

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG'S WEEKLY URBAN JOURNAL

# THE **UNITER**

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**26**  
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## THE RETURN OF THE JETS

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# THE URBAN ISSUE





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# WHAT KIND OF CITY DO YOU WANT WINNIPEG TO BE?



# Letters

## Re: “Former employees speak out on Global College” (Feb. 23, page 7)

There are many biased claims made in the article “Former employees speak out on Global College.” However, I will simply respond to Mr. Garcia’s statement that “working at the Global College and being part of the Human Rights Program has made me question its validity,” as well as his comment, “there is no real leadership demonstrated... (and) no long-term planning.”

Mr. Garcia is entitled to his opinion, but for the sake of current and future students of the program and the dedicated and inspiring faculty members of the College, I strongly disagree.

I am one of the first graduates of the HRGS degree as well as an almost daily user of the College’s Legal Empowerment of the Poor website (LEPnet.org) a former student who has taken the College’s experimental and intensive summer courses one of a dozen delegates of the Global College Principal’s UN Study Tour an alumna member of the review committee that has been working for over a year and a half to improve the current curriculum of the Human Rights degree and one of five recent graduates from across Canada who took part in Global College’s CIDA-IYIP internship in ILO country office’s around the world. Also, I owe my current position in a Winnipeg-based consulting company, whose work is directly related to my degree, to the suggestion of a Global College faculty member.

My experience alone speaks to the validity of the program, the long-term planning that goes into each and every one of the College’s outputs, the leadership of the Global College’s principal, Dr. McPhedran, and other integral faculty and student employees, as well as the College’s continued support of current and former students of the HRGS and other programs.

In the future, *The Uniter* would serve its readers better if it offered a rounded and bal-

anced perspective, rather than speaking to one obviously disgruntled former employee.

Perhaps the College’s other former staff members that the article refers to who would not speak on the record based this decision on the reporter’s unmistakably negative bias.

Nicki Ferland

## Re: “Enbridge comes under fire despite donation to university” (March 1, page 5)

In what times do we live that we have to ask a fossil fuel giant for \$25,000 to educate our children on sustainability?

It is shameful that the government is not funding more programs like this. It is the sad dilemma in this country that environmental organizations depend either on government funding (which is often annual as well) or corporate funding. Environmental organizations are restricted and limited to education and any attempt of advocacy work is silenced down by their funders.

The majority of organizations are struggling from year to year to maintain their funding and are restricted in so many ways because of where their funding is coming from. I wonder if the Heart and Stroke Foundation or the Canadian Cancer Society would take money from the tobacco industry?

I am sure most people would find that unethical, but environmental programs have no other choice and we let them become the victim of political discrimination. Their budget cuts force them to turn to big polluting corporations where they become a desired marketing tool for social corporate responsibility. Shameful!

Anika Terton  
Via [www.uniter.ca](http://www.uniter.ca)

## Re: “One Way Out” (March 1, page 9)

Thanks to Katerina Tefft for writing a very insightful and objective piece on veganism.

One is often met with ridicule or hostility because that is generally what happens when one person tries to tell another that their opinion, to eat meat in this case, is "morally"

wrong. Moral decisions are something that people make on their own, usually affected by their upbringing, and I think it is completely condescending to try to say that another person’s moral decisions are wrong. Not everybody has to agree with you.

With this article, you may still be unable to convince a lot of people and I am sure that there are people who will still dismiss this article as "hippie propaganda" or something like that.

However, while I am not about to go out and become a vegan, this article has definitely made me more aware of the consequences of my actions and also more open to the concept of veganism through objectivity.

Mark McDonald  
Via [www.uniter.ca](http://www.uniter.ca)

I don't think that we need to change our beliefs as a means of achieving “moral” enlightenment. What all people in any region of the world need to do is be aware of what we do (and eat), be intentional about what we do (and eat) and to realize the impact of our actions.

While individualism is alive and well, we've past the point of ignorance and we now realize that our shrinking world is growing evermore connected. No individual is an island without consequence and effect on their neighbour.

Thomas Epp  
Via [www.uniter.ca](http://www.uniter.ca)

## Re: “Winnipeg’s Most: From the streets to the stage” (March 22, page 11)

When it says that one member of Winnipeg’s Most is Aboriginal and the other two are Metis, that’s somewhat incorrect. They are all Aboriginal. In 1982 the Canadian constitution changed and it now states that the term ‘Aboriginal people’ includes First Nations (though the charter uses the word Indian), Metis and Inuit.

So I believe the statement should in your article should have been that one is First Nations and the other two are Metis, because

they are all Aboriginal peoples.

As an Aboriginal person, I feel the need to let people know about this because not a lot of people do.

Otherwise, I liked the article and I enjoyed seeing Winnipeg’s Most profiled on CBC’s *8th Fire*.

Sierra Ens  
Via [www.uniter.ca](http://www.uniter.ca)

## Re: “What really happened on 9-11?” (March 29, page 7)

It is disgraceful to see a comments piece advocating this laughable theory published in a university paper - worse yet to see that it is written by the news director of a radio station, whose job must certainly presume that he has the capacity to separate legitimate news stories from bunk, a capacity he utterly fails to demonstrate in this article.

Those learned minds dismissing this “Truth movement” as a conspiracy theory are not poisoning the well. The movement fulfills every pre-established rule of a conspiracy theory (not that holding evidence rigorously against pre-established rules is an important skill in Truther culture). They exploit known human cognitive biases, they demonise authority wildly, and worst of all they rely on confirmation bias exclusively to make their case.

Not accepting the findings of the 9-11 Commission, the National Institute of Science and Technology and the whole of western media is one thing. You are doing something even worse - declaring yourself to be against these findings, while clearly never having made any effort to discredit or temper your beliefs in the slightest. If you had, you would know that all the arguments the good Mr. Gage will make have been exploded long ago.

Yes, he will talk about the heat of jet fuel combustion, and the fire in building 4, and the credulous will be swayed, mistaking anomalies for proof the way our neolithic brains are programmed to.

Steve Currie  
Via [www.uniter.ca](http://www.uniter.ca)

## THE UNITER IS HIRING

### JOB POSTINGS

The following positions are based on a 30-week term running mid-August 2012 to the beginning of December 2012, and the beginning of January 2013 to the beginning of April 2013. Successful applicants will be expected to spend volunteer hours during the summer familiarizing themselves with the position, attending a mini journalism conference organized by *The Uniter*, and planning for the year ahead. Staff members are expected to attend weekly staff meetings and actively engage in the development of their position throughout the course of their employment.

For further information, call 786-9790 or email [editor@uniter.ca](mailto:editor@uniter.ca). References and at least three writing samples must be attached to resumes.

Mail, or deliver resumes in person, to *The Uniter*, ORM14 Bulman Centre, 515 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 2E9, or email your application package to: [editor@uniter.ca](mailto:editor@uniter.ca)

Only those applicants selected for interviews will be contacted. Applications are encouraged from *all* interested parties.

Application deadline for all positions is Friday, April 27 at 12 noon.

### COMMENTS EDITOR

The comments editor coordinates a weekly two- to three-page section full of well-written and compelling arguments and opinions on a variety of current events and issues. The comments editor must be familiar with a wide variety of campus, local, national and international issues of relevance to *Uniter* readers. They ensure all commentary is fair and balanced, and edit all content. They work with the managing editor to develop a healthy dialogue between *The Uniter* and its readers.

### BEAT REPORTER

The beat reporter will work closely with the news team to write two assigned stories per week and arrange for corresponding visual content. They must also regularly write blog entries on *The Uniter's* website. The chosen candidate will demonstrate a critical eye for news content, possess superior writing and interviewing skills, and work well under the pressure of deadlines. Beat reporters must be able to work in collaboration with others as well as independently.

## THE UNITER: ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

### ONLINE NOW

**CAMPUS NEWS:** Find out how the University of Winnipeg Students' Association reduced its deficit by \$70,000

### ONLINE THURSDAY, APRIL 12

**ARTS:** Winnipeg-based singer-songwriter Cara Luft talks about her new album, *Darlingford*

**ARTS:** The headbangers in local metal trio Grand Master talk about their new album, *The Dream Alive*

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## \*COVER IMAGE

PHOTO BY DYLAN HEWLETT

Photo taken following the  
Winnipeg Jets game on  
Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Interviews with  
**FRANK TURNER**  
**DUST ADAM DUST**  
**SITDOWNTRACY**

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You've heard of the  
Unabomber, but have  
you heard of the  
**Yarn-bomber?**

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### LOOKING FOR LISTINGS?

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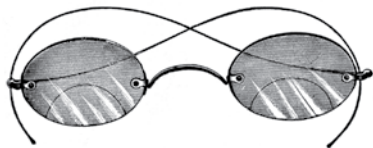
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# IF I WERE THE MAYOR OF WINNIPEG...



ANDRU VALPY

WE ASKED OUR REGULAR COMMENTS CONTRIBUTORS AND OUR READERS WHAT THEY WOULD DO IF THEY HAD SAM KATZ'S JOB. THIS IS WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY.



## EIGHT YEARS GONE

If I were the mayor of Winnipeg, before reclining into my down pillows and silk sheets, I would spend 15 minutes each night thinking about what kind of city I wanted to build, and how I could build it.

The tire-spinning that has defined Sam Katz's two-and-a-half terms has, of course, had good and bad (and disastrous) outcomes, but what they have singularly lacked is a vision for Winnipeg's future.

Without vision, what are we voting on in mayoral races? If the two (three, four or

five) candidates refuse to define their hopes for the city beyond anemic talking points, what points are there for voters to distinguish them?

The mayor must have known he would have to raise property taxes, he must have known he would have to beg the province for more infrastructure money. He must have known that his transit dreams could only be realized by an off-hand user-fee hike.

Why does he prefer acting like a toddler who wants more sweets when everyone must know he's at least enough of a

business man to figure his books three years into the future?

The last state of the city speech was a joke, empty of all policy proposals except for a coy suggestion that Katz intends to seek another term. Apparently he needs more time to complete his work. The questions that we as voters need answered are, "What work is that?" "What vision do you have?" and "Why did you fail to complete it in your first decade in office?"

Steve Currie blogs at <http://alotoftinyrobots.blogspot.com>.

## CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



# TRANSIT: YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

## Rapid transit taking its time

First phase set to open this month, but next step remains uncertain



CARSON HAMMOND  
BEAT REPORTER

The endless flip-flopping transit saga has played out before us all, year after year - on the pages of local newspapers, by hands raised (or not raised) at city council meetings and in the bitter words of impatient bus stop acquaintances.

It has unquestionably become a profound aspect of Winnipeg's collective identity.

And while the long-awaited transit revolution may not have arrived in the heart of the continent just yet, it's certainly been a year of relatively substantial progress for Winnipeg's municipal transportation systems.

Dr. Jino Distasio, director of the University of Winnipeg's Institute for Urban Studies, expressed cautious optimism about the city's recent transit developments.

"We have finally moved - inched - ourselves forward into starting a rapid transit network," he said. "We do not have a rapid transit system as of today. We have the first phase of the

first leg of a rapid transit line."

Winnipeg Transit, however, has taken a significantly less restrained tone in its recent public relations blitz.

Its apparent brand overhaul has included the plastering of a new "RT" logo and zippy advertising slogan ("Your city in fast-forward") on many of the service's buses and stops.

Paul Hesse, co-founder and member of the Winnipeg Rapid Transit Coalition, commented on the need for a more serious commitment to extending the project.

"We all know about potholes, we all know about bad sidewalks," he said. "But rapid transit and moving Winnipeg forward as a city - and helping us catch up to other cities - is important too."

Catch up to other cities indeed.

Over the past three decades, Ottawa (with a population of 1.2 million) has successfully implemented a BRT transitway network, at the cost of about \$440 million. The network weaves through the city's entire metropolitan area in conjunction with its single O-Train

line - a system that has been hailed as one of the best of its kind the world over.

"There really isn't a Canadian city that we can compare ourselves to that makes Winnipeg rapid transit look good," Hesse said, citing Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Halifax, Quebec City and Regina as other examples of centres that have successfully prioritized rapid transit in recent years.

Development is still development, though, and Winnipeggers *do* have some concrete reasons to feel better about their public transportation system starting this spring.

The \$138 million first phase of the southwest rapid transit corridor - a 3.6 kilometre stretch of dedicated busway connecting the Pembina-Jubilee overpass, Confusion Corner and Queen Elizabeth Way near The Forks - is set to open April 8.

In the meantime, Winnipeggers are more than welcome to admire the impressive-looking terminal looming above the Osborne underpass, or its still cool-looking, but comparatively less impressive little siblings, Harkness and Fort Rouge stations.

Aside from the fact that riders will soon be enjoying the brief sensation of breezing along the mid-town shortcut at an unimpeded 80 km/h - at one point through a tunnel! - cyclists will also be able to take advantage of new "bike lockers" installed at the three aforementioned transit terminals.

These free-to-use bicycle storage compartments - which, according to Transit, can be secured with regular bicycle locks - promise to compliment the nearly completed "active transportation pathway" running alongside the corridor's first phase quite nicely.

However, for every transit development, there are about 10 transit "developments."

Over the past year, Winnipeggers have witnessed controversies related to the planning and funding of the proposed southwest transitway's second phase (unresolved) a long-view, city-released Transportation Master Plan (generally accused of being too vague and speculative to be useful) and a council-approved fare hike proposal (shot down in a public backlash).

Winnipeg's proven tendency to continually debate rapid transit-related decisions, seemingly without ever committing to action, is

one that puzzles Distasio.

"There has been money for rapid transit since the '70s," he said. "It has been talked about, and talked about, and talked about, and we just have not been able to push that rock over the hill."

Distasio also expressed frustration over the latest stalemate in Winnipeg's rapid transit planning battle: the question of how to proceed with routing the southwest corridor's second phase, which, eventually, will connect the University of Manitoba to the newly built transitway.

"We've yet again decided to stall and use the same old tired debates," said Distasio, who argues that going forward with the decades-old plan to build along CN's underused Letellier Line, which runs parallel to Pembina Highway, is the obvious next step for the city.

"We do not need to think about this anymore."

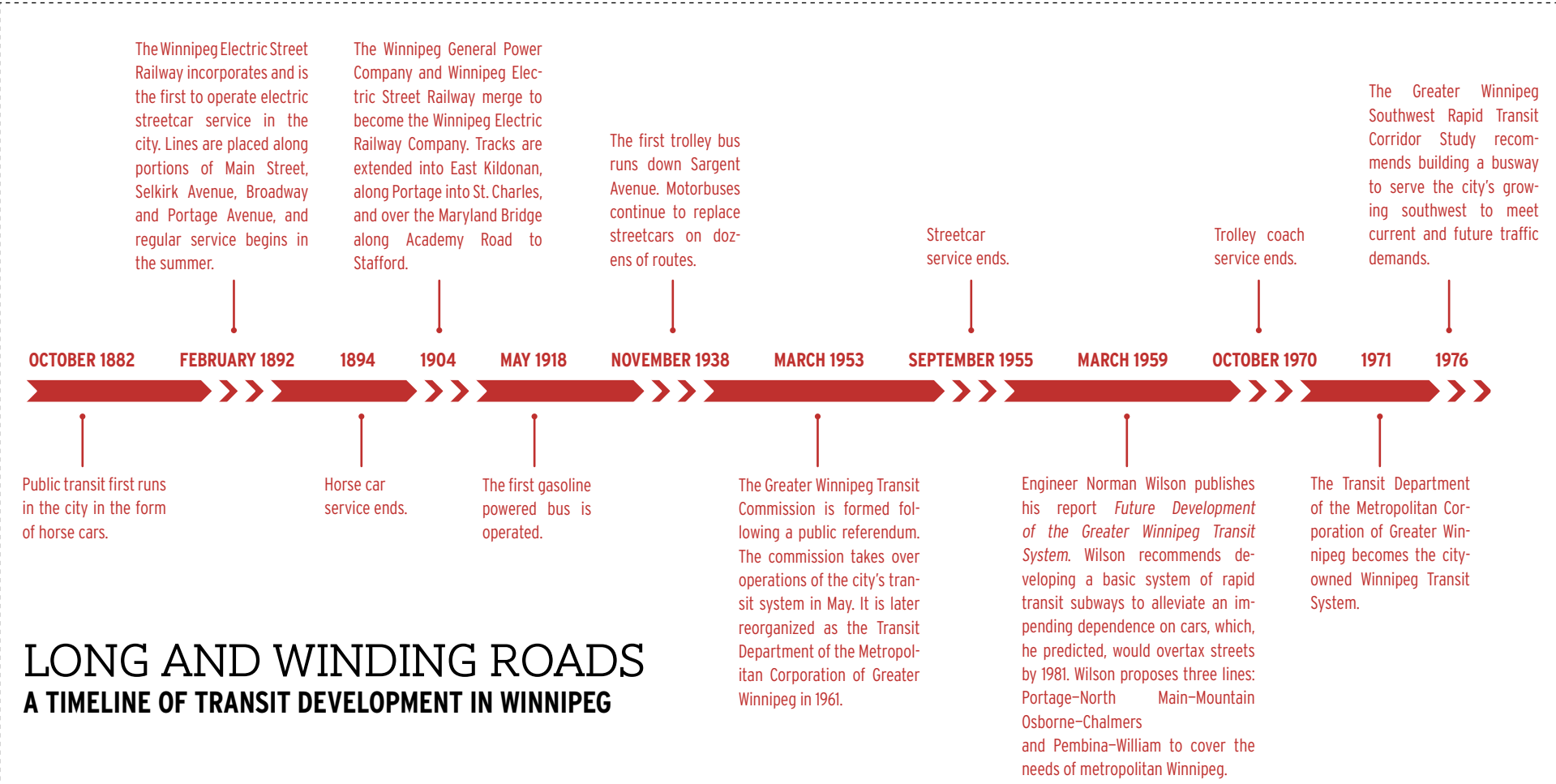
Funding for this second phase - projected at around \$275 million for BRT or around \$700 million for LRT - also remains woefully uncertain, as city, provincial and federal governments continue to play tug-of-war over costs.

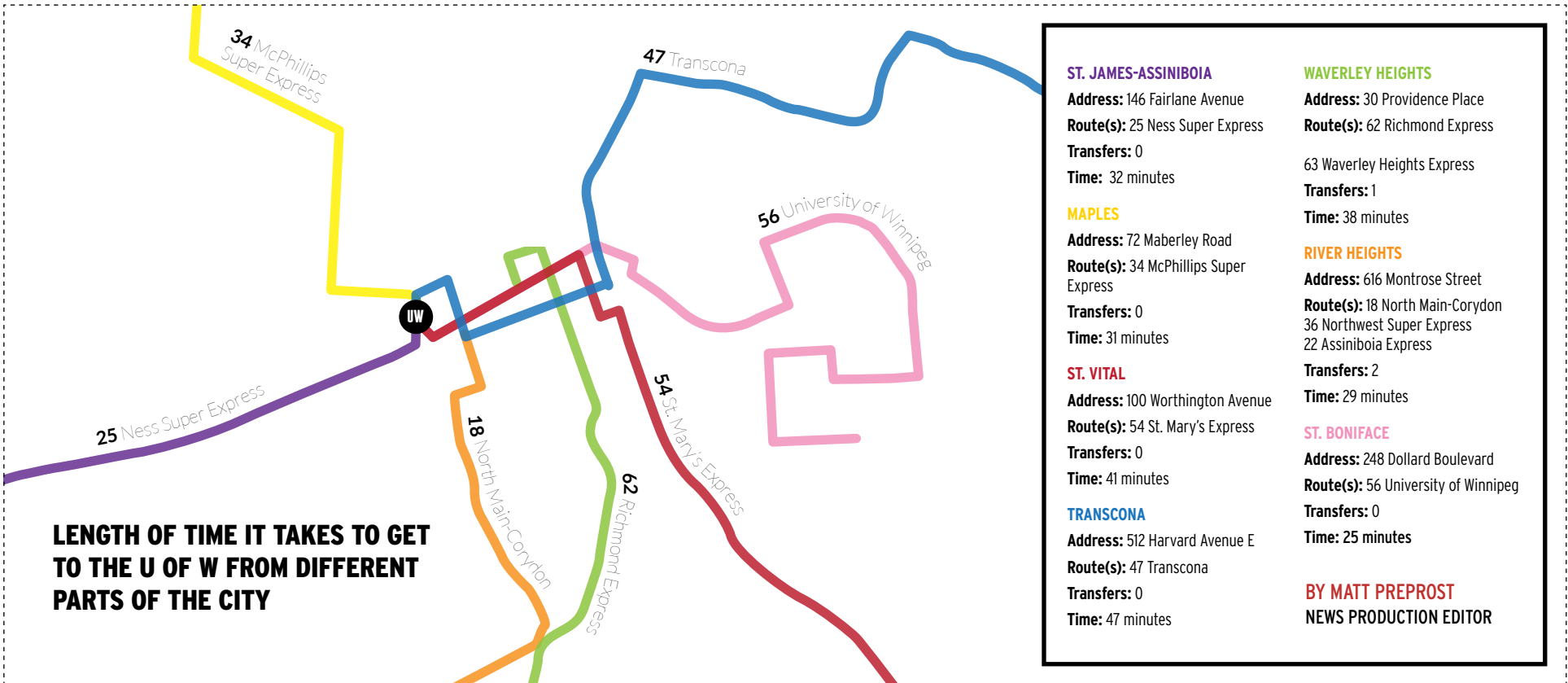
"The answer is for the province to allow the city to be a grown-up level of government," said Hesse, suggesting that revenue for transit could be generated via a gas tax dedicated to infrastructure funding, for example.

While it's difficult to speculate as to when Winnipeg officials will overcome their transit indecisiveness (the ancient BRT versus LRT debate, by the way, remains to be officially settled, with the city's transportation plan suggesting that both are technically still possibilities), most rapid transit advocates agree that the city as a whole will benefit in a variety of indirect ways when the day finally comes.

Hesse pointed out the Fort Rouge Yards, a proposed housing complex slated for construction along the Lord Roberts community segment of the corridor, is but one manifestation of rapid transit's potential as a catalyst for overall urban development.

"Transit is great for urban living and people who are living in urban environments want good transit," he added. "These things all reinforce each other." ■





# The where, when and why of transit

## Three steps to a successful public transportation system

JOSEPH WASYLICIA-LEIS AND  
ANDRÉÉ FOREST  
VOLUNTEERS

With Winnipeg's first Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) days away from opening to the public, it is clear that our city is moving towards a more efficient form of public transportation.

However, one strip of bus-only expressway is nothing to rest our transit laurels on.

While BRT will surely be a valuable part of Winnipeg's transit system, certain fundamentals of successful public transportation still remain unaddressed in the city.

According to Alan Hoffman, the founder of the Mission Group, a firm in the U.S. that develops strategies to improve the operation of cities, there are three essential requirements to any successful public transportation system, all of which are focused on the needs of the user.

**1. Get people from where they are to where they want to be**

This seems like an obvious function of public transit, but in a low-density, sprawling city like Winnipeg, achieving it isn't necessarily easy.

In order for public transportation to be considered viable, transit hubs need to be situated near places of interest (POI) where users work, live and socialize.

It isn't cost effective to have buses travel to low-density suburban neighbourhoods with the extent and frequency needed to provide



DYLAN HEWLETT

proficient service for residents.

The implementation of hub-and-spoke transit service would aid low-density public transport. This type of system consists of small shuttle buses (the spokes) traveling throughout neighbourhoods to pick up users (possibly even at their homes) and bring them to central stations (the hubs) on main routes.

The hubs and spokes support each other as higher concentrations of users at central locations mean buses on main routes can run more frequently. The use of GPS and wireless technologies would make this system efficient and accessible.

Meeting this requirement also entails a conscious and sustained effort by the city to pursue transit-oriented development (TOD).

TOD involves planning for mixed-use, high-density urban areas around transit routes and stations. This development decreases walking time between POIs and transit stations, effectively increasing convenience of using transit while decreasing the need for automobiles.

Construction of Winnipeg's first TOD is currently underway in Fort Rouge along the new rapid transit corridor.

Implementing TOD on a city-wide scale requires city hall to steer developers away from the conventional suburban form towards infill, mixed-used and high density projects. By creating and improving accessible urban neighbourhoods, demand for urban development will increase, creating positive feedback.

**2. Don't make people wait.**

Long wait times and unreliability are deterrents to taking public transit.

Regardless of the type of system (light rail, BRT, regular buses), if vehicles are there when people need them and are going to where they want to go, the system will be used.

Transit planning needs to become more flexible.

Bus schedules must adapt to meet changing transportation needs of our community during non-peak times.

Given the more than 15,000 Jets fans traveling to the MTS Centre for each home game, service to and from the venue should increase, perhaps in the form of charter buses like those for Bomber games.

This is a no-brainer: the building is situated on one of Winnipeg's busiest transit hubs, Graham Avenue.

Game time traffic is currently overwhelming regular service and the prospect of long wait times provides little incentive for fans to leave their vehicles at home.

Transit service should also be modified to better meet the temporal needs of Winnipeggers who enjoy our city's bars and clubs.

Winnipeg's core is home to the busiest drinking establishments in the city, and bus service ends over an hour before last call. If we are serious about curbing drinking and driving and want to expand the use of the transit system, extending transit hours near nightlife hotspots like Osborne Village, Corydon Avenue and the Exchange District is a win-win.

**3. Make people feel good about their decision.**

Public transit will attract ongoing use by rewarding users for their decision.

The most obvious way to achieve this is by saving them money and/or time. If commuters can travel on public transit as comfortably and conveniently as they would in a vehicle at a fraction of the cost and in the same (or shorter) amount of time, they will feel good about their choice.

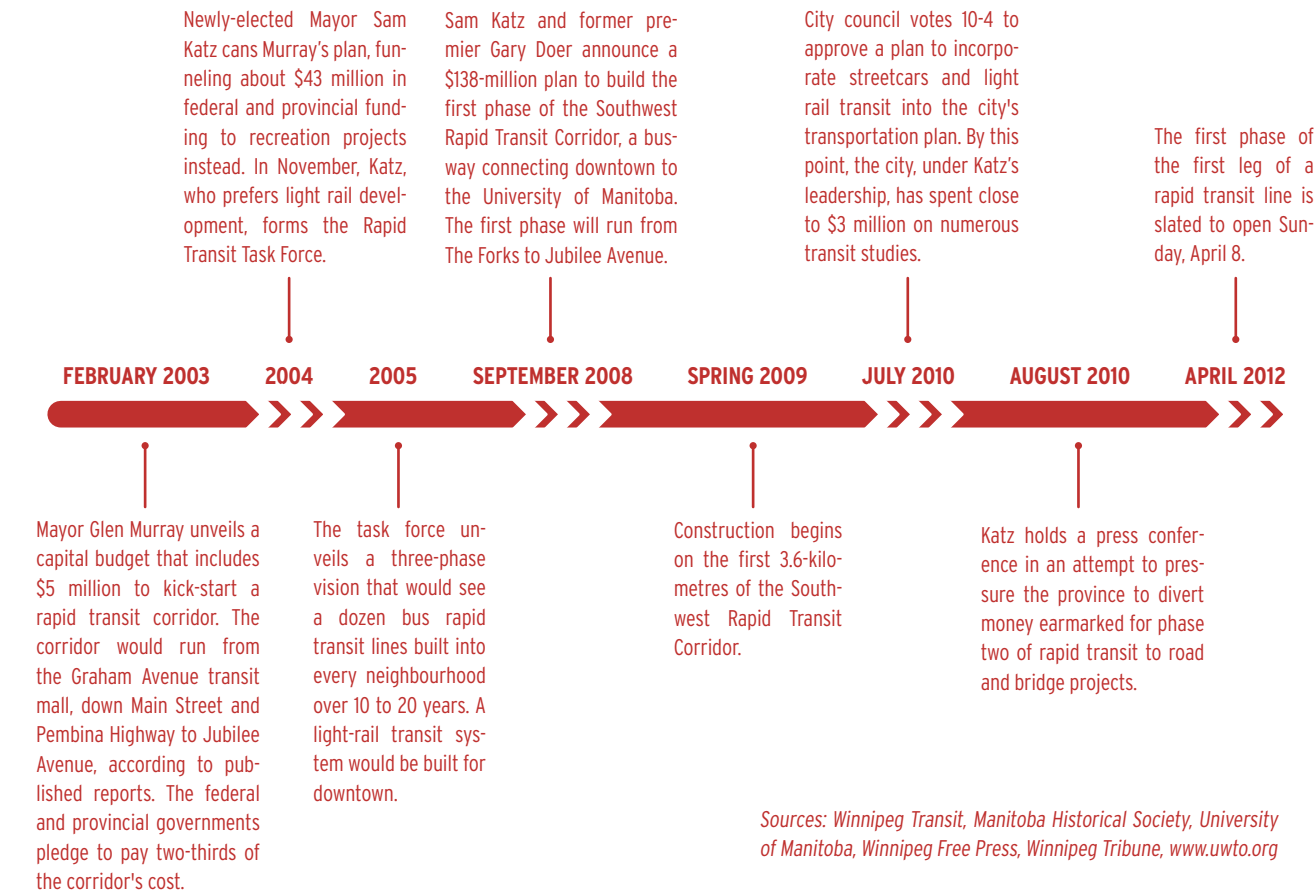
This can only be achieved by meeting the two previous requirements and by avoiding transit fare increases.

There should also be greater incorporation of public transportation and active transportation in the city, such as ensuring that buses with bike racks service certain areas, and that pedestrian and cyclist routes are given adequate attention.

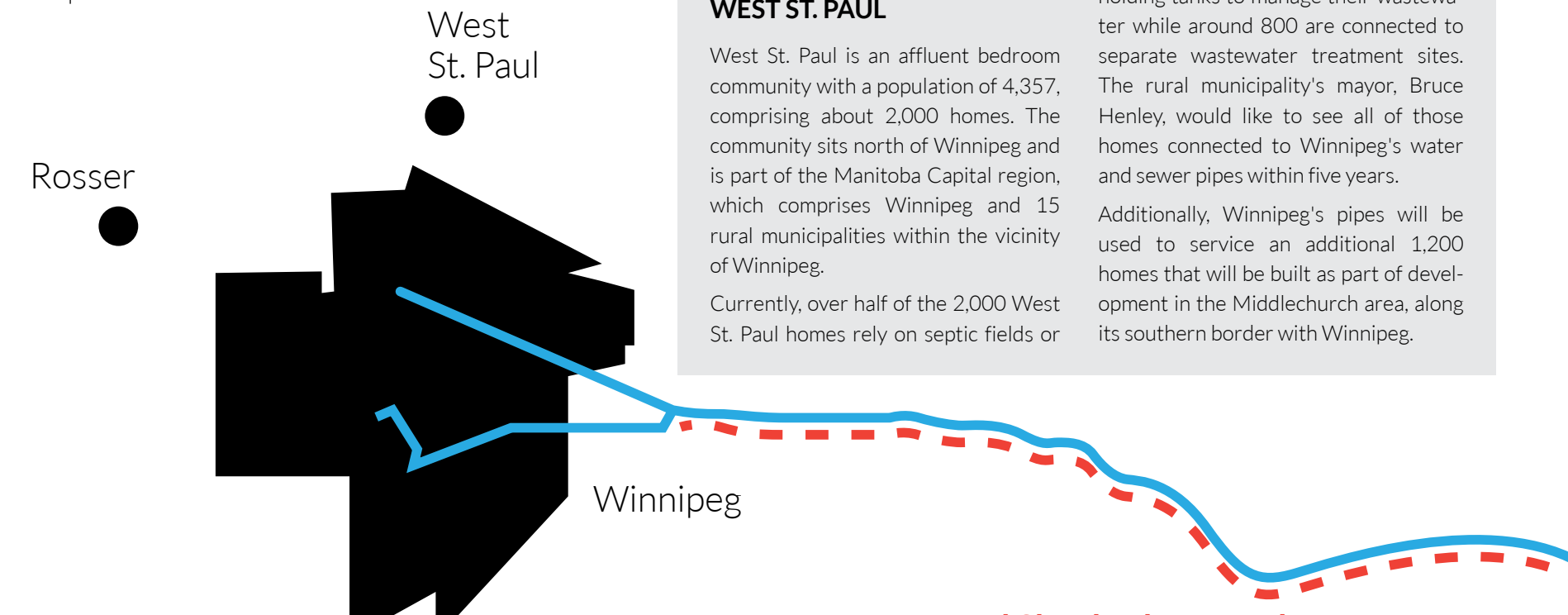
This way, Winnipeggers have even more options when choosing to move without automobiles.

In all, effective transit in Winnipeg is about where, when and why: give people service where they need it, when they need it and have them feeling good about why they're using it.

Joseph Wasylcia-Leis and Andrée Forest are geography and environmental studies majors at the University of Winnipeg, respectively. They are currently working to organize a symposium on climate change and sustainability for high school students to be held on campus in May.







### WEST ST. PAUL

West St. Paul is an affluent bedroom community with a population of 4,357, comprising about 2,000 homes. The community sits north of Winnipeg and is part of the Manitoba Capital region, which comprises Winnipeg and 15 rural municipalities within the vicinity of Winnipeg.

Currently, over half of the 2,000 West St. Paul homes rely on septic fields or

holding tanks to manage their wastewater while around 800 are connected to separate wastewater treatment sites. The rural municipality's mayor, Bruce Henley, would like to see all of those homes connected to Winnipeg's water and sewer pipes within five years.

Additionally, Winnipeg's pipes will be used to service an additional 1,200 homes that will be built as part of development in the Middlechurch area, along its southern border with Winnipeg.

### ROSSER

Rosser is a small rural municipality located northwest of Winnipeg, with a total population of 1,410 people. The community is also part of the Manitoba Capital region.

Last summer, the province and the city reached an agreement to split the \$17 million cost of extending water and sewer pipes to the community to service CentrePort; a long-term plan that involves a future facility to connect manufacturers and distributors to Winnipeg's three primary railway companies, Canadian Pacific, Canadian National and Burlington Northern Santa Fe near the Richardson International Airport. The agreement was based on the condition that a service and cost sharing agreement be negotiated and approved between Rosser and the City of Winnipeg. That has yet to happen.

### SHOAL LAKE 40

Shoal Lake 40 chief Erwin Redsky prefers a negotiated, rather than litigated, settlement with the City of Winnipeg around lake water. However, the First Nation may have no choice but to intervene in the case now that Shoal Lake 39 has officially gone to court.

Shoal Lake 40 entered into a tripartite agreement with the City of Winnipeg and the government of Manitoba in 1989. The agreement stipulated that the First Nation would be responsible for water

quality on the lake in exchange for government investments in economic development on the reserve. Redsky says that Shoal Lake 40 has not seen any permanent full-time jobs resulting from the agreement. Additionally, a promise from the federal government to build a water treatment facility was put on the back burner last year when Ottawa realized the costs could be more than double the \$7.6 million budgeted for the project. As a result, Shoal Lake 40 has been under a boil-water advisory for 17 years.

# Building out instead of up

## City grapples with opposition to expansion of water and sewer infrastructure

**ETHAN CABEL**  
NEWS ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

Is the City of Winnipeg exploiting aboriginal people to subsidize urban sprawl?

That is the question on the minds of many as negotiations between the City of Winnipeg and outlying bedroom communities to expand water and sewer services inch closer to completion.

In 2006, city council voted in favour of a plan that would allow city administrators to negotiate service-sharing deals with rural municipalities.

Late last year, that support was given more teeth through a council vote giving chief administrative officer (CAO) Phil Sheegl the authority to negotiate a service sharing agreement with West St. Paul.

Currently, negotiations are progressing rapidly with the affluent bedroom community, which plans to add 1,200 new homes along its southern border with Winnipeg in the coming years.

More than half of the current 2,000 West St. Paul homes rely on septic fields or holding tanks to manage their wastewater while around 800 are connected to separate wastewater treatment sites.

If negotiations prove successful, Winnipeggers would see the city's water and sewer pipes expanded to the community for a connection fee of \$3,000 per home and a \$200 annual service charge. Water treatment would take place at the North End Water Pollution Control Centre and treatment plant.

CAO Phil Sheegl declined an interview with *The Uniter*.

However, Steve West, corporate communications spokesperson for the city, spoke about the general benefits of service sharing on behalf of city administration.

"The sharing of water and sewer services would provide additional revenues to the City of Winnipeg through increased water and sewer revenues," he wrote in an email.

"From an environmental standpoint, service sharing would benefit the Capital Region as a whole ... much of the infrastructure in (rural) municipalities includes the use of septic fields and tanks that are not ... environmentally sustainable."

Brian Kelcey, urban affairs blogger and former budget adviser to mayor Sam Katz, argues that service sharing has the potential to curb the environmental impact of septic field run-off, generate revenue for the city and give Winnipeg a say in development that would otherwise happen without its input.

"Once we start providing a service to a municipality, it becomes easier to say, for example, that new construction should be on a corridor that's already serviced by the pipes. That's going to contain sprawl that might otherwise go anywhere without those services," he said.

"More revenue for what is, for the most part, the same amount of pipe and a little more water makes sense for the city provided that they're charging responsibly, and using that revenue responsibly, and using the new authority that delivering those services brings in achieving its long-term goals."

Additionally, service sharing has been touted as a means to help manage what city administrators estimate to be a substantial long-term population boom in Winnipeg.

According to a Feb. 1 administrative report, the population of Winnipeg is expected to grow by 174,000 people within the next 20 years.

The report, which weighs the costs and benefits of annexing rural municipalities to manage the escalating population, lists inter-municipal

service sharing as one potential tool to help manage a significantly bigger Winnipeg.

"Given this significant growth, the City is approaching a situation in which developable land could be exhausted within the next 20 years," the report states.

"If the City of Winnipeg is unable to accommodate all of its future growth within its boundaries, surrounding rural municipalities may absorb spill over growth from Winnipeg, in addition to their own growth pressures."

However, Lynne Fernandez of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, views service sharing as an outdated mechanism for managing population growth.

The city needs to build up instead of out, she said, and think creatively about development.

"To me, they are using a very outdated, last century approach to city planning rather than a modern, sophisticated approach ... that considers using all land available and using that land wisely," Fernandez said, adding that the city could develop the Kapyong Barracks for housing and find ways of facilitating infill rather than "subsidizing urban sprawl" by expanding city infrastructure.

"We can't even seem to keep the services we have contained within the city from spilling into the Red River. ... Why are we taking on more of this kind of infrastructure when we don't seem to be handling what we have properly?"

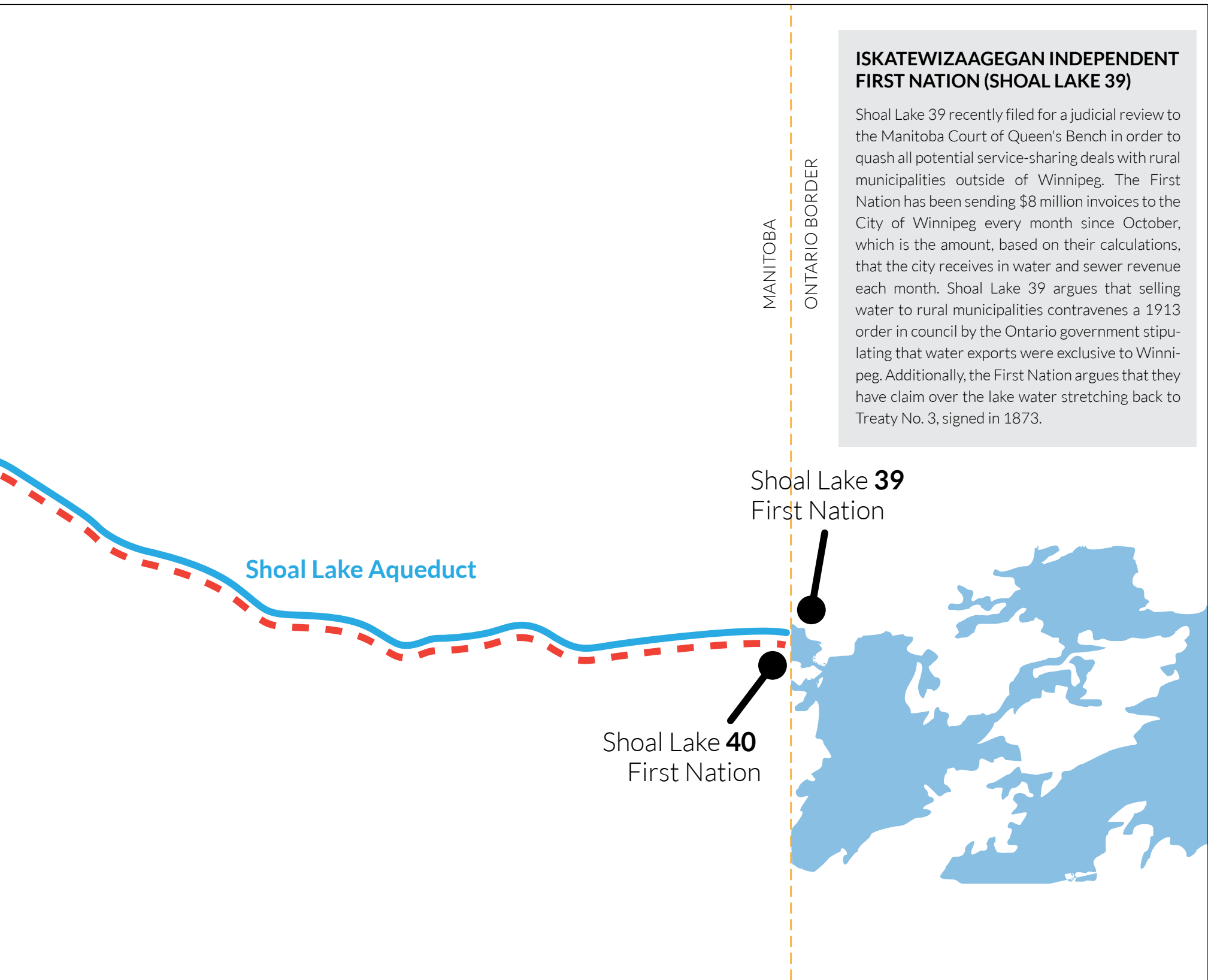
Kelcey agrees that the city needs to be planning more effectively within its boundaries, but, for him, population density in Winnipeg and service sharing are not mutually exclusive propositions.

"If we were handling urban development properly, nobody would be afraid of a few pipes out to smaller scale rural developments."

"THEY ARE USING A VERY OUTDATED, LAST CENTURY APPROACH TO CITY PLANNING RATHER THAN A MODERN, SOPHISTICATED APPROACH."

- LYNNE FERNANDEZ, POLITICAL ECONOMIST, CANADIAN CENTRE FOR POLICY ALTERNATIVES





### ISKATEWIZAAGEGAN INDEPENDENT FIRST NATION (SHOAL LAKE 39)

Shoal Lake 39 recently filed for a judicial review to the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench in order to quash all potential service-sharing deals with rural municipalities outside of Winnipeg. The First Nation has been sending \$8 million invoices to the City of Winnipeg every month since October, which is the amount, based on their calculations, that the city receives in water and sewer revenue each month. Shoal Lake 39 argues that selling water to rural municipalities contravenes a 1913 order in council by the Ontario government stipulating that water exports were exclusive to Winnipeg. Additionally, the First Nation argues that they have claim over the lake water stretching back to Treaty No. 3, signed in 1873.

### FIRST NATION TAKES CITY TO COURT

Management of density and growth is only one obstacle the city faces as it trudges forward to secure service-sharing deals.

On March 13, the Iskatewizaagegan Independent First Nation, also known as Shoal Lake 39, filed for a judicial review with the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench seeking to quash all potential expansion of Winnipeg water and sewer services.

Shoal Lake, which straddles the Manitoba-Ontario border, has been Winnipeg's source of drinking water since 1919, when a 155-kilometre aqueduct was constructed.

Two First Nations on either side of the lake, Shoal Lake 39 and Shoal Lake 40, had their lands and water expropriated for Winnipeg's use through an Ontario order in council in 1913 and a decision by the international joint commission in 1914.

The order in council places certain conditions on the expropriation of the lake water, including that export is exclusive to Winnipeg.

As a result, any deal to export water to rural municipalities would contravene the order in council, according to Shoal Lake 39 consultant Mike Myers.

"What we're asking the court to do is to quash their attempts to expand water and sewer services into other rural municipalities, which are outside the original authorization they were given back in 1913," he said.

"Our position is that we continue to own the water as per Treaty No. 3. We have never relinquished our water rights."

Treaty No. 3 was signed between various First Nations and the Government of Canada in 1873. In the case of Shoal Lake 39, there has been an ongoing dispute over whether the treaty ceded control of the First Nation's resources to the government.

Myers, speaking about the legal proceeding filed in March, argues that the treaty maintains First Nation control over natural resources and that expropriation of the lake water has breached the spirit of that agreement.



MIKE APORIUS / WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

"In Treaty No. 3 ... there's what we call the consent clause. That clause says that the Government of Canada would not allow anything to happen that will either diminish our lands or our rights and interests pertinent to those lands, without our consent," he said.

"Nobody came and got our consent to do all this so that's what we're putting in front of the court. We want their deals and everything quashed until they do consult and accommodate us."

Myers added that Shoal Lake is often flooded with outside water in order to accommodate export to Winnipeg and that erosion has eaten away traditional agricultural land.

Aimée Craft, a lawyer and aboriginal law expert with the Public Interest Law Centre, helped put Shoal Lake 39's claims into perspective.

"Governments generally do not operate on the basis of First Nations consent and that is in direct breach of international law principles and, in particular, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. It's

also in part a breach of provisions within some of the treaties that are negotiated with some Canadian First Nations," she said.

"I think governments need to be more aware of the particular situations of First Nations, accepting their treaty responsibilities, and First Nations need to be holding governments to account. Now that's a heavy burden for each of those parties to hold, but it's reflective of the historical relationship that was created by treaty."

The City of Winnipeg maintains that Shoal Lake 39's demands and claims to lake water are not legally valid.

Shoal Lake 40, which entered into a tripartite agreement with the City of Winnipeg and government of Manitoba in 1989 around economic development, has been under a boil-water advisory for nearly 20 years.

According to chief Erwin Redsky, they would prefer a negotiated, rather than litigated, settlement with the city around the lake water but may intervene in litigation in conjunction with Shoal Lake 39 at a later date. ■

"NOBODY CAME AND GOT OUR CONSENT TO DO ALL THIS SO THAT'S WHAT WE'RE PUTTING IN FRONT OF THE COURT. WE WANT THEIR DEALS AND EVERYTHING QUASHED UNTIL THEY DO CONSULT AND ACCOMMODATE US."

- MIKE MYERS, CONSULTANT, ISKATEWIZAAGEGAN INDEPENDENT FIRST NATION (SHOAL LAKE 39)





DYLAN HEWLETT

# UNICITY: FORTY YEARS LATER

## Forty years after its inception, Unicity is generally considered a noble failure



**MICHAEL DUDLEY**  
VOLUNTEER

A person born in the 1990s will be forgiven if they are unfamiliar with the fact that the city in which they currently reside is not the same one that existed prior to Jan. 1, 1972.

On that date, provincial legislation amalgamated 13 formerly independent municipalities to form the city of Winnipeg (or Metro for short) - an entity known as Unicity.

However, for most students at the University of Winnipeg, the term “Unicity” is probably chiefly known as the name of a prominent taxicab company and a shopping mall, rather than a bold concept in urban governance.

This obscurity is not merely a function of the term being 40 years old this year, but also relates to the fact that most of those features that made it such an important and innovative experiment in urban governance have long since withered away through design or neglect.

For a dozen years prior to Unicity, Winnipeg functioned under a two-tier system of governance known as the Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg (or Metro for short), in which Winnipeg and the 12 other municipalities (St. James, Assiniboia, St. Boniface, Transcona, St. Vital, West Kildonan, East Kildonan, Tuxedo, Old Kildonan, North Kildonan, Fort Garry and Charleswood) each managed their own affairs, levied their own taxes and held responsibility for local roads, water and parks.

However, an additional metropolitan level of government existed above all of these, and held responsibility for planning major roads, major water and sewer systems and major parks.

Between them, these levels of local government paid the salaries of no fewer than 112 councillors.

This arrangement was, as one could imagine, incredibly unwieldy.

Planning any infrastructure (like a road) that would cross from one municipality to another not only required those councils to agree to it, but was also fraught with disagreement over what constituted a major road or a local one.

The Unicity model not only sought to streamline and coordinate decision-making over such matters, but was imbued with very progressive goals, such as empowering residents and diminishing the distance between them and their government.

Unicity’s council was composed of an astonishing 50 seats, and councillors worked not only with a board of commissioners, but 13 community committees with decision-making powers, as well as resident advisory groups (RAGs).

Significantly, Unicity equalized mill rates, with the view to preventing the kind of spatial inequities seen in so many American cities, where suburbs are able to lure away busi-

nesses and households from urban cores with more favourable tax regimes and better-funded schools.

It also aimed to control outward expansion of the city by eliminating the fragmented planning of Metro.

If all of this sounds unfamiliar, that’s not surprising.

The progressive and democratizing functions of Unicity were short-lived: over the years, successive “reforms” have seen council whittled down to its present 15 seats (with correspondingly larger wards) the 13 community committees reduced to a mere five and the RAGs and the commissioners eliminated - the former apparently for lack of interest on the part of residents.

At the same time - and over successive administrations - more authority has been vested in the Mayor’s Office.

Since suburban interests ended up dominating council, the equalization of tax levies did little to steer investment into the inner city.

As well, far from containing urban growth, Winnipeg’s council lost any planning authority over the former “additional zone” on the periphery so that the same patterns that prevailed under Metro - competition and fragmentation - are now repeated on a regional scale.

Unicity also did little to diminish the social, economic, racial and cultural fragmentation of the city, which makes addressing inner-city poverty and marginalization such a challenge.

On a larger scale, neither Unicity nor the City of Winnipeg Charter Act (2002) appear to have facilitated more harmonious relations with the province, to which the ongoing battle over funding the expansion of rapid transit attests.

Taken together, it is unsurprising that Unicity is generally considered a noble failure by pretty much all observers, and across the political spectrum.

Perhaps it was too grand and complex a model for such a modestly populated city or perhaps it was too much to expect that a century of inter-municipal fragmentation and disparities could be legislated away.

Maybe several more decades are needed before Winnipeggers overcome this history and think of themselves as residents of one city, instead of one of its constituent parts.

Clearly, the governance of Winnipeg is a work in progress.

If nothing else, the legacy of Unicity may be that urban governance should be seen as a matter worthy of experimentation, rather than adhering to a status quo - and that further experimentation is not only possible, but necessary.

*Michael Dudley has a Master of City Planning from the University of Manitoba. He is the senior research associate and library coordinator at the Institute of Urban Studies at the University of Winnipeg.*

## Winning back City Hall with small victories



**ETHAN CABEL**  
NEWS ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

Over the course of several years working for *The Uniter* and following the day-to-day events at City Hall, I have noticed a propensity among Winnipeg administrators and politicians to skirt responsibility when faced with media inquiries and public criticism.

The powers that be have grown insular and exude a sense of entitlement. They often float out proposals and make decisions behind closed doors and, even when their decisions have merit, they lack the intellectual fortitude or the passion to defend them.

As a result, suspicion and cynicism festers among the voting public.

Take, for example, an executive policy committee decision in 2008 to forgive mayor Sam Katz’s \$233,000 city tax debt in the Riverside Park Management fiasco or the mayor’s frequent trips to Arizona. It appears that, due to one such trip, he was absent for the city’s annual Remembrance Day ceremony at the Winnipeg Convention Centre last year.

Take, for example, the mayor’s decision to hold the city’s annual holiday party at Hu’s Asian Bistro, a restaurant he owns, and then subsequently file the event as a city expense. Or his decision to downplay conflict of interest allegations after his close friend, Phil Sheegl, was hired as the city’s top administrator to culminate a closed-off, secretive process.

Sheegl subsequently erected a statue of the “three wise monkeys” - see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil - outside his City Hall office.

I think these incidents speak volumes about a culture of arrogance among public officials in Winnipeg.

Although all of the above examples have been widely reported by the media, the consequences were marginal, to the say the least, which creates a flippant attitude among city staffers when approached to comment on more substantial issues.

In the case of Winnipeg’s potential service sharing deal with West St. Paul over water and waste infrastructure, *The Uniter* was hard pressed to find a public servant or city councillor willing to publicly defend, and properly explain the merits of, expanding our pipes to the bedroom community.

There is a reason for this insular culture and, unfortunately, a lot of it can be attributed to multiple decisions that have incrementally watered down the intention of Unicity, which took effect 40 years ago.

When the amalgamation of 13 previously separate municipalities took place in 1972, there were 50 city councillors, a Board of Commissioners, 13 community committees (representing each of the amalgamated municipalities) and resident advisory groups (RAGs) to advise those committees.

The community committees and resident advisory groups encouraged the public to get involved in the city’s public policy process. Having 50 councillors encouraged political parties to seek election based on well-com-

municated public policy platforms because having a council of 50 independents would be impossibly unruly.

In other words, public participation and strong, responsible government was encouraged.

However, each structural reform since 1972 has served to decrease the power of the public, increase the power of the popularly elected mayor and weaken the strength of council as a whole.

In 1977, the number of council seats were reduced to 29 and the community committees reduced to six. In 1989, the mayor was given the power to appoint an executive policy committee comprised of friendly city councillors. (They had previously been appointed by council as a whole.)

In 1992, the number of council seats was reduced to 15, the community committees to five and the RAGs abolished outright. In 1997, city administration was centralized and the mayor was awarded the power to dismiss the chief administrative officer, the head of the public service.

All of these reforms contributed to give us the council, and the political culture, we have today.

### THE POWERS THAT BE IN WINNIPEG HAVE GROWN INSULAR AND EXUDE A SENSE OF ENTITLEMENT

But where do we go from here?

As much as academics and urban nerds like to speculate about structural minutia, it is important not to overstate the importance of structural change.

In other words, I think we can win back City Hall through small victories.

Take, for example, Old Kildonan councillor Devi Sharma’s recent decision to open a constituency office in her ward and to spend her public allowance frugally. Such an act goes a long way to dispel the suspicions of voters worn down by a police service with ticket quotas and a mayor who can’t pay for his own dinner at his own restaurant.

Take, for example, the abundance of important community groups, from the Winnipeg Citizens Coalition, the Social Planning Council, the Spence Neighbourhood Association and the Council of Women of Winnipeg that are attempting to shape the future of our city.

Finally, look at the burgeoning population of bloggers and concerned citizens that are putting pressure on city council to be more effective and transparent.

These may be small measures. But, taken together, they can help change the political culture of Winnipeg and, perhaps eventually, create the conditions for long-lasting, workable structural change.

*Ethan Cabel is a politics student at the University of Winnipeg and The Uniter’s news assignment editor.*



# IF I WERE THE MAYOR OF WINNIPEG...

## WALKABLE URBANITY

If I were the mayor, I would strive to transform Winnipeg into a more sustainable city based on the concept of walkable urbanity. No longer would developers of suburban neighbourhoods get an immediate green light. Instead, development would shift to focus on brownfield development by filling in the empty holes of land dotted across the city and increase density.

Through a collaborative inter-governmental process, local residents would be involved in decisions that affect their communities. Ultimately, the creation of detailed neighbourhood plans would incorporate broader planning issues such as active transportation and climate change adaptation.

My first action as mayor would be to push for the immediate completion of the Southwest Rapid Transit Corridor to the University of Manitoba. Additionally, other rapid transit lines would break ground before the end of my term.

To ensure a successful rapid transit network, transit-oriented development would play a significant role. The planning and building of residential and commercial enclaves that are designed to be fully accessible by public transit would be key parts to the transit network. All of this would be financed through borrowing on future property tax increases (tax incremental financing) and a two-cent tax on gas.

I strongly feel that when well-planned neighbourhoods take advantage of rapid transit in order to spark a renewal of their community, a higher standard of living can be created for their inhabitants. As mayor, this is what I would try to accomplish.

*Michael Rac is a University of Winnipeg graduate. In September, he will begin studying for a Master's degree in City Planning.*

## PRAGMATIC AND PROGRESSIVE

If I were the mayor of Winnipeg, I would consult the city's diverse and knowledgeable community organizations, policy think tanks, business/labour groups and academics to develop innovative, grassroots and effective approaches to address our most pressing issues.

According to the latest results of the city-funded Probe Research *Most Important Issue/Concern Facing Winnipeg, Consistent Top Issues*, Winnipeggers' top three issues are crime, infrastructure (roads) and poverty.

If I were the mayor, I would maximize existing police resources - focus on the effective Organized Crime Unit. I would establish an independent Civilian Review Agency.

I would invest in community centres and programming, increase staff and extend hours to give at-risk youth a positive environment.

I would assign social workers to community police officers to answer high-recidivist domestic violence incidences, helping families cope rather than splitting them apart.

I would create a comprehensive map of road conditions, and fix them in order of severity, providing internships to city planning and engineering students.

I would be innovative in testing and investing in new road surface technology, including mixing of pavement types for residential, sidewalks and high-traffic roads.

I would reign in urban sprawl, provide incentives for downtown development, eliminate surface parking lots, protect existing green space and modernize zoning.

I would develop a strategy to address the needs of Winnipeg's aging population.

I would implement incremental inflationary tax increases over 3 years and optimize available resources, reducing inefficiencies.

I would develop a strong poverty reduction strategy for Winnipeg that includes targets, timelines and indicators of success. I would invest in subsidized and safe social housing in a variety of neighbourhoods across the city.

I would support community organizations, Community Economic Development projects and Neighbourhoods Alive! initiatives.

Finally, for fun (and tourism revenue), I would commission a Glenn Murray-style legacy project: a "Gateway to the North" monument, like St. Louis's Gateway Arch, London's Marble Arch or Paris's Arc de Triomphe.

*David Jacks was president of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association in 2007-2008, and is currently majoring in international development studies and rhetoric, writing and communication at the U of W.*

## SUPERMODELS AND STRONG COMMUNITIES

As mayor, I will hire supermodels to serve free champagne on city buses, an idea I'd be borrowing from marketing guru Rory Sutherland. People will complain that the ride is too short and you'll need bouncers at bus stops to make sure the lineup doesn't get out of control.

Strong communities are the best security system, so I will sell the police helicopter and use the funds saved for a "Get To Know Your Neighbour" program including free supplies for block parties. The obnoxious clatter passing through our bedroom windows at 1 a.m., reminding us to believe we live in an incredibly dangerous place, will be replaced by joyous laughter.

To ensure more leisure time, incentives will be provided to businesses who consider four days to be a full work week.

Any car with an alarm blaring will be fair game for legalized graffiti. Gas sold within city limits will be taxed severely. The funds will go towards planting trees. We'll be the forest city. Naturally, this will increase tourism dollars more than any museum can and we'll use that tax revenue to subsidize local beer.

We can't be everything to everyone. Let's not bother trying to please those who want life to be drab or think it's cool to wreck the Earth. Calgary already has that niche covered.

Instead, let's make Winnipeg heaven for folks who want incredible and ethical lives. People will flock here.

*Lyndon Froese, 26, is in his fourth year of semi-retirement. He is the co-founder of the House Party of Canada, the tiny political party stealing the tactics of the advertising industry to make a more kick-ass Canada. Visit [www.thehouseparty.ca](http://www.thehouseparty.ca).*

## JENNAPEG: ONE GREAT CITY!

Not to be a complete narcissist, but if I were the mayor, my first order of business would be to change the name of Winnipeg to "Jennapeg." Let's be honest, as a television personality, I do have narcissistic tendencies - and it has a nice ring to it, doesn't it?

I would change the full-time work format to a 10-hour day/four-day work week. Included in that amendment is a mandatory afternoon siesta and an alcohol optional daily happy hour, in which the additional two hours a day would be spent. This would foster a well-rested, mentally healthy and socially connected workforce.

I'd introduce urban agriculture to Winnipeg with a Rooftop Garden Project. All new buildings could be outfitted with city-funded rooftop gardens to help us grow our own food, help in the absorption of carbon dioxide, reduce air pollution and reduce heating and cooling bills. They also look pretty.

As the city wraps up its first phase of bus rapid transit, I would take public transportation in a different direction.

I fell in love with the Underground in London, and think Jennapeg would benefit from a subway system. I have a lot of local music shows to get to and theatre to immerse myself in, and I want to get there fast!

Recorded subway announcements will, of course, be delivered in a British accent. Mind the gap, please!

And that's only the beginning...

Please note: cost-effectiveness and feasibility have been ignored in my big plans for Jennapeg.

*Jenna Khan is the weather and entertainment host for Breakfast Television on Citytv.*

## AN END TO MALATHION

If I were the mayor of Winnipeg, I would end malathion spraying, not only for the obvious environmental reasons but as a matter of principle. To use a biblical metaphor, which I think is apt since Winnipeg mosquitoes resemble a pre-exodus plague, stopping malathion spraying separates the wheat from the chaff.

Winnipeg was built by strong women and men who, for God only knows what reason, chose Winnipeg to hunt, fish, trap and later farm instead of much easier climes such as Tampa.

But those that came here stayed, collaborated and rebelled together. This spirit of mutual camaraderie and stoicism that comes with living in such a harsh but beautiful landscape still exists in this city despite societal pressure towards convenience. Yes, the summer is short, mosquitoes are a nuisance and the city thankfully is moving towards more biologically sensitive options.

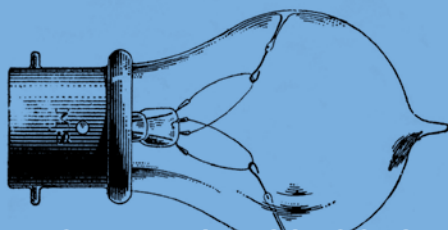
But to continue to have malathion as a back-up seems like an affront to all that Winnipeg stands for.

Winnipeg is full of innovative survivors. Not spraying for mosquitoes strengthens our resolve and our respect for fellow citizens. Those are two qualities that are good to be reminded of.

*Lucas Redekop grew up in southern Ontario and has lived in Winnipeg for the past nine years. He currently lives in West Broadway and studies at the University of Winnipeg.*



# IF I WERE THE MAYOR OF WINNIPEG...



## FROM THE GRASSROOTS UP

While my Anabaptist convictions tend to make me ill at ease with the idea of holding public office, the question of what I would do as mayor of Winnipeg has crossed my mind on many occasions. Whenever I do so, I wrestle in the tension between pursuing my vision for our city with while still representing the expectations of Winnipeggers, even when they might contradict my convictions.

Perhaps I am simply idealistic.

Many of the civil servants of Winnipeg, some of whom have served us for decades, not only possess great experience and wisdom, but also have the benefit of not having to worry about re-election. Among other things, this gives them insight into what the city needs in terms far greater than a few short years. I would give a great deal of attention and authority to people, from

the Chief Administrative Officer down to every sanitation employee.

I would also work hard to nurture a city identity that is encompassing and not just a matter of good PR.

In other words, instead of claiming every high point as an achievement of our city, yet criticizing the crime of this neighbourhood or that, I would want every Winnipegger to genuinely have a sense of ownership of our whole city - both the good and the bad - regardless of where they live.

Then, I would do what I could to empower those residents to find creative ways to make our city a better place from the grassroots up.

*Jamie Arpin-Ricci lives and works in the West End. He is a pastor and the author of The Cost of Community (IVPress/Like-wise Books, 2011).*



## PARTY DOWNTOWN

If I were the mayor, I would not extend parking metre hours or double their rates downtown. I would close Portage and Main this summer for a "Get Together Downtown" festival.  
I would also get Jets games aired on the giant screen at Portage and Notre Dame.  
I would also ride my bike or take a bus everywhere to promote this alternative to automobiles. The transit system would be reevaluated and revamped.  
I would make the city better.  
*Huy Nguyen is a student.*



## THE KICKER

If I were the mayor of Winnipeg, I'd spend most of my time in Phoenix and kick children in the head.  
*Jared Story is a freelance writer and comedian.*

## SOCIAL WELFARE RESOURCES KEY

If I were the mayor of Winnipeg, I would maintain a small budget to help provide funding to social welfare resources such as Osborne House, a safe shelter for women and children seeking refuge from domestic violence. Osborne House is an especially important resource that has been in the news as of late, as city council rejected their request for \$450,000 in funding to make up for declining private donations.

The patrons of Osborne House are largely brought to the shelter by police responding to domestic assault calls.

The Winnipeg Sun recently reported that 17,000 domestic violence calls to police were made in 2010 and they outnumber other calls for service by two to one.

Through the shelter, the city's women and chil-

dren are offered a lifeline to escape from unstable situations that could erupt into deadly violence, as in the case of the March 24 murder of a woman in her Jefferson Avenue apartment by her domestic partner (who committed suicide).

The City has ostensibly pledged their support to human rights through providing the Canadian Museum for Human Rights with \$20 million in funding, including a \$5.1 million capital contribution.

My budget to provide funding for social welfare resources such as Osborne House would clearly illustrate to Winnipeggers that I am concerned about the human rights of our citizens in the here and now by enabling resources to continue to provide for all members of our community, I would support the growth of a healthier, happier City of Winnipeg.

*Erika Miller is a student at the University of Manitoba.*

## CLEANING UP

If I were the mayor of Winnipeg, the first thing I would do is halt the redevelopment plan for Winnipeg's city-owned golf courses.

My second order of business would be to make Winnipeg an environmental leader by implementing local food, clean air and greenhouse gas emissions initiatives. Along the same lines, I would also begin an active living initiative to make the city more bike- and pedestrian-friendly.

After that, I would explore the possibility of negotiating service contracts with academic institutions such as the University of Winnipeg, University of Manitoba, Red River College and Canadian Mennonite University so that stu-

dents pay for transit passes through a modest student fee. The passes would be valid for the term in which the fees were paid and would guarantee funds for transit while providing students with a paid-for alternative to using a vehicle.

My final goal would be to clean up city hall. I would hire an integrity commissioner and conduct an administrative review to make city hall more accountable.

And on the seventh day I'd probably rest.

*Britt Embry is the copy and style editor at The Uniter.*



CAMPUS | SPECIAL FEATURE

# UNIVERSITY SPRAWL

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG** is growing at unprecedented rates, yet still remains among the most crowded universities. As faculty cuts increase, students and professors are demanding more budget transparency, while the university demands funding equality from the province. Is the university growing beyond its means?

STORY BY **AMY GROENING**  
CAMPUS BEAT REPORTER

PHOTOS BY **DYLAN HEWLETT** AND **KAITLYN EMSLIE FARRELL**  
PHOTO EDITOR / VOLUNTEER STAFF



**IN THE LAST EIGHT YEARS**, the shape of the University of Winnipeg campus has changed considerably. With older campus buildings crumbling and a more than 50 per cent enrolment increase in recent years, a vigorous expansion plan was put in place for a campus nearly bursting at the seams.

According to a budget slideshow available on the university's website, the university's footprint has expanded to 1,101,000 square feet, up from 902,000 square feet in 2004. However, the student body at the U of W has increased by 55 per cent since 2000.

A 2006 study of 12 different university campuses conducted by then-associate vice president finance Doug Prophet showed the U of W had the least amount of space per student, said Bill Balan, vice-president of finance and administration at the U of W.

Expansion projects added a theatre building, science complex, business centre and a student residence to the campus in a period of six years. However, these additions still allow only 132 square feet of space per student, keeping the university one of the most crowded campuses in the country, said Balan.

"Students are sitting in every nook and cranny because there's nowhere for them to sit," said Balan.

The additions have garnered criticism from students, many of whom have drawn a connection between the increase of buildings and a decrease in operating budgets.

University of Winnipeg Students' Association science director William Ring said the expansions have left him questioning where the U of W administration's priorities lie.

Class sizes and availability of professors have decreased as the student body expands, said Ring.

"We're touting ourselves as a small university where you can connect with your professors, but there aren't enough professors to actually do that," Ring said.

Pauline Pearson, president of the University of Winnipeg Faculty Association, said that while recent faculty cuts were suspicious, she does not believe they were caused by the expansions.

Pearson does draw a potential connection between the university's unexpectedly stringent budget and collective bargaining for the new student assistant union and the contract academic staff bargaining unit.

"Both of those units have been chronically underfunded as well, so the timing is somewhat suspect," she said.

University budgets are far from transparent, said Pearson, which poses concerns for students, faculty and staff.

"I'm hopeful that the actions of the students and the faculty will prompt the administration to be more open and transparent,



and to work together with faculty," she said.

Allen Mills, a politics professor at the U of W, acknowledges that university expansion is necessary. However, he questions the reasoning behind erecting the \$40-million athletic field house that is slated to be built on Spence Street.

"I think the new field house is a misuse of our resources and a misuse of our priorities," said Mills. "We need more space for students to spread out rather than play soccer."

The university should put more effort into ensuring there are adequate teaching spaces and student resources at the university, he added.

"We need more classrooms, common rooms

and general space for students to stretch."

He added that many students who attend university are unprepared for the demands of academia, and lack the resources to succeed in their studies.

"There are many students that in some way seem to be endlessly failing - not coming to class, unable to engage in the basic kinds of academic exercises," said Mills. "They should be given appropriate supports."

**NO CONNECTION**

Vice-president Bill Balan maintains there is no connection between building expansion and budget cuts.

The donations and funding the university receives for campus expansion could not be redirected to operating budgets. Funding works similarly to a trust account, he said.

"You have to account for designated funds. Every project we created, funds had to be raised for that purpose."

Balan added that the university avoids putting up buildings it cannot afford to operate and leases out available property in order to recoup operating costs.

Canad Inns rents space in the AnX and the university has received letters of intent from many businesses interested in field house space.

Fundraising efforts to finance construc-



**THE RICHARDSON COLLEGE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND SCIENCE COMPLEX**

The Richardson College officially opened on June 27, 2011, adding 150,000 square feet of space to the university campus.

Bill Balan, vice-president of finance and administration, said the university had received a notice from the city that the current science labs were to be quarantined.

"(The science labs) were not kept up to standard, and (city officials) were already worried about toxicities," said Balan.

After consultations with the campus and contractors, it became clear that building a new science complex would be more cost-effective than renovating the old labs.

A project launched in 2006, the building of the Richardson College was named in honour of the Richardson Foundation, which gifted \$3.5 million to the project, according to university press releases.

The total capital costs of the building came to \$66.5 million, according to Balan. The project was funded by a combination of private and governmental donations made through the University of Winnipeg Foundation.

The provincial government made two contributions: one of \$25 million and another of \$7 million for development of laboratories and a vivarium. The federal government contributed \$18 million to the project, and the Power Corporation of Canada contributed \$1 million, according to a press release.



**THE BUHLER CENTRE**

The Buhler Centre opened on August 26, 2010, after just 11 months of construction.

The Board of Regents approved the creation of the centre in the summer of 2009. It had become clear that rapid expansion of the business and administration programs would soon overflow the capacity of available facilities, said Balan.

The total budget for construction of the centre was \$14.9 million, thanks in part to a \$4 million donation from the Bonnie and John Buhler Foundation.

While the building adds approximately 30,000 square feet of space to the campus, Balan said the continued growth of the business program means the building is constantly at capacity.

"The fastest growing faculty we have is the faculty of business," he said.

"We need to accommodate them, and we're still running out of space."

Prior to construction of the centre, the university accommodated students by renting the Massey Building in the Exchange District. Administration has saved \$800,000 in leasing costs by moving from the Massey to a university-owned building.

These savings are being put toward the mortgage of the centre.

"Instead of paying for someone else's building way over there, we're paying for a building for our own use," said Balan. "In 20 or 30 years, when the mortgage is paid off, that's an asset for the university."





tion of the buildings are funneled through the University of Winnipeg Foundation - a separate, charitable entity of the U of W founded in 2002.

A separate fundraising entity helps to ensure appropriate handling of endowments, explained foundation chair Brian Daly

“(Administration) wanted someone independent to ensure the long-term health and viability of the endowment for scholarships and bursaries,” he said.

In 2007, the foundation began aggressive fundraising tactics for its Opportunities Capital Campaign. A goal of \$135 million was set, according to Daly.

That goal was reached in September 2011,

at which point the campaign ceased operations.

Approximately \$83 million of the total was gained through fundraising, with an additional \$51 million from government grants, gifts in kind and sponsorship, said Daly.

This funding was meant for several different areas of development, including facilities and infrastructure, student awards and academic enhancements.

A strategic review completed by the previous administration had identified funding priorities. Improved student residences and facilities for science and theatre students were among the needs identified, and projects were created for these expansions.

The Asper Institute for Theatre and Film was in use by September 2008. In fall of the following year, students moved into the new McFeetors Hall residence. The Richardson College for the Environment and Science Complex opened in June 2011.

The expansion plan continued, with additions of the Buhler Centre, the AnX and the soon-to-be constructed Field House and Health and Wellness Centre.

FUNDING ISSUES

According to Balan, a rapid increase in student enrolment has put strain on the university’s already shaky budget. This is exacerbated by a provincial funding disparity between the U of W, the University of Manitoba and Brandon University.

The U of W applied for funding when it received its charter in 1967. At the time, the province had a lower budget available for funding post-secondary institutions, said Balan.

The province therefore negotiated a low rate for the university.

Comparatively, the U of M and BU applied for funding at a time when the province had more money available in the budget, said Balan.

Policy on provincial funding for post-secondary education ensures that every institution gets the same percentage increase of funding, regardless of enrollment growth, he said.

In the past 10 years, the U of W student body has grown by 55 per cent, while the U of M has increased enrollment by 29 per cent and BU enrollment has grown by 16.4 per cent.

“We lose money on every new student that joins the university,” Balan said.

Erin Selby, Manitoba’s minister of advanced education and literacy, said the province allocates funds per program, not per student.

Some programs at the U of M and BU are more expensive to run, said Selby.

“Not all programs cost the same. If you’re offering medical programs, dentistry, those programs cost more nursing costs more,” she said.

Since 1999, the U of W has received a 95 per cent increase in its operating grant, and \$120.5 million in capital, Selby added.

“Certainly universities decide how they’re going to spend (the funding). We’ve got to live within our means,” she said.

Last year, the province began a program to increase funding to all universities by five per cent each year for the next three years. The predictability of the funding increases allows universities to plan ahead, said Selby. ■

“WE LOSE MONEY ON EVERY NEW STUDENT THAT JOINS THE UNIVERSITY”

- BILL BALAN, VICE-PRESIDENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION, UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

“I THINK THE NEW FIELD HOUSE IS A MISUSE OF OUR RESOURCES AND A MISUSE OF OUR PRIORITIES. WE NEED MORE SPACE FOR STUDENTS TO SPREAD OUT RATHER THAN PLAY SOCCER.”

- ALLEN MILLS, POLITICS PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG



THE ANX

Based in the former Greyhound bus depot, the AnX houses the English Language Program (ELP) classes and administrative offices, as well as the university bookstore, a Starbucks and Garbanzo’s Pizza Pub.

Ongoing construction caused different components of the AnX to open at different times, based on completion of refurbishments.

The ELP relocated to the AnX in 2009, and the AnX’s food services opened in February of this year.

The Follett Canada-owned University of Winnipeg Bookstore was the first component of the AnX main floor to open, and was available to students in August 2011.

Capital costs for the AnX are figured in two parts, with the basement costing \$1.6 million and main floor costs around \$2.1 million.

Creation of the AnX basement allowed the ELP to move from the Massey Building in the Exchange District to a more centralized location. With almost 40,000 square feet of floor space, the basement has provided the ELP with 10 classrooms with smart technology.

Julie Sakuto, coordinator of student life at the ELP, said the move has had a positive impact on ELP students.

“We have more access now to the library, resources here and student groups. I do see students joining more clubs now, wanting to participate more,” said Sakuto.

Operating costs for the AnX are recouped by leasing rates. Canad Inns signed a 20-year lease with the university, Balan said in a previous interview.

Space is also being leased by the University College of the North midwifery program, which is set to move in to the AnX in June of this year.



THE FIELD HOUSE, HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMPLEX

Construction of the field house was approved in February of this year, becoming the latest addition to the university’s building expansions.

The complex is slated to open in fall 2013, with construction beginning this spring, according to a press release. It has an estimated approved budget of \$40 million.

This budget includes the refurbishment of the Duckworth Centre, which will house the Lifespan Physical Activity Research Institute.

The institute will provide X-ray facilities, nutrition and obesity programs, and an athletic therapy clinic for the public.

The building is funded by a combination of \$17 million in grants, \$2 million in donations, \$8 million in capital-

izing leases and parking revenue, and \$12 million on capitalization of a student fee that was approved in the fall of 2011.

According to Balan, operating costs will be covered by revenue from rental fees for sports groups.

“The deal is there will be operating revenues generated from the fact that we have an agreement of a pre-rental of the space,” said Balan.

The three-storey field house has been touted as “one of the most significant athletic and wellness facilities ever built in Winnipeg’s inner city.” It will house an indoor field, sprint track and gymnasium, as well as retail and office space.

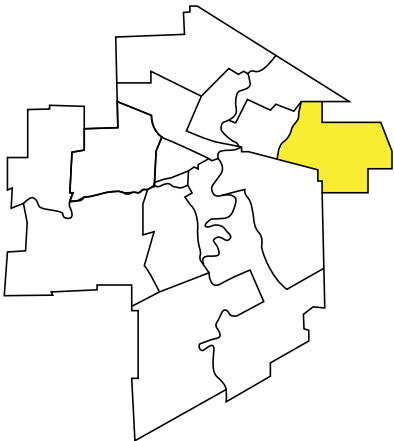
Space will be leased to private entities at approximately \$20 per square foot, according to a prior interview with university president Lloyd Axworthy. Administration is in leasing negotiations with restaurants, fitness clubs and a pharmacy.



# BEYOND DOWNTOWN

A breakdown of the arts and culture coming out of some of Winnipeg's neighbourhoods

**WE HERE AT THE UNITER'S ARTS & CULTURE SECTION** spend the better part of the year focusing on artists and the events that happen in the downtown area. From shows at the Lo Pub to exhibitions on the University of Winnipeg campus, there is a lot going on right here. But where does this art and culture come from? Since nobody was born cool in the basement of the Royal Albert, we decided to find out what kind of great art was being made and what trends were happening all around Winnipeg.

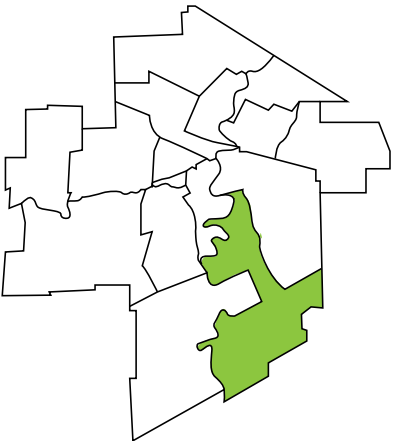


## TRANSCONA



Leslie Sidley (pictured) has been busy, but if you're not familiar with the name, don't worry. As a stage manager she's responsible for the behind-the-scenes of many plays shown at The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Rainbow Stage, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Manitoba Theatre for Young People and Shakespeare In The Ruins. A Transcona Collegiate alumni and a graduate of the Theatre Arts Technical Production program from Sheridan College, she is currently assistant stage managing *Till It Hurts* by Douglas Bowie at Prairie Theatre Exchange (which runs until April 15). This summer, she will spend her seventh consecutive summer working behind the scenes at Rainbow Stage on their two-show season that consists of musical hits *Footloose* and *Annie*. This feature wouldn't be complete without Kara Passey - although she technically grew up just east of Transcona. A multimedia artist, she works with large-scale oil painting as well as installation and sculpture. Working mostly with self-portraiture, she investigates her body and how obesity plays into her identity. You can discover her work at <http://karapassey.tumblr.com>. If that wasn't enough, when she's not painting she fronts the Lemuria-inspired pop-punk band Fists In! Poppy power chords and catchy drumbeats are partnered with songs focused on feeling crappy about life and the world around you. The on-and-off four-piece released an album last summer that is available for free download at <http://www.mediafire.com/?whetqkndnuk4q>.

- Adam Petrash

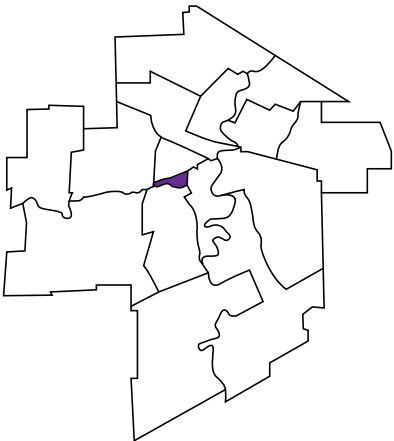


## ST. VITAL



I hate to break it to anyone who isn't already aware - though if you've lived here or visited the area I'm sure you'd agree - St. Vital isn't exactly the artsiest of neighbourhoods. Yes, there are the constant craft sales at the Dakota Community Centre or at Norberry-Glenlee, where proud mamas offer up their delicious baked goods and crocheted handiwork to make a quick buck. Not to mention the bevy of teenage basement dwellers in pop-punk bands itching to get out of their underground venues in River Park South. Once they venture north up Dakota, onto Dunkirk and Osborne, all bets are off. Playing a venue like the Park Theatre is a rite of passage for any starving St. Vital artist. If Dakota Collegiate graduates Inward Eye and recent Juno winners KEN mode can break out of St. Vital, there's hope for the next generation. Though what St. Vital may lack in creativity, it makes up for in sports fanaticism. Be it the Jets or the ever-competitive Timbits leagues, hockey culture flourishes in the neighbourhood that spawned the captain of the Chicago Blackhawks, Jonathan Toews. Volleyball and soccer are St. Vital mainstays, but for avid fans there's a new favourite on the rise: rugby. Maple Grove Rugby Park, located along the southernmost point of St. Mary's Road before the perimeter, is home to a unique kind of sporting experience that has gained greater popularity in recent years. The Saracen Rugby Football Club's annual tournament/drinking event, SNAFU, has been held at MGRP for every August long weekend since 1970. The SNAFU social held Sunday night is the stuff of legend - so legendary, in fact, that rumours of naked rugby being played at midnight have circulated among the non-rugby community. You'd have to see it to believe it, though you might not necessarily want to.

- Jessica Botelho-Urbanski



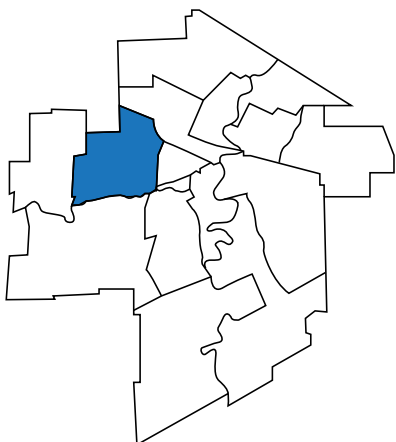
## WOLSELEY



From Omand's Creek to Sherbrook Street and Portage Avenue to the Assiniboine River, Wolseley is not a big place, but it's home to a healthy and diverse artistic community. In fact, according to Canadian census data from 2001, artists constitute two per cent of the work force in Wolseley's R3G postal code, a number more than double the national average and the highest of all Winnipeg's postal codes. That's no surprise to Jim Palmquist, founder and coordinator of the Envision Wolseley Arts and Music Festival. In its fifth year, the festival attracts hundreds of visitors to see the work of more than 50 artists, including visual arts, performances and some literary works. This year will see a greater focus on writers and storytellers as well as a mini film festival. "The intent was to showcase the huge number of artists that live in our community," says Palmquist of the festival's origins. "We knew that there were a lot, but most people don't know that they're there." While the festival does accept artists from the surrounding communities if there is room, the focus is on the Wolseley and West Broadway communities. "We wanted to give people a chance to show their stuff and build up community pride and interest in the arts," Palmquist says. He says that Wolseley feels like a suburb in the heart of the city with its old character houses and close proximity to downtown, but notes that it is difficult to explain the huge number of artists in the community. The Envision festival runs Friday, May 11 and Saturday, May 12 at Robert A. Steen Community Centre, including the evening on Friday and the full day and evening on Saturday. Admission is free. One of the featured musical acts is Jordsy (pictured). Visit [www.jordsymusic.blogspot.com](http://www.jordsymusic.blogspot.com) and [www.envision-artsfestival.ca](http://www.envision-artsfestival.ca).

- Aaron Snider





ST. JAMES



Growing up in St. James felt a little like a National Lampoon’s high school experience. There were elaborate school pranks, pep rallies and hockey rookie parties. These eventually gave way to a number of dollar draft nights, bar fights and an embarrassing amount of provocative themed socials.

Thankfully, I got out of Pleasantville alive.

But there are those who would live by the sword - who rarely venture out of what is, mostly, a self-sustaining community (but are sure to lock the cars when passing Polo Park and into the “red zone”).

However, some say that culture is slowly creeping into St. James.

A fellow native St. Jameser referred to the “multicultural strip” beginning at Moray with a Japanese sushi place, followed by German, Chinese, Irish and Mexican restaurants, and ending with Thai.

To catch a little local colour, head to Skatepark West to see the thriving young skate scene St. James has developed over the last couple of years.

If that’s not your thing, check out AAA Consignment and the Goodwill down by Cavalier.

There is a handful of little antiques shops too, for some of the best thrifting in the city. In that respect, the lack of hip masses is kind of a bonus.

For the high-brow culture seeker, there still really isn’t much to pick from. There aren’t any decent music venues, save for an old pub that probably hasn’t changed a light bulb since I stopped going underage.

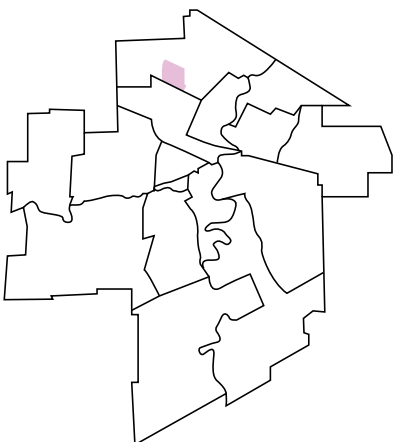
...Which is too bad, because St. James isn’t lacking in talent.

Local folk/roots wonder trio Bog River (pictured) had its humble beginnings here, as did another fine young trio - the Eardrums. Both groups have managed to find a place quite nicely in Winnipeg’s indie music scene.

However, the best part of St. James? The Half Pints beer of the same name. Last I heard, we were one of the only communities in the city graced with that honour.

How’s that for culture?

- Dunja Kovacevic



MAPLES



Maples Collegiate may not have the budget of Grant Park’s elaborate musicals, but year after year, it delivers something different.

From productions of zombie classic *Night of the Living Dead* to teen dramedy *Some Kind of Wonderful*, each show is something you won’t find in any other high school theatre.

This semester’s show is *Clue*, based on the 1985 film (based on the board game) with a cast made up of Grade 9 to Grade 12 students. Catch it one night only - Thursday, April 12 at 7 p.m.

“It’s more interesting when you can dive into more obscure pieces,” says math teacher Scott Mader, who is involved with the production. “The classics are good and enjoyable to do, but with *Clue* you can get into some nice comedy and characters. It’s more interesting for the students.”

Each show has been led by teachers Susan Kurbis and Lindsay Brown, who have been known to spend incredibly long hours working with students to bring these shows to life.

“It’s a lot of work, so when they bring it down into smaller shows it allows them to do two a year,” Mader says. “Sue has more the image of the show in her mind whereas Lindsay does more of the backstage work. When we’re running rehearsals, they tend to swap and split the work.”

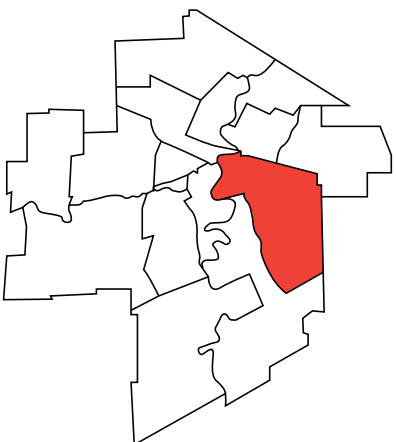
“My last show at Maples, *Batman: The Musical*, was probably the one that stood out the most for me,” says recent graduate Nick Petuhoff (pictured), who played the Joker in the ‘60s throwback.

“Who doesn’t want to laugh like a maniac, squirt water into kids’ faces and wear ridiculous clown make-up all at the same time? It was probably the most rewarding experience I had at Maples because it allowed me to see my growth as an actor over four years of high school theatre, and it showed me just how much I wanted to pursue acting as a profession.”

Since graduating from Maples last spring, Petuhoff enrolled at the University of Manitoba and was a part of Black Hole Theatre’s *The Gypsy Woman* and the Fire in the Hole Festival.

“I find that Maples gave me the acting basics that I needed to have and now I’m constantly building upon them with every show or shoot that I’m involved with.”

- Nicholas Friesen



SAINT BONIFACE



The Francophone neighbourhood of Saint Boniface has always been a major thread in Winnipeg’s city fabric and a major contributor to the arts in Winnipeg.

Métis artist Roger Sutherland was born and raised in Saint Boniface.

“I remember when a lot of Saint Boniface was farmers’ fields I went to the Provencher School, run by the Brothers of Mary,” he says.

A lot has changed since then. Saint Boniface has grown into a burgeoning arts community that is seeing new immigrants from the French-speaking countries of Africa

Later in life, Sutherland unfolded his passion for art and found in Saint Boniface a great community of supportive artists.

“I receive a lot of encouragement from (semi-realistic/abstract artist) Roger Lafreniere, and he gives me lot of influence.”

With other great artists such as Melanie Recon and Dave Manuien there is no shortage of support.

Lucille Levy (pictured) hails from Paris, France. Coming to Saint Boniface was a natural fit for her.

“I first came here because I followed love, but that was not to be, so I stayed here because I fell in love with the neighbourhood.”

She secured a job as communications coordinator with the Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre (CCFM).

“It really helps to be able to live and work in a community that enables me to speak French on a daily basis.”

Levy is busy with the day-to-day operations of CCFM, organizing and scheduling art shows, concerts and community events.

“CCFM is the centre (of it all),” she says. “It can be confusing for some, but within the CCFM there are 10 agencies promoting and supporting francophone artists and culture.”

There are also up and coming artists from Morocco and Algeria and other French-African artists displaying and performing.

“The Francophone face is changing here in Saint Boniface and it is a very good thing we have to be open to other French cultures and it is exciting to be part of this diverse and ever-evolving culture here.”

- John Van Laar





CULTURE | SPECIAL FEATURE

# A CURSE AND A BLESSING

Examining the cultural impact of the return of the Jets

STORY BY **KAELEIGH AYRE**  
ARTS REPORTER

PHOTOS BY **DYLAN HEWLETT**  
PHOTO EDITOR

**IT'S EVERYWHERE.** You can find it emblazoned on almost anything, from clothing to pet accessories to vehicles on our roads - even on windows at Portage and Main. It's the single largest change our city has experienced over the past year, and it is all that people can talk about: the return of the prodigal Jets. From the obvious resurgence of civic pride, to increased traffic and visitors to Winnipeg's downtown, the NHL's return has had a snowball effect on this city.

## ARTS

Prior to the inaugural puck-drop for the Jets 2.0, various arts organizations expressed concern that revenue would be lost due to the long-term investments required for season ticket holders. And while several of Winnipeg's mainstays have reported lower attendance in some cases, others have experienced gain. "As for numbers, our subscriptions are down slightly," Teri Stevens, publicist for the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, says via email. "It's too early to say about our total ticket sales, as we still have four shows to go, including the two (*August: Osage County* and *God of Carnage*, at the time) that are currently running." For the 2011-12 season, MTC had a total of 17,701 subscribers at both the John Hirsch Mainstage and the Tom Hendry Warehouse, down only slightly from 19,128 for both stages during the previous season, with the theatre company playing host to a total of 134, 251 ticket holders. CBC had reported in December that the Royal Winnipeg Ballet had experienced a 10 per cent drop in ticket sales for the first show of the 2011-12 season, the world premiere of *Svengali*. "We have four shows a year as well as our subscription sales, and two of our shows, I would say, were below what we wanted them to be," says Judy Slivinski, senior director of marketing and development for the RWB. "But the other two shows were ... above our goals, so I'm not sure that I would draw a

direct causal relationship between our sales and that of the Jets and the fact that the Jets have returned. "Ticket sales for live performing arts are reasonably ... unpredictable, across North America at the moment." Slivinski says that several of the RWB's tour stops, including Toronto, had to be cancelled this season due to poor ticket sales. "It's hard to say why that is, because it's happening in cities across North America that don't have NHL franchises." The culprit of lower ticket sales is closer to home, Slivinski says, with the increase of personal screen sizes and aging audiences factoring in. Instead of beating them, the RWB chooses to join them, by taking pages from the Jets playbook. "We did a 'white out' for *Giselle*," she says. "*Giselle* is considered a 'white' ballet, so for the opening night on March 7 we encouraged our audience to wear white - same as you would be encouraged to do at a hockey game. A lot of people found that entertaining." "We also have a board member who is involved with True North (the Jets' ownership company)," she continues. "We are sort of keeping our finger on the pulse of how things are progressing over at the Jets, because like any other organization, they are also trying to market themselves. They hope that their audience isn't tied to whether they win or lose a game, but rather to loyalty, and in that way we see RWB and the Jets very much in parallel with one another because they are

both iconic organizations that put Winnipeg on the map internationally. "I don't see them as a threat, but rather like a brother or sister organization that's doing the same thing for Manitoba and Winnipeg as we are." **BUSINESS** With an influx of visitors to the MTS Centre around the dinner hour comes a bounty of hungers to tame and thirsts to quench, and local restaurant owners are benefiting from the boon of pre-puck drop guests. In particular, 4Play Sportsbar has benefited from its lucrative location directly across from the arena. "Typically what we see in the bigger numbers is people coming and having dinner right before the game, so that's when we have our busiest rush," 4Play's promotions person Rebecca Horan says. "People want to come in and eat and have a few drinks before they head to the MTS Centre." La Bamba, a restaurant offering Mexican cuisine, recently opened a second location at 285 Portage Ave., and owner Edgar Rascon hopes that the Jets crowd will mean more business in the evenings. Stephano Grande, executive director of the Downtown Business Improvement Zone (BIZ), says that some BIZ members that perhaps were catering to the lunch crowd are now considering opening up in the evenings. "We've had a lot of BIZ members that have changed their restaurant concepts and reinvested in their buildings," Grande says. "So it's definitely been a positive response to the Jets and the 16,000 people coming down for every game, in addition to all the concerts and everything else that goes on at the MTS Centre." Urban shopping centres have also been riding the Jets bandwagon, with Cityplace offering food court visitor incentives in the form of chances to win tickets. Dave Stone, manager of Portage Place

Shopping Centre, says that while businesses downtown had little time or budget to respond to True North's announcement last May, his mall has certainly seen increased traffic prior to game time. "We have promotions on game nights for hockey fans," Stone says. "It's a fun experience, the whole game-day/game-night in the downtown, in terms of if you're on the street at 3:30 p.m., 4 p.m., so we'd like to build upon, and be a part of, that excitement and bring it to Portage Place." **TRANSPORTATION** Despite the fact that more and more people are trekking downtown, transportation is not on the forefront. Parking lot fees are jacked up prior to games, and free-after-5:30 p.m. street parking is the first to go. People thinking of visiting downtown during games are dissuaded by the thought of finding parking, or even getting through the post-game traffic. Winnipeg Blue Bomber fans were encouraged to use public transit to travel to and from the Canad Inns Stadium with the "show your stub" promotion. According to a city spokesperson, while the MTS Centre is serviced by 47 routes, they are not considering a similar free ride program. Transit does provide an additional route 11 bus to deal with the post-game transport demand. **OTHER SPORTS** Can Winniepeggers support the Jets as well as the city's other sports? Playing sports as an adult can be difficult, maneuvering around many different work and school schedules, but players missing due to Jets tickets is something many recreational sports teams have to contend with now. Wendy Neil, a City of Winnipeg employee, has noticed a decrease in members of her





“WE SEE RWB AND THE JETS VERY MUCH IN PARALLEL WITH ONE ANOTHER BECAUSE THEY ARE BOTH ICONIC ORGANIZATIONS THAT PUT WINNIPEG ON THE MAP INTERNATIONALLY.”

- JUDY SLIVINSKI, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT, ROYAL WINNIPEG BALLET

adult bowling league.

“This year we only have 10 teams in our league, compared to 16 last year,” she says. “I know two of the teams (dropped out) because they decided they were buying season tickets.”

Now that the NHL is back after 15 years, will Winnipeggers have enough room in their hearts, wallets and schedules for our other professional sports teams?

Long-time Blue Bombers season ticket holder Colin Ward, 22, had a difficult decision to make last June.

“In the past, my friends and I had Bomber season tickets, and this previous season we

opted not to get them because we got Jets half-season tickets,” says Ward. “To be honest, I really thought many people would do the same, but I was pleasantly surprised when the Bombers had one of their best seasons ever, season-ticket-sales-wise. I suppose many people lost out on Jets tickets and wanted tickets to the Bombers.”

NON-PROFITS

While businesses have definitely benefited from the team’s return, from ticket holders nosing at restaurants before the game to

die-hards needing to get their hands on every piece of memorabilia from sports stores, so too has the Winnipeg not-for-profit sector.

With the sale of the 25,000 Jets license plates, Manitoba Public Insurance donated \$30 from the purchase of each \$70 team plate to the True North Foundation, the charitable arm of the team that provides funds to charitable organizations who offer programs for youth with a focus on healthy living.

The team has also done good for our four-legged friends.

In March, forwards Blake Wheeler and Bryan Little paid a visit to Winnipeg Pet Res-

cue Shelter, a no-kill shelter on Portage Avenue. One thousand excited Winnipeggers came through the doors that day.

“It was so, so exciting. They were very selfless about their time, especially since the (autograph) session was between two games,” shelter director Carla Martinelli says. “It made 1,000 people aware of Pet Rescue Shelter, and it was really great that they reached out to the community.”

The shelter collected donations, and several successful adoptions came out of the event.

“How do you put a dollar value on that? It was just terrific.” ■



MUSIC LISTINGS



Five years after the release of her critically-acclaimed album *The Light Fantastic*, local singer-songwriter CARA LUFT returns with *Darlingford*. She's playing the West End Cultural Centre on Friday, April 13 to celebrate the release of the disc. The Other Brothers will also perform. For more information, visit [www.caraluft.com](http://www.caraluft.com). To read an interview with Luft, visit [www.uniter.ca](http://www.uniter.ca) on April 12.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5 TO WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

'PEGGERS BANQUET ROLLING STONES 50TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW is on Thursday, April 5 at the West End Cultural Centre.

Big Fun is back with an encore show of THE WEST BROADWAY HIP HOP ORCHESTRA with POP CRIMES and MT. NOLAN at the Lo Pub on Thursday, April 5.

Aboriginal blues artist C-WEED's CD release party is at the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre, 45 Robinson St., with opener ALI FONTAINE on Thursday, April 5.

Another great WOMEN IN BLUES NIGHT is at Pop Soda's Coffeehouse and Gallery with HILLBILLY BURLESQUE, KATHY KENNEDY, LEE WENAUS, AMANDA KLASSEN, LINDSEY WHITE and many more on Thursday, April 5.

ANDREW NEVILLE & THE POOR CHOICES are drinkin' whiskey and getting mean with KAYLA HOWRAN at the Times Change(d) High and Lonesome Club on Thursday, April 5.

THE DINING ROOM DIPLOMATS CD release party is at the Park Theatre Café with THE ROOT IN FLUENTS and THE REVIVAL on Friday, April 6.

TWIN, EAGLE LAKE OWLS and DOMINIQUE LEM-OINE play the Neighbourhood Bookstore & Cafe, 898 Westminster, on Saturday, April 7.

BURNT WITCH SURVIVORS GROUP, VAMPIRES, THE BIG 3 and JOHNNY SIZZLE play the Standard on Saturday, April 7.

Rap phenomenon YELAWOLF is back in the 'Peg Saturday, April 7 at the Pyramid.

The annual KURT COBAIN TRIBUTE is at the Zoo with SMASH BROTHERS, GIV'R and OUT FROM THE SHADOWS on Saturday, April 7.

MISS RAE and HOLLY STRATTON with BACCA are back at Pop Soda's Coffeehouse and Gallery on Saturday, April 7.

FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH, PERSIST, SOULFLY and WINDOWPANE is all angst at the Burton Cummings Theatre on Monday, April 9.

Vancouver indie-rock band PREVIOUS TENANTS hooks up with Winnipeg party-punks THE THRASHERS at the Lo Pub on Monday, April 9.

The Lo Pub hosts THE REAL BOYS on Tuesday, April 10.

TEN SECOND EPIC and THE DANGEROUS SUMMER are at the Park Theatre on Wednesday, April 11.

LIMINALITY, a collaborative multimedia art event, features AMIR AMIRI, JON MCPHAIL, DEM-ETRA PENNER, TOM KEENAN and many more at acceartinc., 250 McDermot, on Wednesday, April 11.

Country and folk artist JAY AYMAR is performing at the West End Cultural Centre's ACU Hall on Wednesday, April 11.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 12 TO WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18**

The lightning hands of Greek-Canadian guitarist PAVOLO are performing at the West End Cultural Centre on Thursday, April 12.

Epic instrumental rock act VIRIDIANS' album release for *Again, Dangerous Visions* is at the Lo Pub on Thursday, April 12 with MAHOGANY

FROG, CALIBAI YAU and REAL BOYS.

THE FLATLINERS, WASTER and KIDS AND HEROES play the Ellice Theatre on Thursday, April 12.

THE LONELY BROTHERS play the Times Change(d) High and Lonesome Club on Thursday, April 12.

Enter into the realm of the THUGADELICATE SOUNDS OF SOBERING PSYCHEDELIA with THE BREATH GRENADES, THE TRAPEZOIDS, LAZY-HORSE, ACTION UG MURDER UG MYSTERY and 77 GUNS on Friday, April 13 at Negative Space, 253 Princess.

Spend Friday the 13th with OUR LADY PEACE and the PACK A.D. at the Garrick Centre on April 13.

Or you could get lucky with THE BOKONONISTS and THE HOOTS at the Cavern on Friday, April 13.

CARA LUFT's *Darlingford* album launch is on Friday, April 13 at the West End Cultural Centre with THE OTHER BROTHERS.

FROM GIANTS raise a little money for their upcoming album at the Lo Pub on Friday, April 13.

DUST ADAM DUST, VAMPIRES and EX MODERN TEEN are playing Ozzy's on Friday, April 13.

The WIND UPS play the King's Head Pub on Friday, April 13.

Oshawa folkie SEAN BURNS opens for BOG RIVER at the Times Change(d) High and Lonesome Club on Friday, April 13.

Get ready for a double dose of singer-songwriter greatness in the form of KATHLEEN

EDWARDS and HANNA GEORGAS at the Garrick Centre on Saturday, April 14.

Local metalheads GRAND MASTER's CD release party is at the Park Theatre Café with THE REVIVAL on Saturday, April 14.

ROMI MAYES plays her home away from home, the Times Change(d) High and Lonesome Club, on Saturday, April 14.

Megadeath tribute band RATTLEHEAD play the Zoo with NOIR and WHITE TRASH HEAVY METAL on Saturday, April 14.

The Folk Exchange hosts BRENT PARKIN on Saturday, April 14.

RED MOON ROAD and THE NEW LIGHTWEIGHTS play Aqua Books at their new location, 123 Princess St., on Sunday, April 15.

DIANA DESJARDINS's album release party is at the Park Theatre Café on Sunday, April 15.

Brooklyn art-punk act JAPANOTHER plays the Lo Pub on Tuesday, April 17 with BOYS WHO SAY NO and THE BOKONONISTS.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19 TO WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

It's 420 metal with PSYCHOTIC GARDENING, LIQUOR, AGONY SPAWN, ABHORUPT and OSSIFIC at Ozzy's on Friday, April 20.

Celebrate 420 with reggae group RASTAMILS as they celebrate their new EP at the Exchange Community Church on Friday, April 20.

Husband and wife super group WHITEHORSE play the West End Cultural Centre with EMMA-LEE on Friday, April 20.

You'll be able to taste the whisky sweat when EAMON MCGRATH rips though the Lo Pub with BOBBY DESJARLIAS on Friday, April 20.

EAGLE LAKE OWLS, FEED THE BIRDS, FROM GIANTS and FLAT CITY FOLK perform at Pop Soda's Coffeehouse and Gallery on Friday, April 20.

THE SECRETS and THE REPUBLIC OF CHAMPIONS play the Cavern on Friday, April 20.

Local artists pay tribute to Dolly Parton during DOLLYFEST at the Times Change(d) High and Lonesome Club on Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21.

HALLUCINATE: A DARK FAIRYTALE is at Antonie-Gaborieau Hall at the Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre in St. Boniface on Saturday, April 21 with DJs COUNTZERO, EVIL BASTARD and OXIDE.

JOEL PLASKETT and FRANK TURNER play the Garrick Centre on Saturday, April 21.

Local roots-rockers SITDOWNTRACY release their sophomore album at the Lo Pub with THE

MODERN ROMANTICS and SCOTCH + TAPE on Saturday, April 21.

GUIPTARMIGAN's CD release party is at the Cavern on Saturday, April 21.

Come take a journey through space and time with CHRONOBOT, CLOUD FIGHT, ILLUSIVE MIND GYPSY CREW, SOUL KILLING FEMALE and UNTITLED at the Zoo on Saturday, April 21.

Juno Award-winning SAID THE WHALE returns on Saturday, April 21 and Sunday, April 22 to the Park Theatre.

SOCIAL DISTORTION plays the Burt on Monday, April 23.

Australian act THE JEZABELS are at the West End Cultural Centre on Monday, April 23.

It's just another metal Monday at the Zoo with UNLEASH THE ARCHERS, ABHORUPT, IRREVERSIBLE and WHITE TRASH HEAVY METAL on Monday, April 23.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26 TO WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

It's gonna get crazy when NASHVILLE PUSSY and SUPERSUCKERS come to town. They're at the Pyramid on Thursday, April 26.

TYRANTS DEMISE, AUTARIC, DESECRATE SCRIPTURE and ABHORUPT unleash metal destruction at the Zoo on Friday, April 27.

RED ZEPPLIN covers the greatest rock 'n' roll band of all time at Shannon's on Friday, April 27.

WOMEN IN BLUES MANITOBA's second CD release is at the West End Cultural Centre with HILLBILLY BURLESQUE, KATHY KENNEDY and TRACY K on Friday, April 27.

Everyone's favourite rock 'n' roll record label, Transistor 66, hosts THE ROCK AND ROLL WEEKENDER with BLOODSHOT BILL, THE ANGRY DRAGONS, THE THRASHERS and THE GUNNESS performing at the Park Theatre on Friday, April 27.

THE ROCK AND ROLL WEEKENDER continues with MEISHA AND THE SPANKS, THE LONELY VULCANS, THIS HISSES and MICRODOT playing the Park Theatre on Saturday, April 28.

The vinyl release of THE F-HOLES' new album is at the Times Change(d) High and Lonesome Club on Saturday, April 28.

THE STIFF BISHOPS and THE SMASH BROS smash the Cavern on Saturday, April 28.

It's a PRAIRIE KITCHEN PARTY with EMMA CLONEY, PATTI LAMOUREUX, RAMBLING DAN FRECHETTE and more at the West End Cultural Centre on Saturday, April 28.

The West End Cultural Centre's MELODIES ON MERCREDI program hosts THIS HISSES and FEDERAL LIGHTS on Wednesday, May 2 at the WECC.

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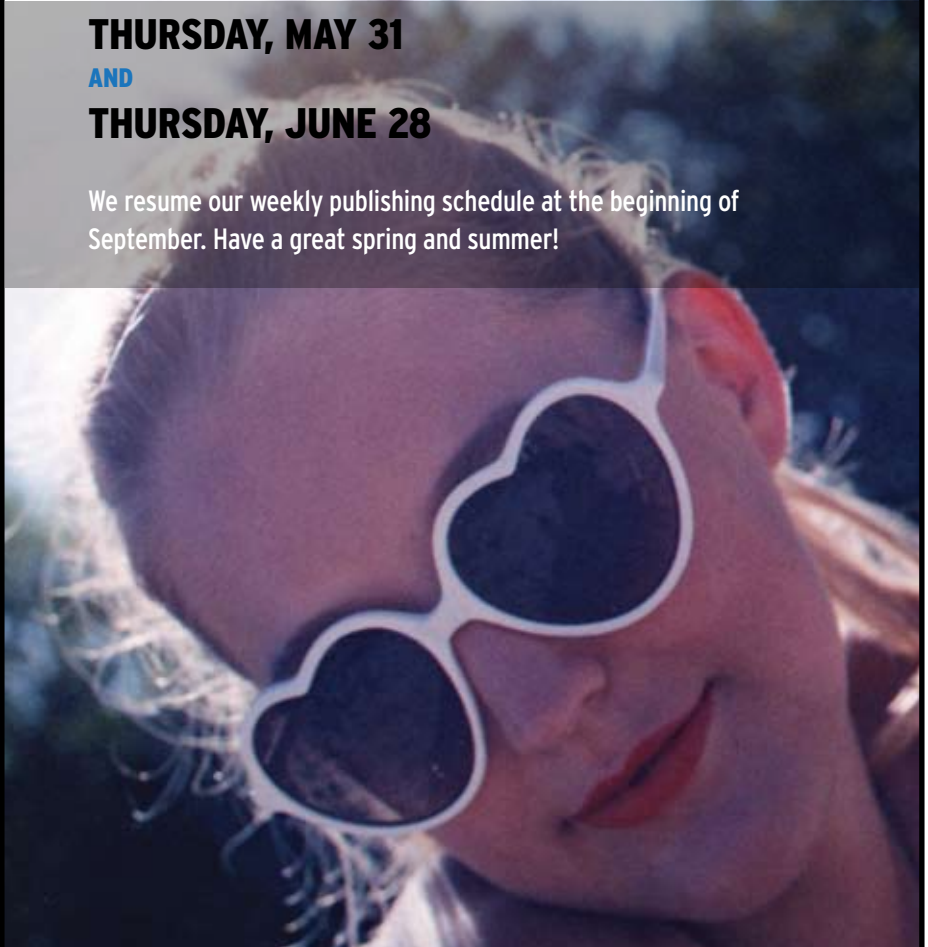


THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE OF THE UNITER  
FOR THIS SEMESTER.

We are publishing two summer issues. They will be on newsstands and online on

THURSDAY, MAY 31  
AND  
THURSDAY, JUNE 28

We resume our weekly publishing schedule at the beginning of  
September. Have a great spring and summer!



BRITTANY HILDEBRANDT



## MUSIC PREVIEW

# Frank Turner overdrive

## Hard working singer-songwriter returns to Winnipeg

ADAM PETRASH  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Frank Turner is one of the hardest-working touring musicians in music today - he played approximately 184 shows last year alone.

This year doesn't see the Englishman slowing down either as the road is where he feels most at home.

"I actually don't have any other home," Turner says by phone from Europe. "I haven't had a place of my own for about eight years now, so that is another part of my motivation to continue traveling. It's in my interest to keep moving."

It's that unrelenting touring that sees Turner return to Winnipeg for his second show since October. This time, he'll be opening for Joel Plaskett on Saturday, April 21 at the Garrick.

If you caught Turner last time around, he insists you won't be seeing the same show twice.

"Last time I was there I was with my band Sleeping Souls, which was great, but this time with Joel (Plaskett) I'm doing it completely solo. It's fun to strip back my songs to just one voice and one instrument. It's refreshing to me to dress up songs in different ways. It definitely will be a different angle to my songs."

It's sure to be an intimate interaction his fans will appreciate. Yet Turner doesn't view listeners of his music as just fans.

"I kind of always get a bit weirded out by the word 'fan.' It always seems to me like a



SUPPLIED

Frank Turner looks to the future, which will include touring, touring and more touring.

Marie Antoinette kind of word. It's a little aloof," he says. "To me it's just people who

play music and when I'm not doing what I'm doing I listen to tons of music by other peo-

ple ... and as a music fan myself if there's a band that completely holds themselves above their audience I don't really like them."

Turner also happens to be an avid blogger, which connects him all that much more to his listeners.

"Social media has leveled the playing field and really swept away the cobwebs of mythology. I never fancied that a band is this mythical group of people who play and then loom off into the stratosphere. I think that's bullshit," explains Turner. "If a band has no connection to their audience then they've got nothing to say to them. I don't want to be removed from the people who listen to my music."

It's this approach, along with his work ethic and overall style and presentation, that's garnered Turner mass appeal to listeners of many different genres. He's been able to successfully bridge a gap and connect with many different people.

"I'm really happy that the demographic of people who come to my shows is really broad. I'm proud of it. I like the idea that there are people who might rub shoulders at my shows who might otherwise not cross paths. It's beautiful. I absolutely fucking love what I do for a living."

⇒ See Frank Turner perform at The Garrick Centre on Saturday, April 21

⇒ Joel Plaskett Emergency will also perform

⇒ Doors at 7 p.m., show at 8 p.m.

⇒ Tickets are \$27.50 in advance at Ticketmaster

⇒ Visit [www.frank-turner.com](http://www.frank-turner.com)



### DUST ADAM DUST

Winnipeg's answer to the Jesus and Mary Chain came out of the ashes of epic space rockers National Monument. Alex Janusz and Jason Hovland kept on going while Hovland began writing songs with his wife Anna as far back as 2007.

"We applied for a drummer at the Australian embassy and Steve came highly recommended," the band quips via email. Its debut disc, a lo-fi, self-titled popsterpiece, was recorded in four days (and mastered in two) with Jeff Patteson at Home Street Recording.

"We wanted to capture a natural performance and that's what Jeff gave us," the band says. "Jeff's an awesome dude, really patient and professional. He has a dedication to local music and it's great to hook up with people like that."

"We felt really prepared for the recording," the band continues. "Every note had to count, and the fire was under our butts to get it done before we hit the road for a western tour in July/August 2011."

Not necessarily a throwback to the sugary sounds of the '60s, but a continuation of the bands that were inspired by that sound, Dust Adam Dust is an animal all its own.

"Music is evolving beyond this idea of a genre, and if you weigh yourself down with an idea, you pretty much know where it's going to start and where it's going to end. It's up for interpretation," the band says. "As far as it goes from the band's perspective, our inspiration comes from a lot of places - gospel, soul, Built to Spill, Sleigh Bells, The Byrds, St. Vincent, Os Mutantes, Spiritualized - it goes on and on, as it should."

Dust Adam Dust plays Ozzy's on Friday, April 13 with Ex Modern Teen and Vampires.

Visit [www.dustadamdust.com](http://www.dustadamdust.com).

- NICHOLAS FRIESEN



### JOEL PLASKETT EMERGENCY

It was something that hadn't been done before. Rock and roll in record time - a song a week, released exclusively on *CBC Radio 2 Drive* and iTunes, all leading up to the album *Scrappy Happiness*, which is in stores now.

Joel Plaskett's new album (which includes a video of eight live tracks as a bonus incentive to purchase the physical copy) is something special. His seventh LP since disbanding his teenage band Thrush Hermit in 1999, the 36-year-old has had an incredibly consistent output.

"Focusing on one song per week is a very neat thing," Plaskett told *Toro Magazine* recently. "You don't have time to step outside (the music) a week later and say, 'Is this any good?' because it's already out. I wanted to be as 'in-the-moment' as I could be, and I think that's part of the problem with the music industry nowadays, everything takes a long time to come out. Not everybody can be Radiohead. I romanticize a time when things came quickly - ... Neil Young's *Ohio* coming right on the heels of its tragedy."

Doing a record like *Scrappy Happiness* takes a lot of discipline and sticking to deadlines.

"A couple went right down to the deadline," he says. "Every Thursday at noon, to be delivered. I met it every week but was sometimes mastering at like, nine in the morning."

"The songs on *Scrappy Happiness* were commitments to a national broadcasting service, the CBC, so there was no wiggle room - kind of like writing exams for 10 weeks. It was on my mind the whole time."

Check out Joel Plaskett with his band The Emergency at the Garrick Centre on Saturday, April 21 at 8 p.m. with Frank Turner. Tickets are \$27.50 in advance at Ticketmaster. Visit [www.joelplaskett.com](http://www.joelplaskett.com).

- NICHOLAS FRIESEN



### MORE MUSIC THIS MONTH



### SITDOWNTRACY

Local indie pop rock five-piece SitDownTracy is about to unleash its second disc, *Twenty Something Winters* onto an unsuspecting audience. Recorded with Ryan McVeigh (Boats) semi-live-off-the-floor at Private Ear and mastered by Harris Newman (Arcade Fire, Wolf Parade), the record was a long time coming.

"We did (the bed tracks) over the course of a weekend, and then took several months to finish overdubs of vocals, percussion and saxophone," drummer Matthew Powers says by email.

With a slight shift to a more poppy tone, the disc is sure to raise a few eyebrows, but it's pure SDT.

"The poppier sound of this album is largely a result of people bringing in songs that are more idiosyncratic, more a part of their personal style," Powers says. "In the past we wrote within something of a definite genre, whereas things are more diverse now. So the poppier sound is not a conscious decision, just the natural result of songs being allowed to be what they are. This attitude also helps to explain the appearance of more diverse instrumentation (saxophone, strings, keyboards)."

The main question every band has to face is if it is going to do this full time and take the fruits of its labour on the road.

"We want to play everywhere," Powers says. "With so many avenues for online promotion we're finding new ways all the time to expand beyond Winnipeg."

SitDownTracy releases *Twenty Something Winters* with a show on Saturday, April 21 at the Lo Pub. Modern Romantics and Scotch + Tape also perform.

Visit [www.sitdowntracy.com](http://www.sitdowntracy.com).

- NICHOLAS FRIESEN

VISIT [UNITER.CA/LISTINGS](http://UNITER.CA/LISTINGS) FOR MORE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING





# Artist on artist (on artist)

The Uniter moderates a conversation with three Winnipeg theatre veterans



LEIF NORMAN

Ross McMillan and Sarah Constible star in *Dionysus in Stony Mountain*, a play written by local actor/playwright Steve Ratzlaff.

**MATTHEW TENBRUGGENCE**  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

Ross McMillan and Sarah Constible are two mainstays of the Winnipeg theatre scene. They're being directed by Bill Kerr in Theatre Projects Manitoba's current production of Steve Ratzlaff's *Dionysus in Stony Mountain*, a play in which a prison psychiatrist and her patient (who's chosen to go off his meds) debate Nietzsche, Canada's prison system and the inability of institutions to facilitate personal healing. *The Uniter* caught up with them between rehearsals.

**Sarah Constible:** Is it recording right now? (*Leans in.*) Hellloooooo?

**Bill Kerr:** Do you know the British hen party tradition? It's like a stagette - Ryan Air flights are so cheap that they spend like \$150 to get to Dublin and they spend 48 hours getting tricked there. So you see these mobs of drunken women throwing up and yelling and fighting. And it's another weekend in Dublin.

**Constible:** Oh my god. I've got to go to this place called Ireland. We were doing a line run the other day and there was an old *Winnipeg Sun* sitting there and ... I started flipping through it and there were two articles within two pages of each other about different offenders. It seems like the *Winnipeg Sun* is filled with all these sensationalist stories and I think the play we're working on ... goes 'Why is this the society we've decided to embrace?'

**The Uniter:** Does anyone here have experience with the justice system?

**Ross McMillan:** No!

**Constible:** (*Joking*) Twenty years. Twenty years, yep. Killed that kid.

**Kerr:** My foster brother has been incarcerated a number of times, though not here in Manitoba. So I'm fairly familiar with the failure of the justice system as a place that certainly didn't rehabilitate him, let's put it that way ... it's hardly a place of reform, yet somehow it's claimed to be.

**Constible:** And Steve (Ratzlaff) is not only touching on the justice system, he was a teacher in the regular education system too.

**McMillan:** I asked Steve what he was doing with this play, after seeing its earliest draft. And he said, "Well, I just want to take some Nietzsche and shove it in the faces of the middle class just to see. Just to go, 'How do you like that?'" If you take the persuasive argument of one of the main characters in the play, it really recommends that you don't take the weak members of society and revere them as victims. The implication left hanging in the play is that you let them die. ... I think with that he wants to provoke a discussion. That's quite a piece of provoking, I'd say.

**BK:** We can get caught up in the sense that nothing ever gets better. But there has actually been real change. Whatever "ism" you care to look at, like post colonialism - we were just talking about Ireland - yeah, a lot of the problems are replicated, but there is a country there and there wasn't before. Partitioned, but certain things have improved.

**Constible:** I can now marry a black man.

**Kerr:** Yes, you can! Exactly. So there's always a ying and yang, but there is genuine change.

**McMillan:** Yes, true. But look at the States. Look at all the social advances that started in the '60s: feminism and the civil rights movement. A lot of people on the right are now talking very openly about taking these away, about rolling these back. These changes aren't necessarily permanent. And the British could invade Ireland again.

**Constible:** Well the only reason they have a platform is because of the Internet.

Now we have this democratization of communication - that's the only reason these nutjobs are getting a chance to say their point of view.

**McMillan:** Not necessarily. Look at the Republican nomination race. These nutjobs are mainstream now.

**Constible:** What? You're saying Santorum is a nutjob? What is your *problem*?

**McMillan:** He's a fine man - he's a good-looking man. He gives me the horn.

**Kerr:** (*Laughing*) There's the quote right there.

**McMillan:** And he's doing it on purpose! One of the most forcefully put points of views in *Dionysus in Stony Mountain* is not just critical of boot-licking liberalism, but scornful of it. And not just scornful of it, but pointing an accusatory finger of it being the sentiment that is sickening our society.

And that's what he's presenting to an audience and asking them to consider. That's definitely not preaching to the choir.

**Constible:** He's going to offend everybody-

**Kerr:** You mean intrigue!

**Constible:** Intrigue - that's the word.

**Kerr:** It asks real questions.

**McMillan:** And underneath all that, there's grief. There's real grief that comes as a surprise. As perhaps it always does. That after all the blaming and guilt and anger, sometimes what you find underneath that is grief. Beyond which there's not much to say.

... Sometimes when you let people give vent to what appears to be their most deeply held grievances and beliefs - when they finally get it all out - underneath it is something as simple as grief that can suddenly transfigure a person and make everything they've been saying, not irrelevant...

**Constible:** Enhanced?

**McMillan:** Enhanced, yes. But you can suddenly see that underneath all the arguments and moral haggling, sometimes what really needs to be recognized is simple pain. And real pain can't be dealt with institutionally it can only dealt with between two people. And if you ever experience that, you're lucky.

*Theatre Projects Manitoba presents Dionysus in Stony Mountain until Sunday, April 8 at the Rachel Browne Theatre (211 Bannatyne). Visit [www.theatreprojectsmanitoba.ca](http://www.theatreprojectsmanitoba.ca).*

## Guess what's more common in men?



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## FILM PREVIEW

# Ten years in and better than ever

The University of Winnipeg Student Film Festival is the longest running in the city

NICHOLAS FRIESEN  
ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR

It's hard to believe that the University of Winnipeg Student Film Festival is celebrating its 10th anniversary this April - mostly because few festivals in the city have lasted as long.

The Winnipeg International Film Festival existed a measly two years, while the National Screen Institute, the longtime front-runner for local film fests, went online a few years back. Only the Gimli Film Festival (at 12 years) has been going on longer than U of W's.

This particular festival has come a long way since its inception.

"I started it the second year I was here," says John Kozak, head of the U of W film department. "It was just U of W films and was held in the Bulman Centre. Most of the films were on VHS projected onto a sheet. The sound system kept breaking down. We even had a few films submitted on 16mm, so we had to get a 16mm projector."

After opening up submissions province-wide and shifting locations to Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall in 2004, where the festival still resides, things began to run much more smoothly.

Over the course of the Wednesday and Thursday (April 25-26) of the three-night event, approximately 30 films will screen.

You can catch the awards on Friday night (April 27), along with screenings of the winning films, the Advanced Filmmaking students' film *Made for Each Other*, an open-bar reception and guest speakers Matt Kennedy and Adam Brooks of film collective Astron-6. Their recent film, the gore-comedy *Father's Day*, was funded and distributed by Troma.

"Matt had films in our festival four or five years in a row," Kozak says. "I thought it was interesting that with the 10th anniversary we have someone who went through our program and submitted to our festival and now has an internationally released feature on (his) hands."



NICK FRIESEN

The U of W's advanced filmmaking class will premiere *Made for Each Other* at the 10th annual University of Winnipeg Student Film Festival.

Kennedy and Brooks will take part in a Q&A and join the ranks of Deco Dawson, Guy Maddin, Sean Garrity, Jeff Erbach, Shereen Jerrett, Gary Yates, John Bernard, James Rewucki and Mike Maryniuk as guest speakers at the festival.

"The U of W Film Festival was something that I looked forward to every spring," Kennedy says. "No matter how much we planned ahead, we would inevitably end up being awake for three days straight before the submission deadline. I can vividly remember watching the export time on a project and counting the hours I had left to burn a DVD

and drop it off at the office. Like all filmmaking has, I'm sure those days before submission took a few years off of my life."

"Having the film screen at U of W was always a good eye-opener for us," he adds. "It was a way to screen our film for an audience that had no prior attachment to the material. Before you do that, you really have no idea if your film is a hit or a miss. Anyone involved with a film will generally give it the upper hand, but a real audience won't do it any favours. I think that is something that every filmmaker needs to experience and it was always something we looked forward to

with nervous excitement.

"To have screened our films there, and not only have the audience embrace them but to also have them awarded on multiple occasions, was a terrific experience and the first feeling of accomplishment for me as a young filmmaker."

Past guests Sean Garrity (*Zooey and Adam*) and Jeff Erbach (*The Nature of Nicholas*) also took a moment to reflect on the festival.

"That festival is great," Garrity says. "You really get a chance to see what our community will be making in five years by checking out work at the U of W Film Festival."

Erbach is equally as enthusiastic about the work coming from the young filmmakers.

"Like a spring in a delicate timepiece, the festival acts as the most precious piece to the workings of a larger mechanism," he muses. "Without it, without the exhibition opportunity afforded those pioneers of time, without the chance to bear witness to those things that offer such a delicious look into Winnipeg as a future city, the forward march of film, video and time-based media would halt."

"I hope it's become something that film students are aware of and recognize," Kozak says. "I hope that not just U of W students, but that high school students who are interested in taking film in university, are aware of our festival, anticipate it and plan to go and plan to submit. I'm hoping that we can become a known factor around town."

With 80 to 100 films submitted each year, only a third of them will be screened.

"Now we just wait for all the films to come floodin' in," Kozak says.

*Submissions for the University of Winnipeg Student Film Festival are open to post-secondary students until Monday, April 9 at 4 p.m. All info is available at <http://theatre.uwinnipeg.ca/filmfest.htm>. The Festival will take place Wednesday, April 25 to Friday, April 27 at 7 p.m. nightly in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall (3rd Floor, Centennial Hall) at the University of Winnipeg. All festival events are free and open to the public.*

## FILM PREVIEW

## The souls behind the plastic

University of Winnipeg film students deliver a sequel to last year's *Plasticman 1*

MATTHEW TENBRUGGECATE  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

It all started as a joke last year at the University of Winnipeg's Student Film Festival.

Fabian Velasco had just finished screening the final project from his third-year filmmaking class - *Plasticman 1*, a loopy homage to German expressionism in which a mannequin pressures a young man to cut off his girlfriend's leg.

Milos Mitrovic had pursued and landed the role of *Plasticman*'s young male lead after being impressed by Velasco's previous work.

"I emailed him saying 'Put me in your movie,'" Mitrovic says, sitting beside his collaborator at a rickety Mondragon table. "And he did."

"Because I didn't have anyone else," Velasco explains.

"Yeah, you don't have any friends."

After *Plasticman 1* screened, Mitrovic's friends assailed him with questions about the film's inconclusive ending.

"They came up to me and asked, 'What happens to your character? What happens?' and as a joke I replied 'It will all be explained in *Plasticman 2: Back to New York*.'"

That idle promise lurked in the back of Mitrovic's mind over the summer break as he considered script ideas for his own upcoming third year of filmmaking.

Then, while attending the Gimli Film Festival, he caught Spanish indie flick *The Hollow Man's Tragedy* (*La Tragedia Del Hombre Hueco*). The film's story of a man without



SUPPLIED

Who says sequels have to suck? Milos Mitrovic (pictured) collaborated with Fabian Velasco to deliver *Plasticman 2*.

a heart reignited Mitrovic's memories of his previous plastic co-star.

But this time instead of searching for a leg, the mannequin would be after a soul.

"It's all about friendship," Mitrovic says. "I remember in high school my best friend started going through some hard times. He'd be an asshole, treat me like dirt and I stuck around. He eventually realized what a good

friend I was, but by then I'd realized what a dick he was. I couldn't forgive him and now we have this awkward relationship where he still wants to be friends and I can't stand him.

"A lot of films are about romance, about guy-girl relationships. When those break up, you stop talking and it's done. But friendships keep going

they last forever in different forms."

Mitrovic's first step to making his film a reality was drafting Velasco as cinematographer and co-creator.

"I ended up sending Fabian about six drafts of the script before then passing it to (instructor) John Kozak," Mitrovic says. "For a long time I'd walk around in circles in my living room, going over the ideas. I'm a pacer. It's mostly the coffee high, though. Once that goes away, you crash and everything you've written sucks."

The duo kicked off pre-production in August and settled in for a grueling schedule that included 17-hour film shoots, venues falling through without notice and a father eager to make his silver screen debut (Mitrovic cast his dad for his thick Serbian accent).

The two admit to ranging emotionally from unperturbed calm to sleep-deprived mania.

"The filming process is the worst," Velasco explains. "We hate it so much, but we can't do anything else."

"It's a love/hate relationship," Mitrovic nods. "With more hate than love. But the feeling on that last day of filming - of having a movie done - that's the best feeling ever."

*Plasticman 2 is being submitted to the University of Winnipeg Student Film Festival (as well as the Gimli, Toronto Afterdark, Buenos Aires and Sarajevo Film Festivals). To see if Plasticman 2 makes the festival, head to [theatre.uwinnipeg.ca/filmfest.htm](http://theatre.uwinnipeg.ca/filmfest.htm).*



## CULTURE TODAY

# By Winnipeggers, for Winnipeggers, about pretty much anything

Imagine YouTube but with, you know, production quality standards

AARON SNIDER  
CULTURE REPORTER

As Tina Fey's *30 Rock* alter-ego Liz Lemon once said, "If reality TV has taught us anything, it's that you can't keep people with no shame down."

TV's constant parade of unforeseen and morally bankrupt successes - think *Jersey Shore* or *Dance Moms* - has also taught us another lesson: the premises of modern mainstream television programs are developed by intellectually compromised chimpanzees mashing keyboards completely at random.

Knowing this fact, it's not surprising that just about everyone has had an idea to improve an existing TV show or come up with an idea for a new show that actually makes sense.

So instead of just telling your friends, why not get in contact with a producer?

Joanne Kelly, a journalism instructor in the Creative Communications program at Red River College and former host and producer with Shaw Community Access television, says that community access channels are there for people with ideas who need help to see them realized.

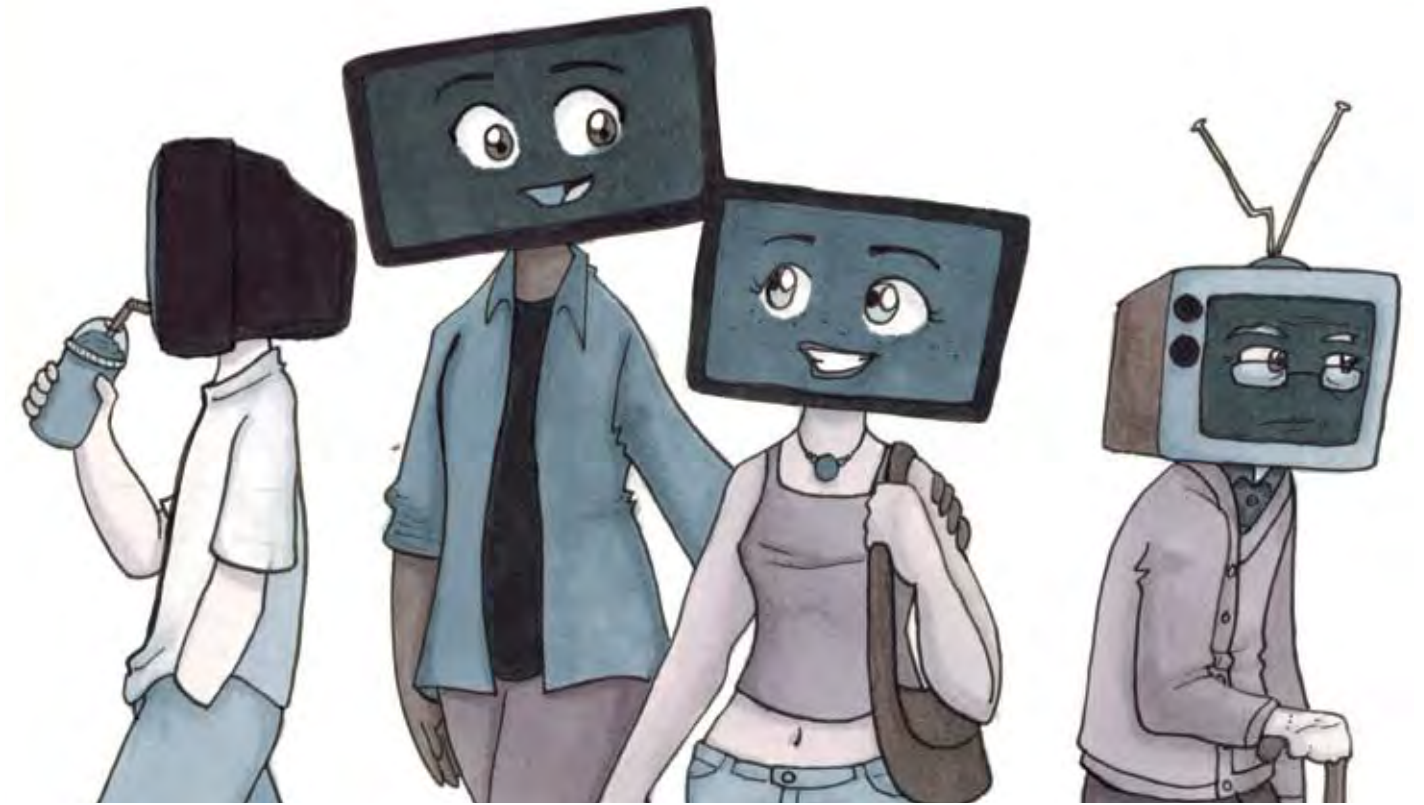
"As a host, what I tried to do was give people a vehicle to help them tell their stories," she says. "Part of my job was to give them the format to tell their stories, but also to help them tell the stories."

"Often they just didn't know either the best way to tell it or the best way to have the most impact with the community."

You don't need money and you don't need an agent. All you need is an interesting idea and a solid work ethic to get your messianic TV vision on the screens of your fellow Winnipeggers.

Shaw provides equipment and support for those that need them.

"Sometimes they came with their program entirely finished and they just gave us



ARANDA ADAMS

the tape," Kelly says. "Sometimes they came with an idea and we would help them work on how they wanted to present it."

Kelly says that there is no limit to the kinds of shows on community access. She's seen everything from shows about video games to sports - even ice fishing. It's the perfect venue for those ideas and stories that need more than a passing mention.

"As opposed to a 10-second blurb on the news, they could get a four-minute unedited interview or a half hour show depending on how much time they were willing to put in," Kelly says.

Dan Huen, the host and producer of

*Week Thus Far* (WTF), a satirical news show taped at the King's Head Pub and broadcast on Shaw Community Access, says that the channel gives the opportunity for people to create shows they would not otherwise be able to create.

WTF, which Huen runs with executive producer Craig Ward, relies on a team of local stand-up comedians who volunteer as writers for the show.

"I've actually tried promoting several other comedy shows that I have friends working on. Unfortunately with a lot of stand-up comics, there's a lot of laziness, so some of them didn't make it to production," Huen

says. "But I've been pulling for everyone to do it - I think it's a great opportunity."

While community access is not all that new, Kelly says it shares a philosophy with a growing number of user-generated media sources.

"I would say there is a growing trend of people grabbing a camera and sharing their stories with the world, whether it's on TV or on YouTube," she says.

And the audience is probably just about as diverse, too.

"I had five-year-olds to 90-year-olds telling me that they watched," Kelly says. "A huge range of people."

## COMEDY PREVIEW

## Just for laughs

Three comics you need to check out at this year's Winnipeg Comedy Festival

DEREK LOEWEN  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

It's 2012 and if skeptics are wrong and doomsday advocates are right, we might as well enjoy the time we have left and have a few laughs.

Regardless of what will happen at the end of this year, the 2012 Winnipeg Comedy Festival is soon arriving to exhibit hilarious local talent as well as some international stars.

Founder Al Rae jokingly admits the festival's Mayan theme is topical but also a testament to its 11th season.

"After last year's blockbuster 10th anniversary, we did spend a millisecond wondering if we should scale back and go gently into our second decade, but where's the fun in that?" Rae says in a press release.

One local comedian who will be having a lot of fun at this year's festival is Cara Lytwyn, 27.

Lytwyn lived in Flin Flon until she was 19, and she talks about the town's effect on her in her stand-up material.

"There's a lot of material that I got from writing about small towns," she tells *The Uniter*. "The douchebag guys that you encounter that build couches out of beer cases and wear sunglasses in a bar. It is, for lack of a better term, a gold mine."

While in Winnipeg, Lytwyn went to college to gain a multitude of skills including public relations. This background helped her produce her own showcase in the 2007 Winnipeg Fringe Festival.

"I was definitely a newborn in the comedy scene. My voice was not even close to fully developed," she says.

Now with years of experience and wis-

dom, Lytwyn is bringing home the awards, including being named Winnipeg's Funniest Comic in 2009.

Lytwyn is performing at the festival for a third time at the Gas Station Theatre on April 9.

In her eyes, the festival is one of a kind.

"I think a lot of people forget that stand-up comedy is subjective just like any art form. Not every type of performance is for everybody," she says. "But I feel that at the Winnipeg Comedy Festival there's always something for someone."

Matt Kirshen, 31, a comedian from London, England, agrees that the Winnipeg festival distinguishes itself from other large theatrical festivals he's performed at, such as the Montreal Comedy Festival and even the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

"It's a great big playground for your friends. A lot of the time you don't get to really work with your friends," he says. "A festival like Winnipeg is just about the show. It's about the audience and the comics enjoying themselves."

Kirshen is a seasoned veteran on the world comedy scene. While studying mathematics at Cambridge he began writing a comedic newsletter and working on the theoretical side of jokes. To him, writing jokes really helped pave the way for his comedic success.

"The performance skills are things that came in time," he says. "But from very early on I at least knew how to construct a joke. Even though I maybe wasn't as good as a performer I at least had half-decent punchlines at the end of every sentence."

Television has been an integral medium for Kirshen as of late.

Last year he performed on *The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson* and *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*. He even appeared once on NBC's *Last Comic Standing*, a stand-up competition with viewers in the millions.

Kirshen admits that the difference between club performances and television performances is huge.

"On TV you've got the cameras on you and it will be broadcast later that night to millions of people," he says. "It is nerve-racking because you don't get a second chance, but at the same time it feels great."

Former panelist of MuchMusic's *Video on Trial* Nicole Arbour, 29, will also be paying a visit to the festival.

Her experiences on television are positive ones, but not without a few concerns.

"I freaking love MuchMusic and MTV Canada," she says. "But what I didn't like was tearing a strip off Canadian artists or any artist because I'm also a musician and I work in that industry. I think there's making fun 'with' and making fun 'of.'"

Arbour is known throughout the globe as being "the world's sexiest comedian," a label that is no hindrance to her.

"I don't mind it at all. At first it was kind of silly," she says. "I thought, 'You're going to make the other female comics hate me.' I would love to have some girlfriends in comedy that are also kind of girly girls, but there are none."

Arbour is very excited to perform at the festival for the first time and she has some wild audience expectations.

"I'm expecting a super cool crowd that will scream their asses off every time I say the word 'Jets,'" she says. "Every time I've been to Winnipeg the people are always friendly



JAYLYN TODD

Nicole Arbour, "the world's sexiest comedian."

and fun and love to party."

*The Winnipeg Comedy Festival runs from Thursday, April 5 to Sunday, April 15. Tickets range in price from \$8 to \$50 and are available online or at the Gas Station Theatre. Visit [www.winnipegcomedyfestival.com](http://www.winnipegcomedyfestival.com) for a full schedule.*



## CULTURE TODAY

# Beautifying by night

Alternative forms of graffiti place aesthetic above squiggliness

AARON SNIDER  
CULTURE REPORTER

If names carved into picnic tables and penises tagged on train cars are not your scene, do not fear - there are other examples of Winnipeg street art that aim to enhance public space rather than deface it.

"In general I think street art is more effective when it works with the environment or the space," says Birdo, a local street artist who specializes in wheat pasting. "I'm really interested in street art that creates a dialogue in that specific area."

**"I've had many of them stolen, and I say that because I think they were taken home to be loved."**

- TARA DAVIS, ARTIST AND YARN-BOMBER

"People will put up a wheat paste in a really run-down parking lot and say, 'What do you wish was here?' and people will write 'a garden' or what have you."

Birdo, who operates under an alias and asked that her real name not be published, says that her homemade wheat paste stickers give her the opportunity to engage with the aesthetics of public spaces tastefully. She can create something artistic and complex at home and stick it up in a matter of seconds.

"I like to do little faces or characters, or raccoons on dumpsters," says Birdo. "Sometimes writing, but nothing too political."

In 2005, Tara Davis, another street artist and the owner of Tara Davis Studio Boutique, noticed that the river walk was all cracked and got an idea.

"It looked like elephant skin, so I painted a huge pink elephant in chalk paint," Davis says. "Then people were talking about it so I put little elephants around town."

The initial reaction to her pink elephant got Davis thinking about other street art projects she could do and in 2006, she started



DYLAN HEWLETT

yarn bombing. Yarn bombing involves placing knitted or woven items around public infrastructure like signs and street lamps.

"I love weaving and I love the notion that it's removable," Davis says. "I've had many of them stolen, and I say that because I think they were taken home to be loved. I don't think they were ripped apart."

Davis doesn't really support tagging things with paint, though she says some of her friends are graffiti artists. Like Birdo,

Davis thinks that street art should improve the urban space.

Both artists are inspired by U.K. situational street artist Banksy.

"I just think it makes the city look prettier," Davis says. "It's fun putting them up, too. Depending on where they are it's difficult to access."

She attaches her brightly coloured creations to mundane urban objects to spice things up. "Lamp posts and street signs and tele-

phone poles, things that are not all that exciting," she says. "Trees, construction barricades."

She says that her average yarn bomb takes about an hour to weave and a few minutes to put up, an activity she does at night: "Not because anyone cares all that much, just because it's fun. I often wear a wig."

See more of Tara Davis's work at [www.taradavis.ca](http://www.taradavis.ca) or visit her at 246 McDermot Avenue.

## FASHION PREVIEW

## Like shopping in your best friend's closet

Local boutique Mad About Style celebrates two years on Academy Road

JESSICA BOTELHO-URBANSKI  
VOLUNTEER STAFF

March 20 proved to be a big day for Nicola Loewen.

Alongside family, friends and her loyal clientele, she celebrated the second anniversary of her first foray into fashion: the opening of Mad About Style, her boutique at 538 Academy Rd.

"It was very fun to celebrate with everyone," Loewen says. "There's a huge network that appreciates smaller boutiques in this area, which is really fantastic."

**"We want to make sure your closet is working for you."**

- NICOLA LOEWEN, OWNER, MAD ABOUT STYLE

Loewen credits the River Heights community with being so welcoming towards small businesses.

Indeed, all along Academy Road many locally owned boutiques are setting up shop and doing very well for themselves. The visible shift towards shopping local over heading to malls and retail chains is refreshing.

Loewen worked in retail and went to school in Vancouver for fashion merchandising and marketing, knowing she wanted to be a buyer, but not sure for what demographic.

"I soon realized I wanted to work for a

small business," she recalls. "It's interesting how passions in the industry can lead you to where you want to go."

"I hate the saying 'fashion and passion' but that's what it was," Loewen laughs.

Since the very beginning, Loewen wanted Mad About Style to be a more personal experience for customers. From the bright, open concept to the friendly atmosphere provided by attentive staff, the boutique provides a decidedly stress-free shopping environment.

"We want it to be like shopping in your best friend's closet," says Loewen.

This closet is full of smart-casual clothes at reasonable prices. As the weather heats up, vivid patterns and bright colour blocking are on trend, and maxi skirts, cocktail dresses, clutches and baubles are all adorned in shades that scream summer.

All of the beautiful pieces at Mad About Style are bought with the client in mind.

"When someone walks in the door we want to know their name, who they are, what their family is like ... so I can picture who is going to wear this - when and where," says Loewen. "We want to make sure your closet is working for you."

The personal service doesn't stop there.

Mad About Style's Facebook page is extremely interactive. While browsing online through photo albums of new arrivals, customers can ask questions about what is in stock and place holds on items they'd like in a specific size.

Pre-shopping online is always a good idea before coming in to the store.



JESSICA BOTELHO-URBANSKI

Nicola Loewen opened her boutique, Mad About Style, in 2010.

"If you're not on there, you'll probably miss your size," Loewen reveals.

So shop early and check back often.

Visit [www.madaboutstyle.ca](http://www.madaboutstyle.ca).



AWARDS & FINANCIAL AID

The Awards and Financial Aid staff of the University of Winnipeg provides the student body with current information on award opportunities. This information is updated weekly.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG AWARDS:

http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-awards

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND BURSARIES

The Graduate and Professional Studies Expenses Bursary is still available for application for students in their final year of a Honours or B.Ed. program who are applying to pursue post-undergraduate studies. These awards are given out on a first-come, first-serve basis and will be available for application until the funds are exhausted. Application forms are available on our website: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-awds-current-continuing>.

In-Course Award applications for current and returning students will be available online by July 1 for the 2012-13 academic year.

MANITOBA STUDENT AID PROGRAM (MSAP):

Applications to Manitoba Student Aid for the Spring/Summer session are available online now. To apply, visit: [www.manitobastudentaid.ca](http://www.manitobastudentaid.ca). If you want to apply for the 2012-13 Fall/Winter session, applications will begin to be accepted in early June. For more information on the Government Student Aid Program, visit our website: <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/portal-awards-financial-aid>

EXTERNAL AWARDS:

The university is often notified by companies and organizations about awards they have for students in

ARTS LISTINGS

FILM

In conjunction with the CBC COMEDY FESTIVAL, Kevin McDonald curates a series of his favourite comedy teams from the history of cinema. THE COMEDY FILM FESTIVAL at Cinematheque opens with the Kids in the Hall's BRAIN CANDY on Thursday, April 5 at 7 p.m the Marx Brothers' classic film NIGHT AT THE OPERA shows on Friday, April 6 at 7 p.m. and, right on time for Easter weekend, Monty Python's LIFE OF BRIAN shows on Saturday, April 7 at 7 p.m.

The Comedy Film Festival continues with BEDAZZLED on Wednesday, April 11 at 7 p.m. and ends with WAY OUT WEST on Thursday, April 12 at 7 p.m. All the films will be introduced by Kevin McDonald. For more information on the festival go to [www.winnipegfilmgroup.com](http://www.winnipegfilmgroup.com).

WHITE WATER, BLACK GOLD shows at Cinematheque Friday, April 13 until Wednesday, April 18 at 7 p.m. The Keystone pipeline project and the devastating effects of oil on the environment have brought the subject of the oil industry to the forefront. *White Water, Black Gold* is an investigative point-of-view documentary that follows David Lavallee on his three-year journey across Western Canada in search of answers about the activities of the world's thirstiest oil industry: the tar sands.

Storefront Manitoba, Urban Idea and Cinematheque present the ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN FILM FESTIVAL showing from Thursday, April 19 to Saturday, April 21. This new festival will present a range of unique, critically acclaimed films that focus on the importance of architecture and design in everyday life. Highlights include HOW MUCH DOES YOUR BUILDING WEIGH MR. FOSTER?, INFINITE SPACE: THE ARCHITECTURE OF JOHN LAUTNER and VISUAL ACOUSTICS: THE MODERNISM OF JULIUS SHULMAN. Go to [www.winnipegfilmgroup.com](http://www.winnipegfilmgroup.com) for a full film schedule.

The much-talked-about PAYBACK shows at Cinematheque from Friday, April 27 to Thursday, May 3 at 7 p.m. Premiering at this year's Sundance Festival, Jennifer Baichwal (*Manufactured Landscapes*) has created a remarkable new film about debt and its influences. Based on Margaret Atwood's best-selling book *Payback: Debt and the Shadow Side of Wealth*, *Payback* explores the world of debt, tracing how it influences relationships, societies, governing structures and the very fate of the planet.

LITERATURE

Jerry Buckland launches HARD CHOICES: FINANCIAL EXCLUSION, FRINGE BANKS AND POVERTY IN URBAN CANADA at McNally Robinson on Thursday, April 5 at 7 p.m.

The book launch for THE NEW NORTHWEST PASSAGE: A VOYAGE TO THE FRONT LINE OF CLIMATE CHANGE by CAMERON DUECK is on Tuesday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m. at McNally Robinson.

The book launch for THE BEAST: STORIES OF COLONIZATION, EXPLORATION AND DETERMINATION will be on Wednesday, April 11 at 8 p.m. at Prairie Ink Restaurant in McNally Robinson.

DAVE WILLIAMSON's book launch for DATING: A NOVEL is on Thursday, April 12 at 8 p.m. at McNally Robinson.

The graphic novel launch of ROMULUS + REMUS by SCOTT A. FORD is on Thursday, April 19 at 7 p.m. at the Neighbourhood Bookstore & Café.

CBC's Middle East correspondent NAHLAH AYED launches A THOUSAND FAREWELLS: A REPORTER'S JOURNEY FROM REFUGEE CAMP TO THE ARAB SPRING on Monday, April 23 at 7 p.m.

GALLERIES & MUSEUMS

The WAG is showing AMERICAN CHRONICLES: THE ART OF NORMAN ROCKWELL until Sunday, May 20.

The cre8ery presents BLACK & WHITE, an exhibition by CAM-

post-secondary education. Here are a few awards that are available right now:

SEVEN OAKS GENERAL HOSPITAL BURSARY

Deadline: April 25, 2012

For healthcare or fitness professionals pursuing a second degree, post-graduate studies, or technical training related to a career in health promotion and wellness, including studies related to lifestyle behaviour change, nutrition, health promotion, disease prevention, chronic disease management and research. There are two \$500 bursaries available to successful candidates.

Awards will be paid to the educational institution towards their tuition.

Visit <http://www.sogh.winnipeg.mb.ca/> and click "Employment."

THE NATIONAL UNION'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR 2012

Deadline: June 30, 2012

Each year, the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE) offers four scholarships that reflect its pursuit of equal opportunity for all workers. They are open to the children of the National Union's 340,000 members who are starting a post-secondary education.

Visit <http://www.nupge.ca/scholarships>.

ERON CROSS, until Tuesday, April 17 on the 2nd floor, 125 Adelaide St. The opening reception is on Thursday, April 5 at 7 p.m.

Wayne Arthur Gallery presents EROTICA AFTER HOURS: A DUSK 'TIL DAWN PHOTOGRAPHIC ESSAY by RICHARD CHAMBERLIN and RAY BROWN until Wednesday, May 2 at 186 Provencher Blvd. There will be an opening reception on Thursday, April 5 at 7 p.m.

The Colony Collective presents LIMINALITY, a collaborative multimedia art event with art films, dance, visual and culinary arts at acearthinc., 250 McDermot on Wednesday, April 11 at 7 p.m.

A CHILD'S VIEW OF GAZA: CROSS CANADA ART EXHIBITION shows from Friday, April 13 until Thursday, April 19 at the Atomic Centre, 167 Logan Ave.

The U of W's Gallery 1C03 and Oseredok Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre present I LIKE TO BELIEVE I AM TELLING THE TRUTH by CHRIS REID until Saturday, April 14.

THE POLITICS OF COLOUR by visual artist CHRISTIAN WORTHINGTON shows at the Zephaniah Gallery, 3-374 Donald St., with an opening reception on Thursday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Platform Centre presents SUSPICIOUS FUTURES, select video work by SUSAN BRITTON, until April 21 at 121-100 Arthur St.

Video Pool Media Arts Centre presents INFLATABLE ROBOTIC ARTS IN CANADA by CHICO MACMURTRIE until Friday, April 27 at the University of Manitoba's School of Art Gallery.

Urban Shaman's Marvin Frances Media Gallery presents RAVEN BRINGS THE LIGHT by STEPHEN FOSTER from Friday, April 27 until Saturday, June 23 at 203-290 McDermot Ave. There will be an opening reception on Friday, April 27 at 7 p.m.

Urban Shaman's Main Gallery presents FATHER'S DAY by JEFF THOMAS from Friday, April 27 until Saturday, June 23 showing at Urban Shaman's Main Gallery at 203-290 McDermot Ave.

Semai Gallery presents SMALL WORKS by Nora Kobrinsky until Saturday, April 28 at 264 McDermot Ave.

MIGRATING LANDSCAPES: THE NATIONAL ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION regional winners will be showing their work at the Winnipeg Art Gallery until Sunday, April 29.

OUR CANADA by MARY VALENTINE and DAVID OWEN LUCAS shows at the Buhler Gallery in the St. Boniface Hospital until Sunday, May 20.

THEATRE, DANCE & COMEDY

The WINNIPEG COMEDY FESTIVAL presents the hit fringe improv show DUNGEONS & DRAGONS at 8 p.m. at the Gas Station Arts Centre on Friday, April 6.

The WINNIPEG COMEDY FESTIVAL comes to Pop Soda's on Friday, April 6 starting at 9 p.m. and features free stand-up by BEN WALKER, AISHA ALFA, MELANIE DAHLING AND JOHN B. DUFF.

GOD OF CARNAGE is showing at the John Hirsch Mainstage until Saturday, April 7.

Theatre Projects presents DIONYSUS IN STONY MOUNTAIN by STEVEN RATZLAFF until Sunday, April 8 at 8 p.m. at the Rachel Browne Theatre.

MAPLES COLLEGIATE'S DRAMA DEPARTMENT present CLUE on Thursday, April 12 at 7 p.m. at the Maples Collegiate Theatre, 1330 Jefferson Ave. Come see the play based on the movie based on the board game.

CANZONA: REQUIEM IN E FLAT MAJOR AND MISERERE IN C MINOR by Johann Adolf Hasse and conducted Henry Engbrecht is on Sunday, April 15 at 7 p.m. at Westminster United Church, 745 Westminster at Maryland.

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre in association with Kevin McCollum and Lams Productions presents BLIND DATE, show-

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY LISTINGS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Winnipeg Chapter of the National Committee of UN Women presents the seventh annual LOCAL TO GLOBAL FUNDRAISER on Wednesday, April 11, from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Viscount Gort Hotel. The evening will feature international award-winning journalist and author, KATHY GANNON and performances by Winnipeg singer-songwriters KERI LATIMER and SIERRA NOBLE. Tickets are \$30 and are available at McNally Robinson Booksellers.

The DANIEL MCINTYRE / ST. MATTHEWS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION in cooperation with the UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG'S ORAL HISTORY CENTRE are helping West Enders share stories about their own neighbourhood in which they live and work. If you're a West Ender with a story to share come to the next talking circle on Saturday, April 14, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Tuesday, May 8 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the DMSMCA office on 823 Ellice Ave. Refreshments provided at all events. The events are open to everyone. To learn more about these events, contact [winnipegwestendvoices@gmail.com](mailto:winnipegwestendvoices@gmail.com).

LAW DAY 2012 marks the 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS and will feature an open house at the Winnipeg Law Courts, 408 York Ave. on Sunday, April 15, from noon to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free.

North America's biggest clothing swap, TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES, happens Saturday, April 21 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Delta Winnipeg (350 St. Mary Avenue). Admission is \$5 advance or \$7 at the door. Proceeds will benefit Kids Help Phone. Visit [www.theswapteam.org/winnipeg](http://www.theswapteam.org/winnipeg) for more info.

FOOD FOR FOLKS FUNDRAISER: FOLK FUNDING FOR FOOD SECURITY is on Saturday, April 28 at the Ukrainian Labour Temple, 591 Pritchard Ave. There will be live music, singer-songwriters, DJs, quest speakers, door prizes, catering, a full bar and a tea stand. Profits of this Winnipeg Folk Festival Market are being used to reinvest in, or "folk fund," food security and urban agriculture projects in the North End of Winnipeg. For more information contact [ibrynjonson@gmail.com](mailto:ibrynjonson@gmail.com), or 204-330-3580.

The 2012 SOL AND FLORENCE KANEE DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES presents EFRAIM HALEVY, the provocative and controversial former director of the Mossad, speaking on IMPOSSIBLE MISSIONS: ISRAEL'S GREATEST THREATS INSIDE AND OUT on Thursday, May 3 at 8 p.m. at Shaarey Zedek Synagogue, 561 Wellington Cres. For more information contact 204-477-7460.

The 16th annual VISION QUEST CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW takes place at the Winnipeg Convention Centre from Tuesday, May 15 to Thursday, May 17. More than 1,000 conference participants - including 100 trade show exhibitors - will come together from across Manitoba and Canada to discuss and promote aboriginal business, community and economic development. For more information visit [www.vqconference.com](http://www.vqconference.com).

The 2012 ABILITY AXIS EMPLOYMENT EXPO is on Thursday, May 17 at the Victoria Inn. Revolving around a vibrant career fair, the Employment Expo is a celebration of employment and career opportunities for people with disabilities in our community. For more information, go to [www.abilityaxis.com](http://www.abilityaxis.com) or call 204-487-0307.

ON CAMPUS

STEPPING OUTSIDE: A SYMPOSIUM ON EXPERIMENTAL LEARNING IN THE HUMANITIES features students in rhetoric and communications, English and education speaking about their experiences in diverse place-based learning. The event is free and takes place on Thursday, April 5 from 8 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in room 2M70. Refreshments

ing until Saturday, April 21 at the Tom Hendry Warehouse. *Blind Date* creator Rebecca Northan stars as Mimi in this fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants fusion of clown, improvisation, theatre and social experiment.

Sarasvati Productions' presents EDEN from Friday, April 27 to Sunday, May 13 at the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film at the University of Winnipeg, 400 Colony St. *Eden* is set in a dystopian future and focuses on two 15-year-olds who have inherited a world built on lies and manipulation. It is a powerful exploration of truth and justice, but also weaves in the reality of how marginalized groups are blamed for the world's troubles. For more information go to [www.sarasvati.ca](http://www.sarasvati.ca).

COMEDY OPEN MIC NIGHTS in the 'Peg are Sundays at the Cavern with JOHN B. DUFF, Tuesdays at the King's Head Pub and Mondragon, Wednesday's at Pop Soda's and Thursdays at the Standard Tavern.

Shaw TV's WEEK THUS FAR tapes in front of a live studio audience at The King's Head Pub every Monday at 7:30 p.m.

provided. For more information, please contact Jennifer Clary-Lemon at [j.clary-lemon@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:j.clary-lemon@uwinnipeg.ca).

KONY 2012: THE FILM is on Monday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m. in Eckhardt-Grammatté Hall, 3rd Floor, Centennial Hall. The Free the Children University of Winnipeg Chapter, Invisible Children and the Global College will be hosting a screening of the controversial film. The screening will be followed by dialogue with Invisible Children members. Everyone is welcome to attend.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

THE PLUG IN INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART is looking for enthusiastic and reliable volunteers to help in a number of areas of its operations. Volunteers gain valuable experience and meet artists and other interesting people. For more information email [michelle@plugin.org](mailto:michelle@plugin.org).

The 2012 BIOMEDICAL YOUTH SUMMER CAMP is looking for volunteers for an inner-city science camp from July 23 until July 27. If you're interested contact [byp.coordinator@gmail.com](mailto:byp.coordinator@gmail.com).

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION BIKE LAB is open! Pop by between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday to Friday, to say hello or get involved. Email [bikelab@theuwsa.ca](mailto:bikelab@theuwsa.ca) for more information, or join the Facebook group at [www.facebook.com/uwsabikelab](http://www.facebook.com/uwsabikelab).

The UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION WOMYN'S CENTRE provides a space where womyn can build community with other womyn. To volunteer phone 204-786-9788 or email [womynsctr@theuwsa.ca](mailto:womynsctr@theuwsa.ca).

To volunteer for the UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION fill out an application on their website, [www.theUWSA.ca](http://www.theUWSA.ca), or grab an application from their office in the Bulman Centre.

To volunteer for PEER SUPPORT, email [uofwpeersupport@gmail.com](mailto:uofwpeersupport@gmail.com), or grab an application from their office (ORM13) or from the UWSA.

To volunteer for UWSA FOODBANK, email [foodbank@theuwsa.ca](mailto:foodbank@theuwsa.ca), or grab an application from the UWSA.

THE UNITER, the weekly rag you are holding right now, is looking for contributors next year and over the summer. Email [editor@uniter.ca](mailto:editor@uniter.ca).

CKUW 95.9 FM is seeking volunteers for the music and news departments and fill in hosts over the summer. Email [ckuw@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:ckuw@uwinnipeg.ca).

THE WEST BROADWAY YOUTH OUTREACH CENTRE is always looking for more volunteers to help with a variety of programs including sports, tutoring and other programs to benefit inner-city youth. Call 204-774-0451 or stop by 222 Furby St. to offer your skills.

THE SPENCE NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION is looking for volunteers to help with their programming. Interested volunteers can download a volunteer application form at [www.spenceneighbourhood.org](http://www.spenceneighbourhood.org) or call 204-783-5000 for more information.

RUPERT'S LAND CAREGIVER SERVICES RING A RIDE program needs drivers to take clients residing in Southwest Winnipeg to appointments, shopping and social outings. Compensation for gasoline and parking is provided. For more information please call 204-452-9491 or email us at [rlcs\\_vol@mts.net](mailto:rlcs_vol@mts.net).

The English Language Department is looking for LANGUAGE PARTNER VOLUNTEERS - people that would be matched with a student learning English and meet with them once a week for 12 weeks. The benefits are positive for both the volunteer and the student. Interested in being a Language Partner? Find out more about the program at [www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/elp-partner](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/elp-partner).

This is the last issue of The Uniter of the semester. We will be publishing two summer issues: Thursday, May 31 and Thursday, June 28. If you want to see your event included in the listings of those issues, the deadlines are Tuesday, May 22 and Tuesday, June 19. Send the info to: [listings@uniter.ca](mailto:listings@uniter.ca)

The Uniter returns to its weekly publishing schedule at the beginning of September. Stay tuned to [www.uniter.ca](http://www.uniter.ca) for details.



An artist like Ivan Eyre,  
Wanda Koop or  
Jordan L. Miller.

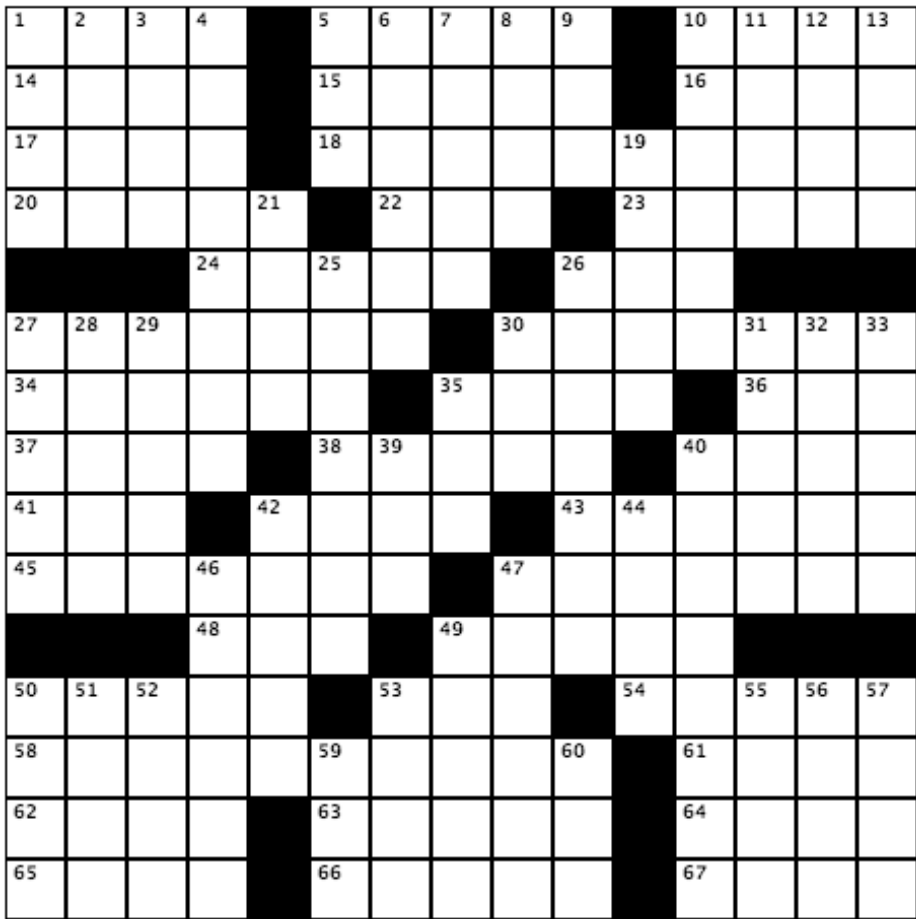
FROM YEARNING TO MADNESS  
THE JOURNAL OF CLINT ROSCOE

Available for free download on the iTunes Store.

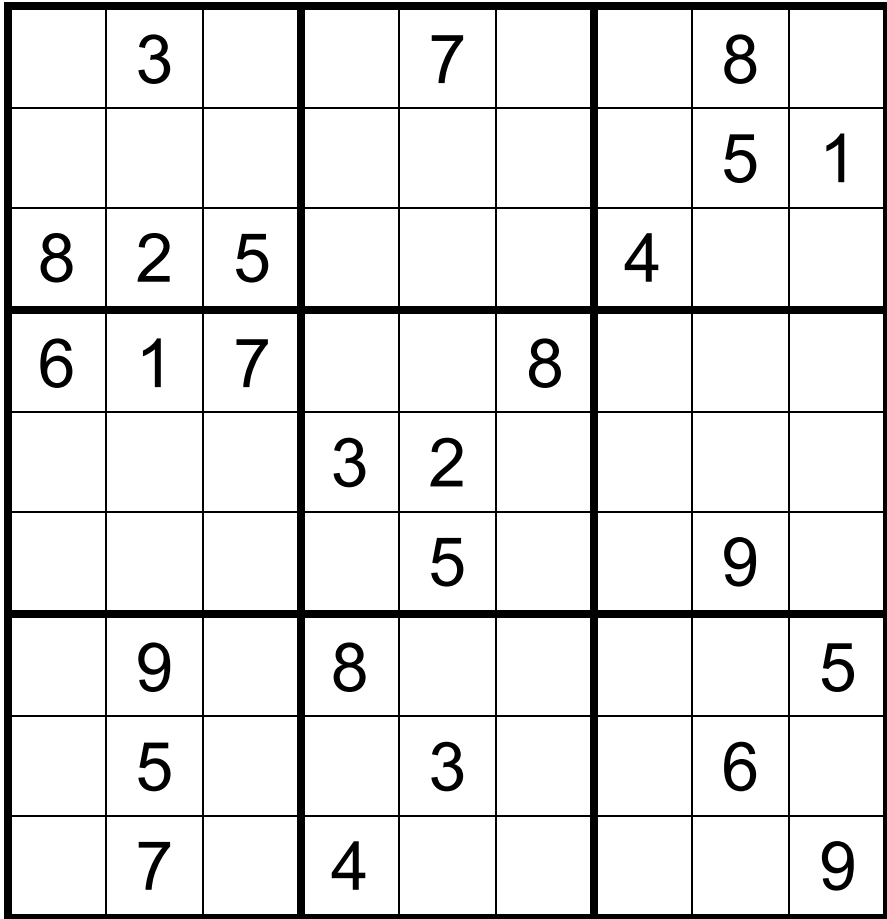


## Crossword Puzzle &amp; Sudoku 26

Solutions to this week's sudoku and crossword are printed upside-down at the bottom of this page.

SUDOKU SKILL LEVEL: **CHALLENGING**

BESTCROSSWORDS.COM



WWW.PDFPAD.COM/SUDOKU

**Across**

- 1- Singer Sedaka  
5- Loud  
10- Upper limbs, weapons  
14- Langston Hughes poem  
15- Expeditiously  
16- Quantity of paper  
17- Fishing hole  
18- Capable of being terminated

- 20- Jagged parts  
22- Born  
23- Declaim  
24- Subdued  
26- Exec's degree  
27- Evermore  
30- Frolicsome  
34- Of the backbone  
35- Mayberry moppet

- 36- Narrow inlet  
37- Slant  
38- Big dos  
40- Trading center  
41- Half and half  
42- Author Oz  
43- Perfectly  
45- Teacher  
47- Make blue?

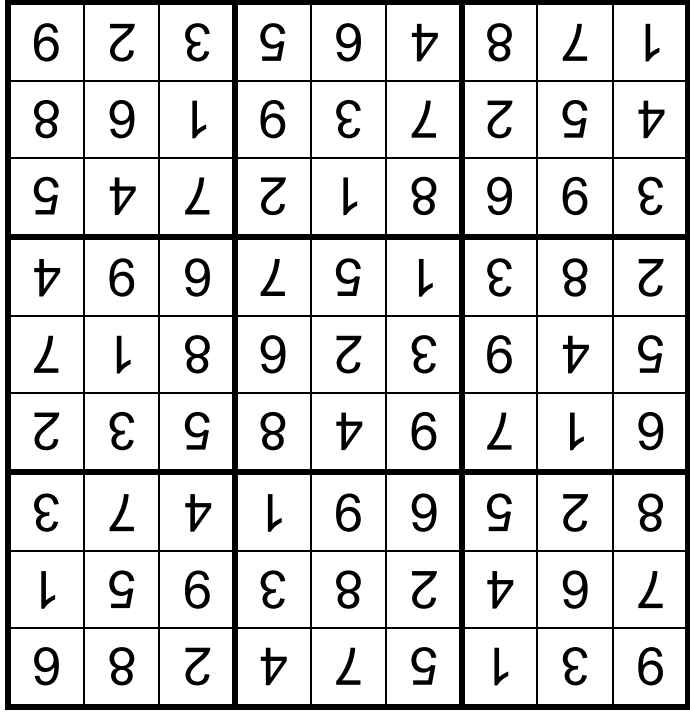
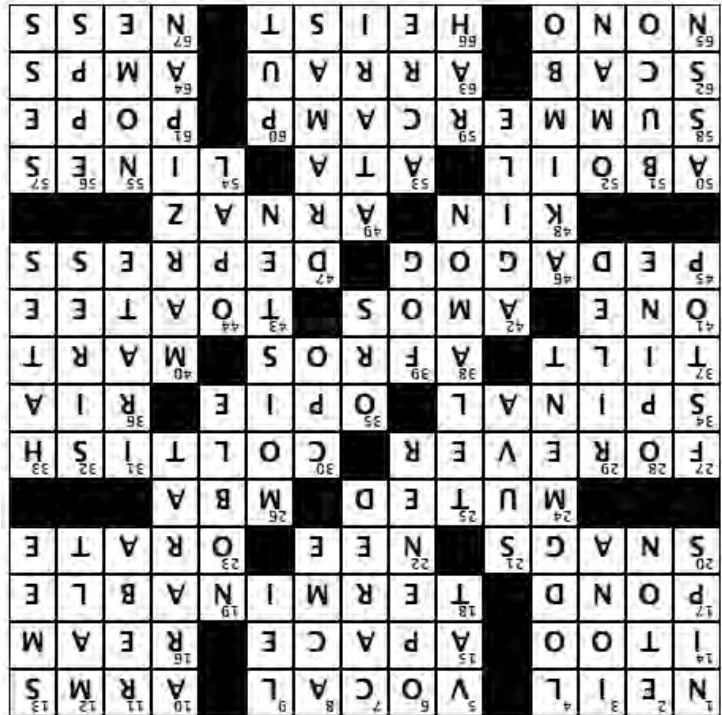
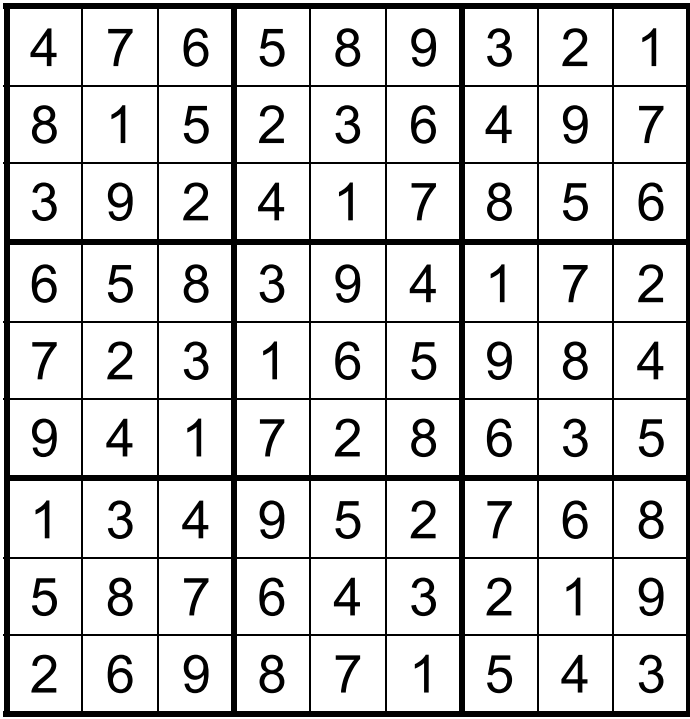
- 48- Family  
49- Ball partner  
50- Bubbling  
53- Loss leader?  
54- Queues  
58- Camp for children  
61- Bishop of Rome  
62- Sign of healing  
63- Chilean pianist Claudio

- 64- Concert gear  
65- Taboo  
66- Robbery  
67- Capone's nemesis

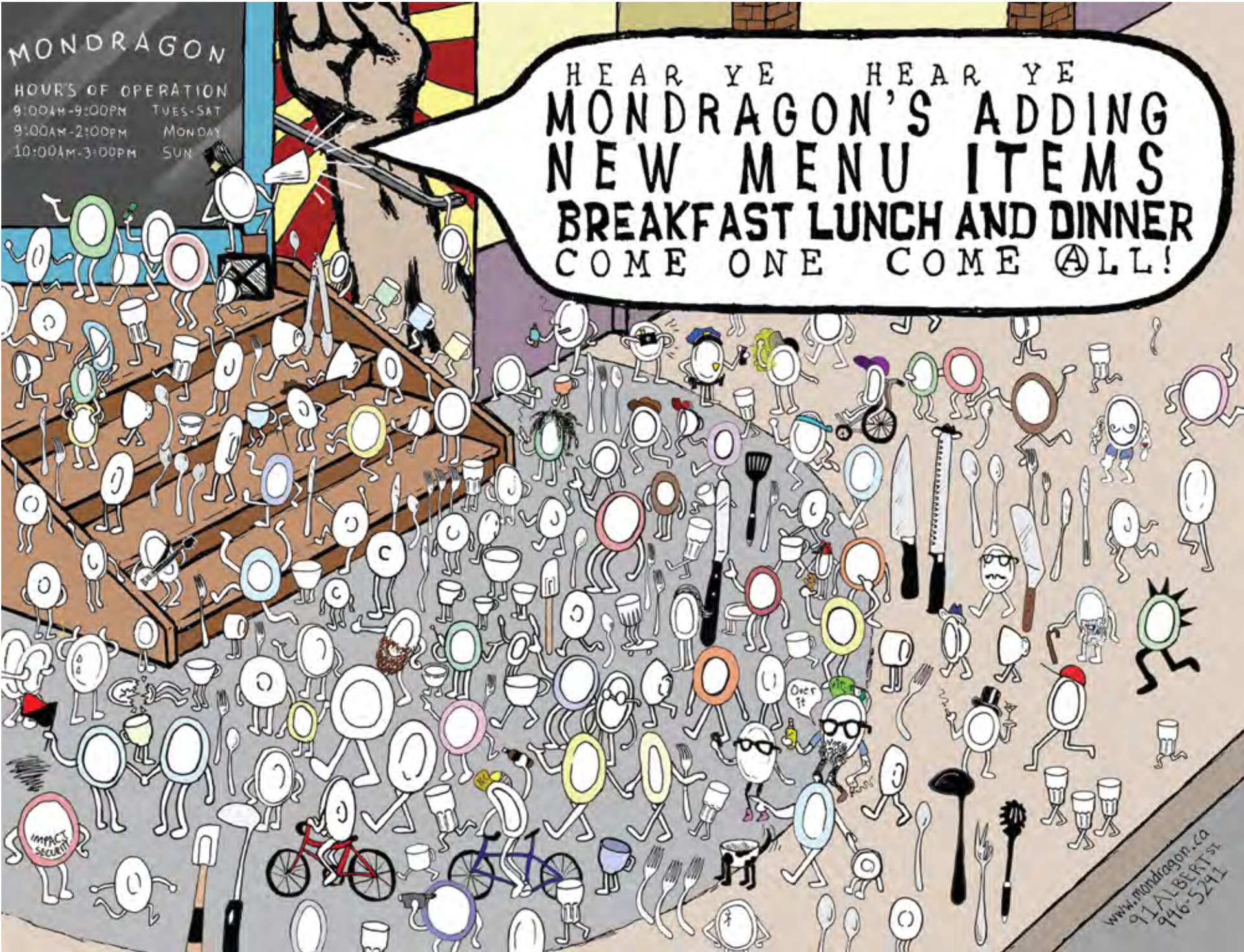
**Down**

- 1- Bites  
2- Collar type  
3- New Rochelle college  
4- Act of lodging  
5- Large container  
6- Kitchen utensil  
7- Gave a hoot  
8- Apex, pinnacle  
9- Wreath of flowers  
10- Turkey's highest peak  
11- First name in country  
12- Germinated grain used in brewing  
13- Hook's helper  
19- Aristocratic  
21- Capital of Fiji  
25- Column in the form of a man  
26- Dampen  
27- Camera setting  
28- Express a viewpoint  
29- Angered  
30- USN rank  
31- Angry  
32- Fathers  
33- Can't stand  
35- Hosp. areas  
39- Cloudlike mass  
40- Almond confection  
42- Light on one's feet  
44- Fall birthstone  
46- With hands on hips  
47- Stage plays  
49- Maker of Pong  
50- Org.  
51- Osso \_\_\_\_  
52- Arab League member  
53- 160 square rods  
55- Iditarod terminus  
56- Actor Omar  
57- Cong. meeting  
59- Encouraging word  
60- Place

Solutions to puzzles from the March 29, 2012 and April 5, 2012 issues.







Your Members of the Legislative Assembly

# Working for Students

 <p><b>Greg Selinger</b> MLA for St. Boniface Premier of Manitoba 237-9247 GregSelinger.ca</p>	 <p><b>Andrew Swan</b> MLA for Minto 783-9860 AndrewSwan.ca</p>	 <p><b>Deanne Crothers</b> MLA for St. James 415-0883 DeanneCrothers.ca</p>
 <p><b>Nancy Allan</b> MLA for St. Vital 237-8771 NancyAllan.ca</p>	 <p><b>Flor Marcelino</b> MLA for Logan 788-0800 FlorMarcelino.ca</p>	 <p><b>Jim Rondeau</b> MLA for Assiniboia 888-7722 JimRondeau.mb.ca</p>



**Andrea**  
"Dreary weather  
inspires me to wear  
bright colours."

## FASHION STREETER

The Uniter Fashion Streeter is an ongoing documentation of creative fashion in Winnipeg inspired by the Helsinki fashion blog [www.hel-looks.com](http://www.hel-looks.com). Each issue will feature a new look from our city's streets and bars in an attempt to encourage individual expression and celebrate that you are really, really good looking.