

STREETS

SERVING WINNIPEG'S WEST END

JANUARY 2025

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY | VOL 3 NO 6 | FREE TO WEST END RESIDENTS

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Three steps to prep for emergencies at West End workshop

By Cohen Burg

On one of the coldest days of the year and as the news of massive fires in California were wreaking havoc, Ian Desjarlais of Spence Neighbourhood's Bear Den opened the door to community members attending an emergency preparedness workshop.

Emergency Management Officer Dwayne Hackinen said not enough people are aware of the resources available to them — like Smoke Alarms for Every Family Program (S.A.F.E.), which offers free smoke alarms and installation to at-risk residents of owner-occupied homes. He also mentioned ways to find out road conditions, severe weather and natural dis-

asters — apps and websites like Manitoba 511, WeatherCAN, and Alertable.

One workshop participant, Dwayne Gladu, had his own experience of bad road conditions. He told The Leaf he was on his way back to Winnipeg from a Christmas Eve gathering, when the engine of his car broke down, and “nobody stopped.”

“I was outside, and [drivers] were like ‘Ehh, step on the gas, man,’” said Gladu, who waited for help on the side of the road for eight hours with his kids and some spare blankets.

Ali Caporale of the Mani-

continues pg 6...



Victoria Albert School vice-principal Ross Patterson (back left) and phys-ed teacher Paul Delgado (right) have a team ready to try their best in new school league

Inner city school basketball league scores big

By Terese Taylor

A new inner city school basketball league will give kids “an incentive to go to school, to get involved in an activity over the lunch hour, the opportunity to play in a league and the opportunity to play in a world class facility,” says Ross Patterson.

The first games began

February 24. Patterson has signed up 20 inner city schools who will hit the gym, twice a week, over the lunch hour.

The vice-principal of Victoria Albert elementary school said he admired the initiative of Peter Correia, Mulvey School Principal, who

started the Inner City Soccer league, and began to look into opportunities for students at his school in grades five and six.

Patterson reached out to contacts he knew in basketball, and was able to pull together a number of partners who were excited to join in,

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3000 jobs ‘could have knock off effect’ in West End, says BIZ

By Terese Taylor

“The whole situation with these tariffs and the terrible impact it can have on our businesses really highlights the importance of local and supporting local independent businesses in your communities where you live,” says Eric Napier Strong, director of the West Broadway BIZ. “I think we’re lucky that we already have so many strong independent, unique

businesses.”

Napier Strong said that tariffs will increase the cost for basic supplies and materials, and likely those costs will show up “in the coming weeks.”

Buying local is one of the strategies being promoted by all levels of government, but expanding sales across the country is another. Currently, said Napier, certain products

such as alcoholic and other food products can not be easily sold in a neighbouring province without a lengthy, and onerous approval process.

Ramzey Zeid, manager of the Maryland Food Fare Grocery was watching the news closely when, on the day the tariffs were to take

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The Manitoba government hung this flag the day tariffs came into effect.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD

BASKETBALL from page 1

including the Minor Basketball Association, Zueike Apparel, the Manitoba Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Council (MASRC), and the Manitoba Association of Basketball Officials (MABO). Games will be held at the Manitoba Sports for Life building across from the

Manitoba Museum, and Patterson has already had to turn some schools away. "Its got that vibe.....inner city vibe," said Patterson. "The kids really love soccer and really love basketball." MABO has helped to develop a basketball referee accreditation program at Daniel Mac Collegiate, and grade 11

and 12 students who have gained accreditation will be paid to referee the games, and gain valuable experience. "They can be role models for the kids, right?," says Patterson. He's hoping that its a way to open doors for kids who might not otherwise have contact with other city leagues and opportunities, which is often due to their cost, said Patterson, and to get experience under their belts. Patterson says the games will be timed, but no scores will be taken - but he's betting that the kids will be keeping their scores in their

own heads. "I would," he laughs. Team players will be provided with team uniforms from their school, and Zueike will be providing "team effort" awards. Patterson looks forwards to the launch of this first season, and is hoping they'll be able to let up to 36 schools play next year. Professional basketball player Chad Posthumus (who recently passed away due to a medical issue) came from Winnipeg's inner

city, he said, playing in professional leagues in Europe before returning to be team captain of Winnipeg's first professional league, the Sea Bears. "This'll give kids hope," says Patterson. "It'll give them the chance to meet other students." "One of our goals is to increase attendance. For some kids, this is what will get them out of bed."

Vice-principal Russ Patterson (centre back, below) has the height advantage, but students at Victoria Albert are practicing their rounds with coach Paul Delgado (below left).





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NEIGHBOURHOOD

Winnipeg Centre Greens appoint Candidate

“We can't have a healthy economy on a sick planet.”

By Cohen Burg



While talk of tariffs and the economy has been “sucking up all the oxygen in political discourse,” Gary Gervais said climate change is still the priority. “If we don't deal with the climate as the most critical issue, it's kind of irrelevant whether or not our economy is healthy,” he said. “We can't have a healthy economy on a sick planet.”

Come the 2025 federal election, voters in Winnipeg Centre will find a new name on the ballot: Gervais was appointed by the Winnipeg Centre Green Party Association to run in the federal election.

Gervais said that if elected, he would look at issues from a perspective of climate and environment. He said other parties' commitment to climate change varies, but he doesn't think

any other party views issues “through that lens first.”

Gervais talked about the “growth paradigm,” saying in our current society, the drive for economic growth outweighs all else. He used Amazon as an example: it started out as a book retailer, but could only expand financially to a certain point. They then evolved into one of the world's largest commerce businesses under the need for perpetual growth.

Gervais said while some view a lack of economic growth as a catastrophe, the Green Party isn't scared of things like negative GDP growth. Though there has been a movement and growing awareness of environmental issues, Gervais said we're still lost in the mindset

that forever growing GDP is the most important thing.

When asked about the carbon tax, Gervais said that something like it is necessary for change, though he would have done it differently. He said consumers need to feel the impact of their carbon emissions in order to change, and “that's where the Liberal approach failed. No one really noticed that there was a price on carbon. Yeah, maybe you paid a bit more at the gas pump, but [you got that] money back.”

Gervais's interest in politics “dates back to university days,” and a guiding factor in choosing the Green Party was a personal experience of the effects of climate change. In 1991, he went scuba diving on the barrier reef in Australia. “A most spectacular ex-

perience. About 12, 15 years later, a friend was going there, and I recommended this town called Airlie Beach.” Lots of dive shops, easy access to the reef, he said. His friend went, and the reef was bleached from overdevelopment in the area. “In such a short time period, this spectacular wonder was destroyed by humans.”

Though the Green Party won only two seats in the most recent federal election, Gervais said that having many voices in an election, and in parliament, is important. “People say, ‘Well, why would you run for a party that has no chance of forming [a] government?’ And that

sort of misses the point of what elections are for, and how democracies work. It forces us into an American model of having only two options, and we see how polarized and destructive that's been.”

“Carbon tax is one example; the legalization of marijuana is another example; where policies that the Greens [put] forward in that election ended up becoming government policy.” Gervais said just because a party doesn't win, or have a lot of say in parliament, it “doesn't mean [they] can't influence the direction of future policy.”

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effect, February 1st, it was announced the tariffs will be postponed until March. “I think Trump was just trying to be a bully and didn't expect anybody to retaliate,” he says. “Our goal should be to support companies and manufacturers that are local. Made in Manitoba first, and what we can't get, go to other provinces. But I think our goal should be to keep everything in house.”

Oranges were slated to have a Canadian tariff applied to their sale in retaliation to the Trump tariffs, but its an item that Zeid has often of-

fered for sale. “Because we have five stores we can buy in bulk and pass that on to our customers,” he said. Zeid said the tariffs might support more of a return to seasonal foods when they are at their peak, and taste the best, and are at their best price instead of bringing in items year-round.

“Everyone is kind of scrambling and as the details are uncertain, it's been a real roller coaster,” said Joe Kornelson, director of the West End BIZ. “There are about 3000 jobs in the area that would have knock-off effects

if there is a slow down in the area.”

Although there are many front-facing smaller businesses that provide services to the community, Kornelson said there are several larger manufacturing and construction businesses in the area.

Sometimes people call the West End BIZ zone its own city within the city.

“It was a pretty steep notification period,” said Paul Heide, general manager of Quest Metal, a manufacturer of custom stainless steel appliances and restaurant equipment in the West End.

The company doesn't do a lot of sales into the US, “but we do import from the US, so the impact would be availability of the goods and their cost.”

“There are lots of options, in terms of how we can navigate that, but with no time, that's what we were faced with on February 1st,” said Heide. “We are just in the early days now, need to make sure that we know where the risks are, and then we can reach out and start to work on plan to mitigate those.”

Heide said he appreciates the effort of the government to assist businesses, but said

they are almost in the same boat as everyone else.

“Hope is a great word,” said Heide. I'm going to fight like hell for my business and my country.”

“Look for those opportunities in the neighborhood to buy locally made products, get your locally made kombucha instead of buying something imported, and just always think about that,” said Napier Strong.

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NEWS

Now's the time for upholding human rights

By Winnipeg
Centre
Member
of Parliament
Leah Gazan



•In recent weeks, people in Winnipeg Centre and across Canada have been disturbed by the news coming out of the United States. While our memory of Trump's first term didn't give us hope for what was to come, it's been truly shocking to witness the lengths to which Trump and his cronies like Elon Musk have already gone to undermine democracy and human rights.

•While these developments are alarming, it is essential that we don't fall into despair. Despair divides us and empowers authoritarianism. Above all, we need to stay united in our commitment to upholding human rights and stand strongly together against the spread of hate and authoritarianism.

•That starts with protecting sovereignty and self-determination. Already Trump has shown unfounded aggression to so many neighboring countries, repeatedly taunting Canada as the '51st state' and threatening to annex Greenland. Most recently, he's tried to legitimize Putin's reasoning for invading Ukraine, justifying Russia's blatant violation of international law.

•For Canada in particular, many have been most concerned about Trump's tariff threats, which could have devastating impacts on our economy. As many researchers from both Canada and the US have pointed out, Trump's grounds for tariff threats – undocumented migration and drug trafficking from Ca-

nada – are grossly overestimated by his administration. So why are Canadian leaders adopting this same rhetoric and capitulating to his demands?

•We know Trump's demands are absurd, so why should we assume he'll be satisfied if we jump through every hoop to meet them now? And what can we expect him to demand from us next?

•It is deeply disappointing to see Conservatives like Poilievre lend credibility to Trump by calling on Canada's military to stop cross-border migration.

•It's also disheartening that Liberal ministers – although appearing tougher on Trump in their public statements – have validated

Trump's central message that migrants are a threat to public safety. This rhetoric, and the policy it inspires, violates migrants' human rights.

•More than ever, we need to uphold human rights and international law against warrantless aggression. The United Nations fundamentally rests on the principle of self-determination, and the overwhelming majority of Canadians, as well as First Nations people as represented by the Assembly of First Nations, firmly oppose Canada joining the US.

•The Charter of Rights and Freedoms is important to Canadians. Upholding the Charter means protecting the rights of women, gender-diverse people, migrants,

and all populations currently under attack not only by Trump, but by Conservatives like Poilievre. Human rights law means nothing if we pick and choose from it. We must have the courage and conviction to stand together against all human rights abuses.

•Now is the time not for despair, but for solidarity. Working together, we can build a strong, united, and inclusive Canada – a Canada that values and respects the human rights of all people. This is our best defence against any forces, inside or outside our country, that want to tear down the Canada that we all love and cherish.

OPINION:

Sources of light in a growing darkness

By Mike Maunder

I felt my heart lift this morning when I walked past the Legislature building and saw the huge Canadian flag that was mounted there March 4, the day US tariffs were imposed.

I'm not normally a "Rah-Rah Canadian – My country, right or wrong." Nor am I a steadfast NDPer. But I was proud to see that flag, and I was proud of our premier, Wab Kinew, when he issued a statement to Americans at the International Peace Gardens in mid-February: "Canada will never be the 51st state, but can be your Number One friend," he said. "We're a nation of hockey players. We know how to stand up for ourselves. At the same time, we know how to go for a beer together once the game is over."

It is that kind of civility, the ability to "go for a beer together" that is increasingly getting lost in today's world.

I believe it's because of

the Internet and social media. They make their profits by truly understanding each of us, recording each of our clicks, creating algorithms that automatically take us to sites and opinions that feed our previous choices. I recently travelled to England, and now all my Internet choices and ads that pop up are airlines and hotels. It's accurate that, on the Internet, I am the product.

The Internet separates us and feeds our biases.

I compare this to this newspaper's motto "An old-fashioned paper for a new-fangled world."

Old-fashioned people like me find a newspaper a good curator of the world's events (and, fair warning: I've made my living writing for newspapers a good part of my life).

Everyday I click through a digital newspaper. I totally understand that newspaper

is biased but, also, it's gone through a process of deciding what's important, trying to be accurate and thorough, and organizing everything with headlines. If I'm not interested in sports, I skip the sports section. As I scan the headlines, I choose what I'm going to linger on, what I'm going to skip, and what I'm going to read in depth.

When I describe this way of gathering information to younger people, it's clear they prefer the Internet. But the Internet doesn't do what the newspaper does – offer diverse stories and voices and allow me to choose. It's already done the choosing based on my biases and so, with each click, I sink further and further into my private shell, shared only with fellow co-conspirators.

This is why I was particularly disappointed to see *Washington Post* owner Jeff Bezos enact policies that strip diverse views from his paper

and instead focus on defending the free market and personal liberties. It is truly frightening to see the power wielded by billionaires against a newspaper I've respected all my life, one whose motto is "Democracy dies in darkness." Bezos said the change was a modernization of the newspaper from the days when it offered opinions on a broad range of topics. Now, he said, "the Internet does that job."

I don't think the Internet does that job.

I think the Internet is the major reason we're moving further and further into our polarized boxes.

Around the same time of Bezos's announcements, Sophie Gaulin, editor of Winnipeg's French newspaper, *La Liberté*, wrote in an op ed in the *Free Press*, that newspapers are struggling to survive, partly because governments at all levels have chosen to spend their

advertising on the Internet.

This too is true – that newspapers (like the one you're holding) rely on advertising to survive.

As we enter particularly dark times, I look where I can to find sources of light. One source of light was that Canadian flag stretched across the Legislature this morning. (Incidentally, Feb. 15 was the 60th anniversary of the flag's adoption.) Another source of light was Wab Kinew's speech at the Peace Garden (which, admittedly, I found on Instagram).

And one of my major sources of light in these darkening times, are newspapers, especially the local papers that talk of kid's basketball, renter's problems and issues faced by my neighbours.

I think it is the most important thing we can do – spread and share light against the darkness that is growing.



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Report details fear and frustration as tenants fight a process allowing rents higher than regulated level

By Mike Maunder

When Amanda Emms discovered that the report that she's laboured on for the last four years was going to be released close to Valentine's Day, she covered the podium with dozens of little hearts – "I Love Rent Regulations" – which is pretty much the message of her study.

At the launch at Crossways last month of the report, *From Repairs to Rent Hikes*, Emms detailed the ins-and-outs of Above Guideline Increases (AGIs) – a major way property companies in West Broadway are raising rents. She said many tenants in West Broadway (including her and many friends) live in fear that rents may increase to a level that will force them to leave the homes they love.

The report details the experiences of 14 tenants who have dealt with AGIs on their apartments. Landlords are well-versed in the process of applying for an AGI which allows them to raise rents higher than the 1-3% annual increases allowed by the province. Emms said rents approved through the AGI process in 2022 increased an average of 9.8%, and her interviews showed cases in which rents increased by much higher levels (up to 43 %).

Tenant Neil Kramer spoke at the launch explaining his West Broadway rent has climbed from \$940 to over \$1,300 in five years through three AGIs. "Now, every fall when the lease renewal comes it's a yearly frustration," he explained. "How much are they asking for now?"

Another tenant at the launch, Ryan Simmons, said his rent has nearly doubled in the last two years, from \$556 to \$951.

The report described the AGI process as a process that is rigged against the tenants. Landlords must apply for an AGI and prove it is justified in paperwork submitted to the RTB (Residential Tenancy Branch). Typical would be receipts showing upgrades like flooring, roofing or other work. The tenant receives three months notice of the increase, with paperwork explaining they can oppose the increase at the RTB.

"It's at this point that



Amanda Emms (centre) raises a fist for tenant power in her report, *From Repairs to Rent Hikes*. With her, left to right: tenant Ryan Simmons; Yutaka Dirks from the Right To Housing Coalition; Stefan Hodges, West Broadway Tenants Committee; and tenant, Neil Kraemer.

frustrations began for many tenants," explained Emms. Those who choose to fight the increase must appear at the RTB office within two weeks. Many can only do so by taking time off work. "They have to examine reams of paperwork," explained Emms. Then they prepare their opposition to the increase, and appear at a hearing that decides the case. "The landlord has staff who can devote time to this entire process – time that will quickly be paid for by the increase in rent."

In the cases where she interviewed tenants, Emms said all of them felt frustrated and belittled through the bureaucratic process. For most, it is an all-new process, but a process the landlord's staff have navigated many times in the past. Some tenants are left with no option but to move. In all of the cases she reviewed, landlords were granted the rent increases, sometimes with a small cut (an increase of 14 % cut to 13%).

Her report points out several problems, other than a process that is weighted against the tenant. Many repairs are capital improvements and will be paid off by the increase in a few years – but then, the higher rent continues in perpetuity. Landlords often soften the blow to a tenant by giving them a rent discount after the increase has been approved, but the discount can be withdrawn with three months notice once the landlord has found someone willing to pay the higher rent. The repairs just-

fying the increase are often not upgrades the tenant needs, but enhancements to the building. "We're paying for buzzer systems, flower beds, air conditioner boxes – stuff that we didn't order," said one tenant in the report. "Meanwhile the apartment is flooding, and the pipe should've been paid first."

Emms herself rents in West Broadway. She was impassioned to research the

topic when she became familiar with neighbours at 149 Langside fighting an AGI and saw how frustrating it was. She loves the apartment where she and her partner are building a home together, but has her own fears.

"Just recently our hallways were repainted and the wood flooring ripped out for vinyl. Are these just the normal repairs a good landlord does? Or will we find three-

month notice of a rent increase and have to face the whole flawed process of opposing an AGI ourselves?"

Emms explained that the NDP government proposed a bill last year to strengthen rent regulations and limit AGI increases but it was withdrawn and is now in the hands of the Minister of Public Service Delivery, Mintu Sandhu.

Emms and other housing advocates at the launch are urging Sandhu to reintroduce the bill.



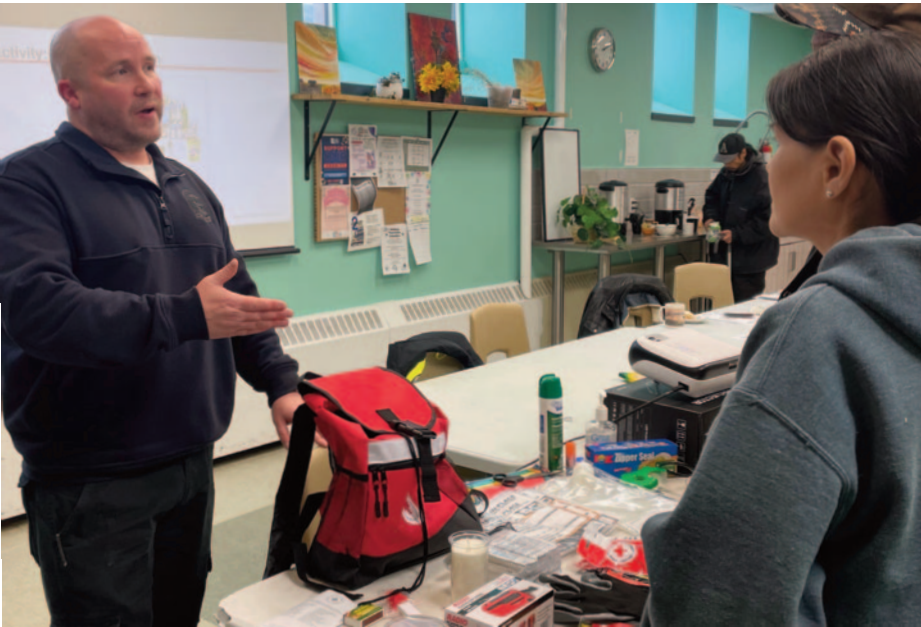
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(Left to right top photo) Dwayne Hackinen of the Office of Emergency Management, Ali Caporale of Manitoba Eco-Network, James Wright of the Red Cross, Ian Desjarlais of the Bear Den with hand warmers he gives out for emergencies and Carolyn Labossiere of the Red Cross with 72 hour kit

SAFETY WORKSHOP
from page 1

toba Eco-Network said the workshop is part of a project “trying to tackle some energy poverty issues.” When people are struggling to pay their energy bills, it’s hard to stay warm and cool in their homes as temperatures become more extreme, she said. “We think it’s valuable that people are prepared for extreme weather events and emergencies like we learned about today.”

The workshop included presentations by the Red Cross, and Winnipeg Office of Emergency Management.

Presenters explained that when emergencies strike, you usually don’t have time to do anything except react. They stressed there are three simple steps you can take that could save your life in an emergency — Assess, Plan, and Network.

Assess risks unique to your neighbourhood, your home, your family, your vehicle, and yourself. You may be as prepared as the average person, but are you prepared for your specific needs? If you’re older, and on the 13th floor, be ready for the elevator not working.

The second step is Plan. Hackinen emphasized the importance of having a household emergency plan, just like the ones at work and school.

Emergencies can happen at any time, even at home. For instance, where do you meet if you have to evacuate?

Networking involves connecting with your local community and support network. “Talk to [people] living in [your] building, talk to your neighbours, talk to the management. Know the exits, know the routes, know how to get out,” Hackinen said.

The Red Cross took over the last part of the presentation, and shared physical emergency resources. One of these was an emergency contact card—kept in your wallet or pocket after filling out details like name, age, emergency contacts, and medical information. Labossiere reminded participants of the importance of carrying these paper copies on us, because we are often unable to charge devices in an emergency, and we have become more reliant on them for remembering phone numbers. Anyone can make a card by simply writing the info on a piece of paper.

Labossiere and Wright also talked about 72-hour kits: emergency kits with everything you need to live for 72 hours in an emergency, without access to essentials like water, food, heat, etc.



Individuals and families are under more stress today than ever. Competing needs and responsibilities, financial pressures and difficult experiences all add up to disconnect us from ourselves and each other.

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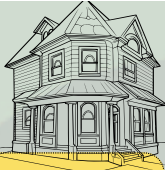
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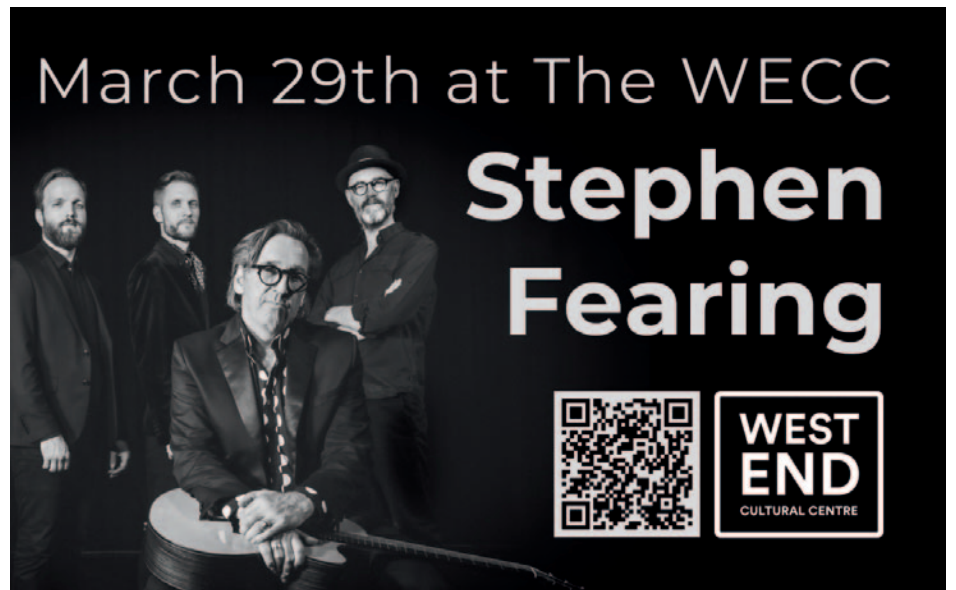
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SAFETY



Ian Desjarlais (centre) of the Bear Den, and Dwayne Gladu



One kit was spread out on a table to demonstrate, and was given away at the end of the event in a silent auction.

Similar to your emergency plan, Labossiere said the contents of the kit should be specific to your unique risks. We should be “focused on warmth, on food, and on water” at a very basic level, “but then also looking to create that kit that’s really specific [to] your household, and the number of people that are in your home,” Labossiere said. The Red Cross has an online guide to making emergency kits at tinyurl.com/redcross-emergencykit.

The workshop presented several other online and phone resources, found below:

Government Phone Numbers:

911 • Emergency
988 • Suicide Emergency
511 • Road/Travel Conditions
311 • General City Services
211 • Community Resources in multiple languages

Websites and Apps:

988 • 988.ca
511 • manitoba511.ca
311 • winnipeg.ca/311-city-services
WeatherCAN
• tinyurl.com/weathercan
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France, Italy, Canada / 2023 / English / 80 min. / directed by: Guillaume Moidatchevsky / Classification : G / ages 4+
Kina & Yuk are two Arctic foxes, ready to start a family. But the climate is warmer, and food is more and more rare. Yuk is obliged to venture further away to find food.
Le film est projeté en français le 14 mars à 13h00.

12 MARCH, 10 AM
CHICKEN FOR LINDA !
France, Italy / 2023 / English / 73 min. / directed by: Sébastien Loudenbach, Chiara Mallo / Classification: G / ages 10+
Paulette realizes she has unfairly punished her daughter Linda. To make up for it, she promises to cook her a chicken with peppers, even though she cannot cook at all. But where to find a chicken on a strike day, when all the shops are closed?

15 MARCH, 3 PM - FREE
UPROAR
Denmark / 2023 / English / 110 min. / directed by: Paul Middelitch & Hamish Bennett / Classification: PG / ages 13+
A 17-year-old student is forced to get off the fence he has actively sat on all his life to stand up for himself, his whanau (family) and his future in this heartwarming story of identity.

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ART & SOUL



THREADS OF KIN & BELONGING

Story and photos by Terese Taylor

"What do we do in Winnipeg in February?," asked two spirit educator, knowledge keeper and activist Albert McLeod, to a packed house in the WAG. "We go to the art gallery."

At the opening of *Threads of Kin and Belonging*, A Trinnipeg Live Mixtape Project featuring the art of Kimani Beckford, Caneu, Rosalie Favell, Bria Fernandes, Alex Janvier, patchwork monoceros, Ebony G. Patterson, Betty Piryaq, Jane Ash Poitras, Lorna Simpson, Jeffrey Thomas, Chukwudubem Ukaigwe, and Walter Williams, WAG director Steven Borys said "it's more important now than ever that we create spaces where we can engage with art that speaks to our shared humanity. This show allows us to connect not just with the artists' stories, but with the idea that we're all part of a larger ongoing narrative of belonging, memory and community."

In what the Winnipeg Art Gallery is calling a first, and emanating from a long friendship between Nestor

Wynrush and Julie Lafrenière, the two have partnered as co-curators, in partnership with Synonym Art Consultation, to explore and bring together a conversation between Black and Indigenous communities on Treaty One Territory. "It's a conversation that Ness and I have been having for close to 20 years now. It is not the first step, but one in many, as we are resting on the shoulders of the giants that came before us," said Lafreniere, WAG-Qaumajuq Head of Indigenous ways and learning. "This exhibition is about remaining true to ourselves as Indigenous, Black and racialized nations and our ancestors. It is a reminder to lead with love, care, and compassion."

Judy Williams, a historian of Winnipeg's Black community and organiser, opened by sharing some writing from her family, who arrived in Manitoba in 1905 on her mother's side, and her father's, from Jamaica, in the 1940s. They both discovered and became part of an active Black community in Winni-

peg that connected across borders, cultures and political lines.

"We shuffled people," said Wynrush. "We are the shuffled people."

"We've been removed by forces that are not our own and brought together again and reassembled. Languages taken, drums (taken), but yet the drums showed up."

Wynrush's project Trinnipeg Live Mixed Tape has collaborated over four years on innovative poetry, and music. In the WAG exhibition, pieced together ceramic vessels made by artist Chukwudubem Ukaigwe bring in sounds from a Nigerian market, "a Nigerian diaspora in Hartford Connecticut," explained Wynrush, but they are also, he told *The Leaf*, meaningful to him as a disabled person. "Because they are pieces put together, they remind me of artificial limbs, making things work, and adaptability."

Wynrush counts three places that share his deepest roots; Trinidad, Toronto and Winnipeg. "All three count as

(Left) Nestor Wynrush (left), and Julie Lafreniere with painting by Kimani Beckford (top left). Collage by Ebony G Patterson (top photo). The artwork of Bria Fernandes welcomes visitors to *Threads of Kin and Belonging* (above). Photos Terese Taylor

home, but are they home?" he asks, a question he shares with the audience.

Threads of Kin and Belonging's beginning honours Black History Month, but will continue, with special artist's workshops, until Indigenous People's day on

June 21.

WAG Board member Melissa Ridgen offered a February incentive to buy a membership for a friend or lover at the WAG; memberships can include a companion for free if purchased by the end of the month.

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March honours First Nation man dismissed by hospital

By Terese Taylor

An Indigenous man whose appendix burst after he was told by a doctor he was just suffering from a hangover was supported by Indigenous leaders and medical allies in a march from the Forks to the Legislature grounds at the end of February.

Justin Flett was visiting his mother in the Pas when he started experiencing severe abdominal pain and went to the town's hospital for care. Flett said he was told by a doctor "we don't treat hangovers here," was given anti-nausea medication, and dismissed.

Flett ended up taking a bus to get help from The Pas to Winnipeg and lay on the floor of the bus for an 11 hour bus ride. Flett was told during a call to 911 in Winnipeg that an ambulance would take too long to arrive, and that he should take a taxi to the hospital.

According to a lawsuit by Flett, his appendix burst as he waited, before he was taken in for emergency sur-

gery, leading to a severe infection that has had long term effects on his health.

Health workers, and Indigenous leaders expressed outrage at his treatment, and thanked Flett for coming forward to share his experience.

Kristin Flattery, Women's Coordinator of the AMC, thanked Morgan's Warriors for supporting the rally, and spoke to the crowd at the Forks, saying that improper diagnosis, and dismissive care was a common experience of First Nation people, and praised Flett for his bravery in sharing his story. "We come together in the spirit of justice and healing. We are here to honour the spirit of Justin Flett who almost lost his life. This is an ongoing issue and it needs to stop. I thank everyone who has come here to support Justin," said Flattery.

Chief Letandre, of Dauphin River First Nation, on the steps of the Legislature, said "We say friendly Manitoba. I don't think so when people are dying and people are at

risk. Why did he have to jump on a bus to come to Winnipeg to be treated down here? It is unfortunate that his health has declined."

"Alcoholism is the number one stereotype, employed by white and nonwhite settlers to deny access to care, to jobs, to land, and to opportunities," said Barry Lavallee, a physician, and chief medical officer for Keewatinohk Inniniw Minoayawin. "Treating appendicitis... is one of the first things they teach you in medical school. I don't know how the hell that happened," said Lavallee, calling out racism specifically directed to First Nation people as the cause of Flett's treatment. "(If you work in the medical system), if you harbor hate towards First Nation people, if you dislike, if you're angry at First Nation people, quit your job."

Kaya Wilson, Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs said "Health care is a treaty right," and "any level of government needs to recognize that our people need to be treated fairly and racism is unacceptable."

"This man is lucky to be alive," said Chief Angela Levasseur of Nisichawayasihk First Nation. "In 2008 Brian Sinclair died because of this same type of disgusting racism...because Justin looks visibly First Nation in appearance ...it is assumed that his medical condition is self-in-

duced somehow. Not legitimate...how many times do we have to speak to the media?"

"It is not enough to call yourself allies," said Levasseur...."we appreciate that support, but we need you as allies to speak up against racism, to be loud."

Chanelle Carlson, a law-

yer and friend of Flett's said "We all know what is happening is wrong. There are far too many stories of First Nation patients being disrespected, being profiled or being taken advantage of. This must be repaired through meaningful changes. Your voices matter."



Kaya Wilson, Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs speaks to the crowd calling for action against incidents of racism in healthcare. Justin Flett, family members and First Nation Chiefs took turns sharing stories, and support. Kristin Flattery speaks (below). Photos Terese Taylor



City being bullied to get housing funds, says councillor

By Terese Taylor

City councillors expressed concerns they are being asked to vote on undefined budgets and bylaws to access federal housing and other much needed infrastructure funding, and are being bullied into accepting regulatory and bylaw changes to get it.

Brian Mayes said that Winnipeg's application for federal funding under the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund was coming at a time when the federal election might upend the fund, and that at the same time the city can apply and likely get funding for a south-end sewer project, the city was dropping their annual funding towards much needed inner city Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) upgrades from 45

million to 30 million a year.

He related his comments to a class of RRC journalism students who were welcomed by the Mayor to the chamber to learn about covering city politics February 27. "We can leave this to the people in the gallery to sort this out when they are senior citizens or we can sort this out or take some action now and meet our 2045 deadline."

"We will be done in 2095 if we only fund 30 million a year," said Mayes. He also panned the city's lack of investment in green infrastructure. "We are supposed to be doing 10% green infrastructure but we aren't even close."

"The public must be given information instead of

delayed incomplete reports to make decisions. This report is written as if reader already knew what the rates are," said Sherri Rollins, "the public deserves to know more about how this will effect them."

"We should be very concerned with the federal government bullying us," said Cindy Gilroy "to control how we decide to develop our city. They're assuming that we are Toronto and Edmonton, (they) don't know the dynamic and what type of housing is needed. It lacks the complete understanding of what's going on within our inner city communities that have boarded-up and vacant buildings and that are really needing housing developed there...their plan is to de-

velop it elsewhere. We should be really concerned that we are giving up the control of how we develop our city, what we want it to look like and how fast we want to grow. Our hands are tied to get this funding."

"Rollins is not wrong with the rates," said Gilroy, "the decision today affects how those rates are going to be applied."

Janice Lukes said twice as many new buildings were being built in her south end Waverly West ward because it was easier to build new housing on "green fields."

"It's extremely difficult to develop multifamily units in established neighbourhoods," said Lukes, "the hardest thing to do is infill... its 150 million...I believe if we don't

show support for this we won't get more funding."

Couns. Eadie tied the sewer upgrades to the ability of the inner city to be able to grow and to be able to handle a higher population and business density.

In early March, the Mayor and council voted against a \$1000 annual increase in water and sewer rates charged to residents proposed by the department to cover the cost of upgrades to the North End sewer treatment plant. The mayor instead proposed a more modest increase of \$18 per month for water, and an additional charge for garbage collection that together would increase annual charges to approximately \$324 this year.

City hosting open houses on citywide zoning changes proposed to allow more infill housing

The city of Winnipeg has announced open houses on citywide zoning changes proposed to allow more infill housing, and will be hosting four open houses where attendees can hear from city planners and ask questions about the planned bylaw amendments.

The City has proposed changes to the Winnipeg Zoning By-law and Local Area Plans to enable the development of:

- 2-unit, 3-unit, and 4-unit homes in many neighbourhoods;
- Taller 4-unit homes (up to 39 feet) on certain lots within 800 metres walking distance of a frequent transit route.

Residents are invited to participate in virtual (online) events by registering in advance by emailing infillhousing@winnipeg.ca with your preferred date and session time slot:

Monday, March 17, 2025 at 7 p.m.

- *Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 4 p.m.*
- *Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 7 p.m.*

A Drop-In (come and go format) information event will be held at the RBC convention centre: Wednesday, March 19, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in meeting room.

4-5. Presentation materials will be available online at winnipeg.ca/infillhousing starting Tuesday, March 11.

City planners will welcome questions during a six-week Q&A period, from March 17 to April 27. Questions can be emailed to infillhousing@winnipeg.ca.

After the open houses and Q&A period, the City will complete a draft of the zoning bylaw changes for Council's consideration. A public hearing is currently scheduled for late spring.

Warming Huts at The Forks won't last long:

Rosemary Skool. structure (at right) will melt back into the river as warmer temperatures arrive, along with its bricks, made out of river clay.



(Above) Guest Artists Jaime Isaac and Suzanne Morriette built the bricks for their basket by hand (Photo provided)

(Left) The Present, made by students at the Exchange Met School. Photo: Cohen Berg

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Back Row, left to right: Harold Schuster, Kemlin Nembhard, Al Wiebe, Lara Rae, Leah Gazan, Hilda Anderson-Pyrz, Izzeddin Hawamda, Mike Payne, Gerald Brown, Gina Smoke, Terese Taylor, Front Row: Laura Cameron, Raymond Ngarboui, Shakila Atayee, Marnermoo Galloway-White, Emily Merasty, Matt Davidson, Seidu Mohammed

Honouring contributions to the community: King Charles III Coronation Medals

On Tuesday, March 4, MP Leah Gazan hosted a dinner and award celebration honouring recipients of the King Charles III Coronation Medals, releasing the following statement:

"I was honoured to be asked by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, to identify and award community members with the King Charles III Coronation Medal in recognition of their remarkable achievements and contributions. With the help of my selection committee, we chose 19 exceptional people who have made a significant contribution to Winnipeg Centre. It was my great pleasure to come together with these recipients and their loved ones to share a meal and each others' company as we celebrated their remarkable achievements and the profound impact they have had on life and wellbeing in our neighbourhoods. It is the love and dedication of

people like you that creates hope for our future. Together we keep community at the centre in Winnipeg Centre."

Recipients are:

- Mike Payne*
Executive Director, Nine Circles.
For ongoing health equity advocacy through Nine Circles
- Hilda Anderson-Pyrz*
Chair, National Family and Survivors Circle
For courageous leadership and grassroots advocacy for MMIWG2S and their family members
- Kemlin Nembhard*
Executive Director, Women's Health Clinic
For ongoing health equity and reproductive rights advocacy through Women's Health Clinic
- Debbie Patterson*
Artistic Director, Sick & Twisted
For creating spaces for disability arts in Manitoba

- Al Wiebe*
Peer and community engagement trainer and housing director
For advocacy on ending homelessness and for advancing lived experience leadership
- Emily Merasty*
For disability justice and access advocacy regarding service dog regulation
- Laura Cameron*
For grassroots climate action and exceptional community leadership
- Matt Davidson*
Founder, Spirit Horse
For building individual and community wellness through Spirit Horse Action Therapy
- Raymond Ngarboui*
Community Engagement Development Association
For advancing food security through culturally responsive community development initiatives
- Gina Smoke*
Director of Indigenous Relations, UNIFOR
For her work connecting the labour movement with

- human rights advocacy
- Gerald Brown*
Lion's Place Seniors Action Committee
For advocating for seniors right to housing and challenging the financialization of social housing
- Terese Taylor*
Publisher/Editor, The Leaf and Streets Community Newspapers
For promoting quality local news through community newspapers
- Shakila Atayee*
Aurora Family Therapy and Ethnocultural Council of Manitoba
For facilitating meaningful community development for ethnocultural community members in Manitoba, including Afghan women and youth
- Izzeddin Hawamda*
PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies
For promoting the human face of the Palestinian story through storytelling and community dialogue. He advocates for peace through


- meaningful conversations and anti-racism initiatives. As a co-founder of Bridge, he actively speaks about the power of dialogue and the importance of sharing, listening, and respecting diverse perspectives and narratives.
- Harold Schuster*
For courageous advocacy for peace and justice through Independent Jewish Voices
- Diwa Marcelino*
Migrante Manitoba
For advocacy for the rights of migrants in Manitoba and around the world
- Marnermoo Galloway-White*
For supporting newcomers to Manitoba with finding and maintaining housing
- Seidu Mohammed*
For improving experiences and outcomes for Black and other racialized communities through the Manitoba Africa Cup of Nations
- Lara Rae*
For lifting up young artists in Winnipeg's comedy community and working to address food insecurity

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