required to call a number provided to them - the same number used by social workers and medical service personnel for transportation to medical appointments - and to book each ride through this service.

The popular "Social Chits" system has been in use for over 20 years, and provided coverage for two trips per month for wheelchair users, and people with mobility issues on Employment and Income Assistance (EIA).

Workers with disabled people say they've had numerous complaints about the new system. Nicole Nadeau-Frechette, a social worker who has worked at a live-in supported care centre for more than two decades, said the old system provided her office at Action Marguerite with paper booklets of vouchers (equal to 24 return-trip rides) that clients could use throughout the year at their own discretion.

Since the announcement of the changes, Nadeau-Frechette has been disturbed to hear that clients aren't able to get calls through to the line, have been put on hold for hours, or users have been questioned about their plans in a manner that has made some of them uncomfortable.

"Its been a devastating change," said Nadeau-Fre-

chette.

David Kron, executive director of the Manitoba Cerebral Palsy Association said he began getting calls from worried people saying they could not get through by phone to request rides, or have calls or emails returned. Kron calls it "an administrative headache" in a letter to Nahanni Fontaine, the Minister of Families. "Besides the hassle that people are experiencing, wrote Kron, the changes "remove the autonomy and independence from the people using the service." The experience has been so bad, says Kron, that some people have given up on trying to make plans.

"So much for independence," adds Langrell. "It feels like you need to get approval from somebody in the shadows, just to go to a social (or medical) appointment."

Calls for approvals can only be made from 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday, with the option of paying for rides out of pocket and applying for a refund later. But, Nadeau-Frechette points out, users are on a limited income and would face significant out of pocket costs if the refund is not fast. Wheelchair-accessible rides can run between \$60 and \$100 return.

In one instance, Nadeau-Frechette described how a

young woman requesting a ride was questioned why she was choosing to book with a particular taxi company. In her case, the young woman felt safe and well-accommodated by the taxi company, and had built up a relationship with the drivers. She felt the company had the best equipment to accommodate her particular wheelchair. But the young woman felt pressured to justify her choices in the conversation and was stressed at the thought of changing to a different ride service, said Nadeau-Frechette.

She has also seen clients book through the number, and mistakes have been made. One client was left stranded when her pre-approved ride didn't show up, something she normally would have ensured was properly set up herself. She faced a long delay and unexpected out-of-pocket expense to return home.

Both Langrell and Turner said they liked the paper method because they could easily keep track of how many chits they had left. "Now, If it's a last minute thing, you're pretty much out of luck," said Turner.

In the letter explaining the new method, users can call to ask how many rides remain, and the program is supposed to keep track of the number of social rides they can book.

Kron's letter to the minister is asking to revert back to the old system or add the allocated transportation funds to the monthly income of EIA recipients. "This would ensure that the out-of-pocket costs are not preventing someone from being able to afford other basic needs. This would also ensure individuals can afford transportation without enduring delays or administrative complications."

Nadeau-Frechette, who often books trips for medical appointments for clients, says she has also had difficulty getting through to the line and has been put on hold for hours. She has yet to receive a return call when she has left messages or a reply email.

She knows how effective the paper vouchers were, and how important it was that clients could make independent plans.

"People need what they need to live the best life that they can. Being a part of things outside of this building is crucial to people's wellbeing, to living the best life that they can live.

"Whereas I can hop in my car and go meet up with somebody or go to the mall," she says, "wheelchair transportation is already complicated. Requiring you to have to get through to make a request that

in some cases doesn't even get done properly - that potentially spoils your activity."

In a response emailed to STREETS, a spokesperson for the province wrote "The new approach focussed on creating a "one-stop-shop" model in Winnipeg (one phone number - one process) for transportation to and from medical appointments, social activities and outings by leveraging the fact that income assistance recipients are already familiar with MTU (Medical Transportation Unit) operation as they connect regularly with the unit to arrange for medical transportation."

MTU is the service run by the province's health department which arranges not just wheelchair services, but non-urgent patient care, medical escorts, etc.

Kron has extended an invitation to speak with Fontaine to work on a solution. "This is a very clear example of the unintended consequences that happen when changes are made without involvement of end-users," he says.

FESTIVAL

"The people, the smiles, the wandering, and the music."

Photo exhibit captures fifty years of folk fest

by Ralph Bryant

For forty years, Bob Tinker has been volunteering at the Winnipeg Folk Festival - each of those years behind the lens of a camera. But as he looks at the photos from the 1970's spread across the panels at Little Brown Jug this week, he sees more than just musicians and crowds. He sees the origins of a unique community.

"I am a photographer; it's what I do. But everything about Folk Fest is special, which is why I keep coming back" says Tinker, one of eleven long-time volunteers being honored as the festival celebrates its 50th anniversary. The photography volunteer has watched the festival evolve and expand - and a new exhibit celebrates that incredible legacy, and the volunteers who made it happen

The photo exhibit "50 Years of Folk: An Evolution of a Festival" opened for a sneak peek at the Little Brown Jug in May, offering Winnipeggers their first look at five decades of festival history before the milestone celebration takes place July 10-13 at Birds Hill Provincial Park. Each of the five large panels represents a decade, and the progression tells how a festival transformed from a scrappy outdoor gathering to one of North America's premier music events.

"I was a Folk Fest attendee for decades before I became staff, said Executive Director Valerie Shantz. "For the 50th, we have the usual amazing lineup, with some extra sparkles I'm really looking forward to - and none of it happens without our incredible volunteers."

The volunteers being honored Thursday represent tens of thousands of hours of unpaid work that built the festival into what it is today. "It's an annual gathering for people who sometimes you only see at the festival, but who feel like family," said Donna Pacholok, who, along with her husband Ed, (who is the longest serving member of the site crew,) has attended the festival for four decades. "We have three gener-

ations who will be coming to the Festival this year."

Candice Masters, the Main Stage Liaison, in reflecting on it's growth, says even today it comes down to one thing: "When we started we didn't even have a phone on site. Now it's this big well-oiled machine," says Masters, who has volunteered for every year of the festival. "But it still always comes down to the people, the smiles, the wandering, and the music."

Those photos also reflect the broader changes in Winnipeg's diverse cultural landscape. What started as a folk purist's gathering has expanded to include everything from world music to contemporary indie acts, and this year is no exception. With artists



(Above) Main Stage Liaison Candace Masters (top right) reflects on 50 years of Folk Fest memories.

Legacy volunteers, Donna and Ed Pacholok (below, left) and Bob Tinker and Janet Wasney (below, right).

(Bottom) The first of five panels that reflect Folk Fest over its five decades.

Photos Ralph Bryant



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like Bruce Cockburn, who played at the very first festival, to legendary soul singer Mavis Staples, making her long-awaited festival debut, the Festival continues to expand its portfolio and redefine folk music.

That musical expansion is what continues to excite legacy volunteer John Prentice. "I became a volunteer because I wanted to get closer to the music and find out what happens behind those trees at night, said Prentice, also a former board member. "Being a volunteer is the full Folk Fest experience."

Executive Director Shantz says these volunteers have

been crucial not just for their institutional memory, but for helping the festival stay true to its roots while embracing change. "They have set us up well for the future by helping us understand the past. The idea for the photo exhibit came from them."

The photo project, funded partly by the federal New Horizons for Seniors Program, will move to the festival site in July, where volunteers will be available to share stories from Friday through Sunday near the Folk School stage.

The 50th Winnipeg Folk Festival runs July 10-13, 2025 at Birds Hill Provincial Park.

Tipi brings 20 years of healing and ceremonies to West Broadway

*Story and photos
by Mike Maunder*

For the last 20 years, there has been a tipi standing behind Pat Caribou's home on Furby Street where, each Sunday, a small "ceremony family" offers prayers for West Broadway and various people and communities.

The tipi now at her home was handmade by elder Irene Madison and her grandchildren in 2022. It replaced a former tipi that she also made in 2005.

"The tipi symbolizes a grandmother praying for the community," explained Pat. "The poles are like grandmother holding her hands up to pray; the fabric is her dress."

Pat uses other tipis as part of her mental health work as a counselor and knowledge keeper. Each week she commutes to Pequis First Nation for her work. She stays up north at her cabin on her traditional land that is part of Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation.

But most weekends, she's home in West Broadway, and most Sundays, a small group of friends join her for prayers and ceremonies in the tipi: 10-12 people – Pat's ceremony family.

In her first tipi, often the gatherings were larger, but that lacked the permanency of a smaller group, so Pat has kept this gathering to a close group who feel a sense of responsibility to one other. Ceremonies often include a feast, a pipe ceremony, a sacred fire, a sharing circle and songs and prayers for the community.

"Everything is based on the circle and the tipi bringing healing from the land," says Pat. "You sit in a circle. Everyone is equal."

The concept of the land itself bringing healing goes way back for Pat – back to when she first moved into the neighbourhood as part of an experimental method of land ownership called a land trust. Pat was attracted by the attempts then being made to create a trust and her family moved into the first of a dozen-or-so homes that became the West Broadway Community Land Trust. The organizing around the concept ultimately collapsed, but Pat was able to purchase her home in 2005 when she erected the first tipi.

"One of the main ideas behind the land trust was to provide stable, long-time residents in the neighbourhood," she recalls. "There was a lot of transiency in those days and



(Left) Part of Pat’s ceremony family join in the tipi: (l to r) Denise Gibeault, Jennifer Kakegamic, and Pat Caribou.

(Below) Pat Caribou in front of the tipi at her home on Furby in West Broadway.



the land trust wanted to provide homes for people who would stay and help build up the community.”

Pat’s children, grandchildren and nephews have grown up here in West Broadway, some in the family home, then found their own places close by. As well as a tipi, her yard boasts a Gordon Bell sign, honouring Tristan, her grandson and recent graduate.

Now with kids grown and gone, Pat’s not sure what the

future will hold for her big house and the tipi that has hosted many years of healing circles, grieving circles, moon ceremonies, sacred teachings and more.

Tipi rings on the prairies have long been regarded as sacred sites, witnessing the lives of generations that have lived there. Similarly Pat’s tipi is a sacred site, a place where many have felt the healing of the land in this small circle in the middle of West Broadway.



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NATURE

Majestic elms teach us our place in nature

by Mike Maunder

There are several trees that have a special place in the heart of Amanda Le Rougetel, but none more than the big elm that used to stand beside her house on Palmerston.

The old elm provided shade and a convenient perch for a wide variety of birds and something much more. “It provided our house, and my precious front yard flower beds, with shade on hot summer days,” she remembers. “Every fall I’d rake its leaves onto those beds as mulch for over the winter season. Its age, its majestic canopy, somehow dwarfed me and gave me a deep appreciation for the nature around me and for my place in it.”

The old elm stood close by on her neighbour’s property but gained the red dot of death

three years ago and was cut down.

“Man, do I miss that tree!” she exclaims. “One tree, so much value. Now gone forever. I’ll not see such a mature majestic canopy ever again in my lifetime.”

Le Rougetel and her partner have planted several other trees on their small lot that have provided much joy, but not yet that grand old canopy that so grounded her in nature.

“It wasn’t until I planted trees myself that I really understood their immense value to us,” she explains. “They are more than the leaves they drop that we have to rake up. They are more than filler for a cor-

ner of the yard. Trees give shelter and shade, they offer harbour for wildlife of all kinds. They give so much. Whether I’m outside or inside, trees of every kind bring me

joy — on my own property and throughout my neighbourhood.”

One of the trees was an ornamental cherry planted at the far end of the backyard, as

a natural screening from the back alley. It gave beautiful blossoms every spring for many years. But one spring snowstorm brought heavy wet

continues next page



(Above) Google image 92014) shows the elm standing in front of Le Rougetel’s garden. (Right) Le Rougetel with the Siberian Cedar she planted 15 years ago.

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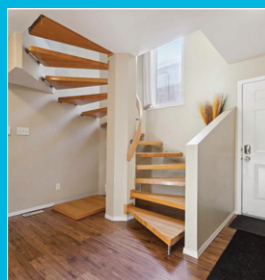
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NATURE



snow and split the tree's trunk.

The tree that has taken the biggest place in Le Rouge-tel's heart since the loss of the big elm and the gorgeous cherry blossoms is the Siberian Cedar she's nurtured since bringing it home over 15 years ago.

"Of course, the tree started out small — small enough for us to bring it home from the garden centre in our car — but, today, it's a magnificent height and has a girth that fills the top end of our small back yard with its evergreen foliage. Its branches spill over the small deck we've built since and on which we sit in good weather to catch the sun.

"This tree is always full of life, with birds resting on its branches or hopping around the ground beneath it, foraging

for the seeds we put out for them. Squirrels scurry along the top of the fence, jump onto the tree's branches, and then to the ground to claim some of those seeds for themselves.

"All year round, we can see this tree from the bedroom window, so, even when it's bitter cold outside, I get enjoyment and pleasure from this cedar that we planted so many years ago."

Le Rougetel is volunteering with the Trees Committee of Wolseley Residents Association. They have mounted a campaign to save many of the neighbourhood's elms. She hopes that at least a few people in Wolseley can be spared the sense of loss that comes with the dying of these majestic old trees.

1919 WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE

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How you can help fire evacuees

Devastating wildfires have erupted across the province and the province of Saskatchewan and has caused evacuation of almost 20,000 people from Manitoba towns, First Nations communities, and rural areas. Several organizations are collecting items and needed funding and resources for people that have had to evacuate their homes.

The Red Cross is accepting donations

for Manitoba evacuees that can be made online or by calling 1-800-863-6582.

The Manitoba Metis Federation is accepting items for donation from 9am-9pm at 406 McGregor Street, as well as connecting families willing to billet, or host evacuated families. People wanting to volunteer can contact emergency-volunteers@mmf.mb.ca or call 1-888-362-2012.

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs is accepting items for donation for families, especially for children and youth, including clothing,

strollers, diapers and baby formula, which can be dropped off at the **RBC Convention Centre, the North building everyday from 10 AM to 4 PM.**

Donations of food and supplies for pets who have been left behind can be made to **Winnipeg Animal Services at 1057 Logan Avenue between noon and 6pm, that will be distributed to organizations in greatest need.**

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Canada Post is more than just mail—it's one of the most trusted public institutions in the country. That's why the Winnipeg Centre Federal Green Party Association is proud to support the Canadian Union of Postal Workers' Delivering Community Power

campaign, a bold plan to re-imagine Canada Post as a force for climate action, economic justice, and stronger local services.

We believe this is a vision tailor-made for communities like ours. By transforming our postal service into a network of electric delivery vehicles,

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GOOD PLAYS



Jets Passion: Now and Then

By Paul Moist

This has been an unprecedented year for hockey passions at both international and local levels.

In February, in the wake of U.S. President Donald Trump's assault on Canada's sovereignty through his tariff war, the 4-Nations Cup, a mid-season kind-of-international tourney (absent Russia), saw Canada win over the Americans in the championship match, igniting a wave of national euphoria.

Closer to home, the Winnipeg Jets, who raced out of the gate in October to a 15 - 1 start, were enroute to a first ever President's Trophy, as the point's leader in the NHL regular season. Expectations were high entering the playoffs, that the Jets could exceed their 2017 / 2018 run, and make all the way to the Stanley Cup final.

Round 1 saw hockey fever rise and a game 7 overtime win that defied the odds. Both the game tying goal by Jet Cole Perfetti, with less than two seconds left in regulation time,

and the winning goal by Captain, Adam Lowery, in double-overtime, are sporting moments for the ages when it comes to our city's rich sporting history.

Round 2 against the Dallas Stars, saw the emotional roller-coaster continue. The Jets were strong at home and unable to win on the road. Passions were high throughout the city. I watched most games with my daughter and twin grandsons, and yes, we wore whiteout t-shirts.

Game 6, a must win for the Jets, in Dallas, began with the heartbreaking news that star center, Mark Scheifele's father, Brad, had passed away just hours before the game began. Scheifele played, and was the team's best forward, scoring the team's only goal. Ironically, he started the overtime period in the penalty box, having likely saved a goal late in the third period on a Dallas break-away.

The Stars scored, and the Jets season to remember ended on a poignant note with Schei-

fele the recipient of an outpouring of emotion from players on both teams.

The Jets 'season to remember' ended, but it would be hard to argue that the team did not ignite the passions of the community writ large.

It was a very different, but equally passionate scene, thirty years ago when the public campaign to save the Jets 1.0 franchise failed, and the team left after the Spring 1996 playoffs, for Phoenix, Arizona.

The economics of professional hockey, in the pre-salary cap era, in a small city like Winnipeg, with an aging arena, did not work. A months-long public campaign spurred emotions, saw kids empty their piggy banks in support of a fundraising campaign, saw City Council flounder, and ultimately, corporate Winnipeg refuse to put forward the necessary financial support - leading to a boisterous, messy and at times, divisive debate.

This murkier chapter in the Jets history is well-documented in the book, "Thin Ice

- Money, Politics, and the Demise of an NHL Franchise", by Professor Jim Silver. Silver, and his University of Winnipeg colleague, Dr. Carl Ridd, were the face of the Thin Ice Coalition that openly questioned the propriety of a public bailout of the Jets at the behest of corporate Winnipeg interests.

Silver, a hockey player in his youth and fan of the game, stated that the campaign to save the Jets was worthy, and he wrote that the team was a "valuable community asset... culturally and emotionally."

He also argued that the campaign to save the team went too far. Costs escalated so high he argued that it forced "a consideration of fundamental questions that are not only political and economic, but also ethical." Silver asked, "Is it appropriate to spend tens and even hundreds of millions of dollars on professional sports when...children are lining up at food banks?"

A wide array of noted writers spoke out on the conservative nature of the Winni-

peg business community wanting to force public financing for a private venture they themselves would not support. These included columnist John Robertson, writer Roy McGregor, and Olympian and Professor of Physical and Health Education, Bruce Kidd.

Professor David Whitson, co-author (with Richard Grueneau) of the widely acclaimed book, Hockey Night in Canada: Sport, Identities and Cultural Politics, offered sage advice in the Foreword he wrote to Silver's book where he said:

"...we have to stop and think about what we mean when we say that professional sports teams benefit the whole community, for they do so very unequally. We also have to recognize that our interests as fans, however powerfully felt, may not coincide with our interests as citizens."

Three decades on, I celebrate the passion and power of the 2025 Jets run. As well, I remember the important lessons from Spring 1995.

The 1,000 year foray of Abraham Anghik Ruben

Stoneworks reveal humanity's movement over water and ice, through spirit to connection

By Terese Taylor

Inuit artist Abraham Anghik Ruben has made a breathtaking body of work over his lifetime, carving and smoothing stone unearthed from continents across the world.

The land tells a story of its people, and in looking into the history of his community, Ruben found landmarks that showed that a period of warming happened centuries ago, and like today, brought people together. The reason was twofold. The Inuit and the Vikings were able to go further afield with the technology they had at hand. And like now, that brought concerns over territory and food.

But the curious Narwhals, an arctic species of whale remarkable for its single long tusk, may have taken on a

spiritual importance in their meeting.

"They must have thought, 'Jackpot,' Europe has the legend of the unicorn, we've got the goods."

In particular, the Inuit were skilled hunters, and provided a narwhal tusk as a gift to the Danish King, who used the tusk to build his throne. In an arrangement to build a treaty between the two peoples, the king sent three shiploads of gifts in return.

"The words that you'll see up in the exhibition is my interpretation of what of what may have happened during contact between two very different arctic peoples," says

Ruben. But they also had much in common, he adds, and some of that was a shamanistic tradition led by women.

"Look with open eyes," says Ruben.

Inuit art curator Heather Campbell said Ruben's work is "truly incredible. Like it truly gave me goosebumps the first time that I walked into the space after a lot of the pieces were installed."

WAG Artistic director Stephen Borys, besides being proud of the WAGs initiative to recognise Ruben's talent by holding his first solo exhibition in 2001, also described a visceral response to the collection now on display.

"This is an opportunity to tell an untold story," said Ruben, "the exhibition is my way of thanking my parents who gave me the first teachings and elders who were involved in my development over the years. The climate change that we're experiencing today happened many times in the past."

Abraham Anghik Ruben's stunning exhibit is on at the WAG.



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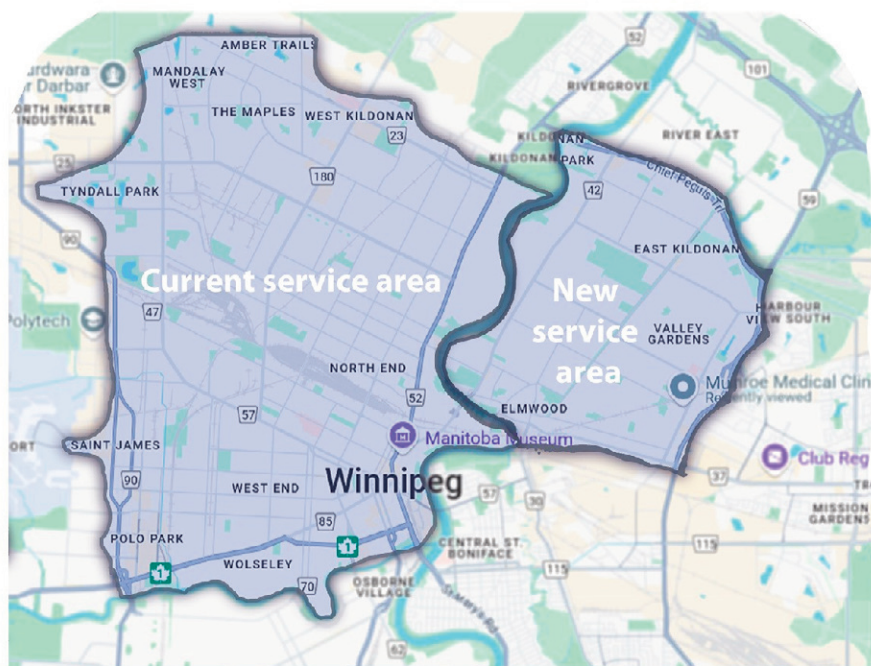
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Georgian melodies, original and traditional folk music; all have a connection to Knappen Street in upcoming eclectic concert

By Terese Taylor

Daniel Koulack and the Knappen Street All-Star Band are planning their next eclectic concert, but you might say they are sticking close to home. Joining their evening concert Monday June 16 at the Crescent Arts Centre is another Knappen Street talent, bringing the beautiful tradition of Georgian chants and melodies into the musical mix.

Matt Knight met his wife Kiko in a choir, and the two left to live and study Georgian music in eastern Europe while Matt pursued an ethnomusicology degree. Singing the harmonies and melodic arrangements that they learned together are still one of their favourite activities, and their children have joined in too.

Like many traditional forms of music, says Matt, Georgian music has always had a participatory element to it. "It's a very unique kind of harmony," says Matt, but also intended to sung with a "loud chest voice... where you get to really belt it out and just kind of have fun raising a racket."

The style of singing has survived over the centuries, and is one of the traditions to announce weddings, and special occasions in the community. But it is also a tradition, that by its nature brings the body and mind together. "The lyrics have a meaning in and of themselves, but you have to breathe, stand in a certain way you feel strong and ready...its like one of those things that can get you into a flow state, and you can kind of sometimes have a bit of an out of body experience. You kind of forget about everything else outside of that."

"I think that's something that's really powerful for for mental health and emotional well-being and I'm really glad it's something that I get to experience, share with my family and share with friends."

Koulack says he moved onto Knappen Street and found out he was living on the same street as musical mentor Cathy Marx had lived on. While living there, the spirit compelled him to compose some of the original folk inspired songs the Knappen Streets All Stars will play.

His own children, George Bajer-Koulack, and Ameena are also musicians in their own

right and will be adding to the energy of the concert.

All ages are invited to the concert, says Koulack, and kids under age 12 get in for free. Tickets for kids ages 12-16 are \$10, adults are \$20 and can be bought online, or at the door at the Crescent Arts Centre, 525 Wardlaw Avenue.

Knappen Street All-Stars
(left to right) Daniel Roy, Don Benedictson, Stefan Bauer, Bill Spornitz, Daniel Koulack, Jonnie Bakan, Bill Spornitz.



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