

THE UNITER

FREE WEEKLY.
VOLUME 69 // ISSUE 26 // MAR. 26

THE URBAN ISSUE

Winnipeg
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THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

MOUSELAND PRESS

8th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday April 9th, 2015 • 6:30-8:30 pm
Universite of Winnipeg @ The Hive in Lockhart Hall

AGENDA

- **Welcome and Introductions**
 - **Approval of Agenda**
 - **Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes**
 - **Business Manager Reports**
 - **Approval of 2016 Budget**
 - **Speaker Series Report**
 - **Volunteer Coordinator Report**
 - **Nomination of New Board Members**
 - **Election of New Board Members**
 - **Nomination of chair**
 - **Election of chair**
 - **Presentation to Outgoing Board Members**
 - **Closing Announcements**
 - **Adjournment**
-

All Uniter staff, contributors and past members are welcome to attend. If you have contributed to three or more issues of the Uniter during the 2014/2015 school year, you are automatically a member of Mouseland Press Inc. and have voting rights at this meeting.

*** ON THE COVER**

One of Winnipeg's many scenic train bridges shot by Silas Chipelski.

PREZ SAYZ
with **STEFANO GRANDE**

In a city as diverse as ours, downtown truly matters. It is full of activity and welcomes people of all backgrounds. It is the economic engine of our city. With continued strategic investment and attention, it will once again be the pride of Winnipeggers.

Trends suggest that our downtown's health has improved significantly over the last several years. This newfound health, however, is as fragile as it is encouraging - and it needs continued and sustained commitment from the public to nurture it.

Imagine if Winnipeg better managed suburban sprawl, and in doing so, created strong, resilient, walkable and vibrant neighbourhoods - the type of neighbourhoods that are healthy for people and great for taxpayers.

Imagine if Winnipeg placed a greater priority on the revitalization of historical buildings and density, leading to much more efficient and significant economic impacts than sprawl and less financial burdens for the taxpayer.

What if developers were allowed to build single-family homes on the periphery of our city, but only if they committed to multi-family and infill units in key areas within the city?

There is no shortage of ideas and solutions to help to continue renewing our downtown and inner city. Let's get engaged and discuss how to move forward - together.

Stefano Grande is the Executive Director of the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

ALANA TRACHENKO'S PIECE ON OUR CITY'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, AS WELL AS SOME INSIGHT AND OPINIONS ON MANITOBA MUSIC WRITTEN BY CHRIS BRYSON CAN BE READ ON THEUNITER.CA



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PHOTOS BY ADARA MOREAU

ANASTASIA CHIPELSKI

@ANACHIPS

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Not all mayors work in politics. Mayor Matt Allen is a musician, cook and documentary filmmaker who lives in North Point Douglas. Allen shares a house with his wife, Rhoda, his daughter, their cat Casey and dogs Benny and Lester.

When they first saw this house, they were sold on it. "It's neighborhoods like these where you're close to the water and you've still got the big old trees, and then these old character homes," Allen explains. "It's kind of like, as they say, the poor man's Wolseley. But we've been here almost 8 years and it's changed so much."

Allen made a documentary about the neighborhood and its artists and activists, and is currently working on another about war resister Joshua Key. He's currently working for the Interlake Spectator after graduating from Red River's creative communications program.

"I also did (a documentary) about the Times Change(d) Blues Jam," Allen shares. He and Rhoda ran the Pollo Volante restaurant out of the storied venue for four years, and it was also a huge part of why he moved to Winnipeg from Edmonton 10 years ago.

"About 10 years ago when the (Perpetrators) and the D.Rangers were kind of at the height, or the prime of the scene there... when I first came to visit to check Winnipeg out, I was like 'I want to live in the city with that bar!'" Allen says. "So, that definitely played a huge role in my earlier times here."

After they're finished the process of pulling out a wall in the middle of the main floor and putting in insulation, Allen has plans to build a "house concert-type space" in the back room.

"I want to put black curtain up all around, a little stage mount and PA. We have a little projector and screen, so we'll be able to pull down, have it be kind of a movie room too."



1) KITCHEN ISLAND

"We have a lot of dinner guests so people can kind of sit at the counter and we can cook, you don't feel like you're pushed into a corner. I've always disliked the idea of stoves that are against a wall. Why should you have to stare at a wall when you're cooking?"

2) SPONGEBOB FLYING V UKELELE

Not just a kids ukelele: "This is for anyone", Allen says. It came from his friend Don Zeuf, who played fiddle in the D.Rangers.

3) SYLVIE'S BEDROOM

It took Rhoda "quite a while" to finish the Lorax-themed walls, Allen says, "And of course, it's stuffie world. Kids just get stuffies."

4) MODULAR SHELVES

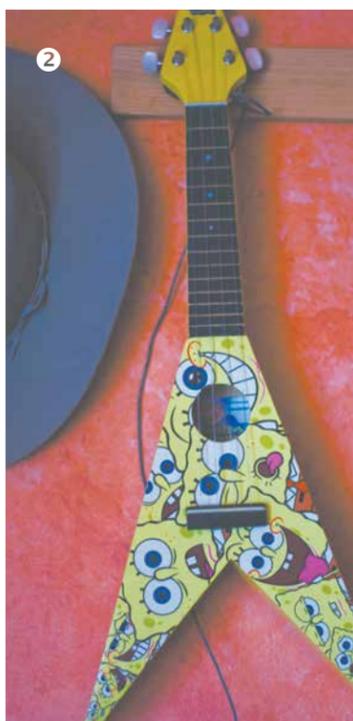
Designed by Rhoda, there are actually 3 shelves nested together here: A central T, and two smaller L's.

5) HANGER FOR POTS AND PANS

"Rhoda's friend Lisa welded that for her when she took welding school." And of course, they both love to cook.

6) CASEY, BENNY AND LESTER

Rhoda picked out Casey from a rescue shelter just before they got the house, but they held off so they wouldn't have to move him twice. Benny and Lester are both part Labrador and part Border Collie, but Lester "got the bigger parts."



WELL, THAT'S GARBAGE

WITH JANE TESTAR

 @TESTARJANE

NOWHERE TO DATE: LIFE AFTER 25 IN WINNIPEG

As a student, dating-wise, you've got it made. Since reaching sexual maturity, you have been surrounded by single people your own age.

And though some may have better luck/prowess in this dating buffet, at least you all know that the steam trays of people are stocked should you get peckish.

Cut to after graduation. You get a job (or as the current government would have it, two part-time jobs) and suddenly you're stuffed into an undate-able mixed bag of ages. Your boss is 60. Your manager is 38 and married. The stock boy? Jailbait.

And because you spend the bulk of your time at work and with already established friends (who begin to couple up) suddenly the East India Company-style buffet of potential partners is nothing but a few dried up pakoras.

So what do you do? How does one encounter potential dates or mates after 25?

Nightclubs? You're now the oldest person there, avoiding troupes of limb flailing, selfie-taking, inebriated YOLOs. And where are all the craft beers with quirky names?



DAVID BOCK

How about a rec league sports team? An excellent way to get out of your comfort zone, but you don't do a *ton* of socializing whilst throwing a Nerf ball at someone's head.

And friend of a friend introductions? They become few and far between as you get older and your friends begin amassing already coupled friends.

The optimistic might say that *anywhere* you happen to be is a potential place to meet someone. But not in the same concentration of unattached people as before. Is the person in line with you at the BDI getting a Goog...for one? Do you possess the outgoing personality allowing you to strike up conversations with strangers? As I discovered when attending the Safeway Singles Night a few weeks ago, many many people do not.

The Facebook event that drew 700 single Winnipeggers to the River and Osborne Safeway in hopes of meeting other singles, felt like a frightened Shriner's parade circling around the bakery section, too shy or perhaps too polite to ask an appealing shopper "Pumpnickel, huh?"

I saw just how many Winnipeggers are in need of a place to meet, and just be "out" together. And that the current dating infrastructure for the non-YOLO, 25-and-overs is severely lacking.

Whereas in cities like Montreal you *can* find mingle zones geared toward the 25 and over crowd, 30 and over, even the 40 and over crowd.

Nightclubs with drink specials that won't give you diabetes.

Slower paced establishments like wine bars, where people go to have a drink and converse (and actually hear one another).

Winnipeg's options? Coffee shops that close at 5:30.

Nightlife aside, what about purposeful meeting spots? Singles bowling events were once a thing. Our grandparents had mixers and dances. Sound lame? They worked.

Things like Tinder or online dating sites are useful tools, but they can't compare to flesh and blood people, face-to-face.

We may not be at the buffet anymore, but we're still hungry.

Jane Testar is a writer and performer with the Winnipeg sketch comedy troupe, Hot Thespian Action, an improviser with local improv troupe, Outside Joke, and the host of the CBC Comedy Factory Podcast.



Authorized by the Official Agent

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

There is going to be a federal election this year. It's an opportunity for real change, for Canada and for Winnipeg Centre.

Your vote is incredibly important.

In 2011, the student vote and the Aboriginal vote could have cost Harper his majority.

The Conservatives know this, and have passed a law to make it harder for you to vote.

I want to make sure that nothing will stop you from exercising your right to vote in Winnipeg Centre. Contact us today to find out more about getting registered.



Robert-Falcon Ouellette

Robert

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Winnipeg is ...

WEST END SNAPSHOTS:

Mall Centre

CHRISTIAN CASSIDY

[@WESTENDCASSIDY](#)

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Today, most people pass by the Mall Centre complex at 491 Portage Ave., now the U of W's AnX, and don't give it too much thought. When it was built in 1963-64, however, it was celebrated as a unique, multi-use complex for Winnipeg's downtown.

The 4.5 million dollar project was designed by Moody, Moore and Partners, whose work already included the Investors Building at 280 Osborne St. and Federal Building at 391 York Ave.; They would go on to design Lockhart Hall later that decade. The Mall Centre included a nine storey office building, an enclosed shopping mall on the main floor, an attached 300 car parkade, a five storey hotel and was also the new home to the city's inter-city bus depot.



Mall Centre circa 1965

Theodore Matoff, who at the time was an assistant professor of Architecture at the University of Manitoba, wrote in the *Winnipeg Tribune* that “*The Mall Centre is the first commercial project to attempt a regional solution for the prairie winter climate in downtown Winnipeg,*” and that by combining so many features into one complex that it “*begins to have the excitement of a truly urban way of life.*” He went on, though, to pan its unimaginative design and mediocre surface materials.

By most accounts though, the building was a success. The office tower filled up with clients ranging from insurance companies to local corporate head offices. The shopping mall featured a wide variety of shops including Music City record store,

Ben Moss Jewellers, Howard's Ladies' Shop, Mall Centre Florists, Paul Charach Photography, Rypp's Pharmacy and a Bank of Nova Scotia branch. There was even a billiards hall and barber shop in the basement.

The last part of the complex to open was the bus depot, which opened on June 13, 1964. It replaced the cramped circa 1930 Union Bus Depot located on Graham Ave. behind Eaton's. The new depot featured sixteen bus bays, a walk-in gift shop with a newsstand and a full service restaurant, originally the Dutch Treat Cafeteria and in later years a Salisbury House.

A *Free Press* reporter wrote of the new depot: “*As an example, only 40 buses were in operation in Manitoba in 1931, apart*

from those in local transit service. Today there are nearly 200 non-transit buses operating in the province and they're full of people who find traveling by bus both comfortable and economical.... In total, the new Bus Depot is everything the traveler could want and more.”

Though later projects, such as the Trizec / Winnipeg Square development and Portage Place Mall, touted a similar mix of retail, parkade, hotel and office space in their original plans, they weren't quite able to pull it off, leaving the Mall Centre a unique complex.

Christian Cassidy explores local history at his blog West End Dumplings

THE MERCHANTS

Vacant North End hotel to be converted to new U of W facility

TONY HINDS

[@THE TONY HINDS](#)

BEAT REPORTER

What was once a notorious hotel in Winnipeg's North End will soon be home to academic and community engagement.

The University of Winnipeg Community Renewal Corporation, North End Community Renewal Corporation, SEED Winnipeg Inc. and other partners in the North End community have been quietly developing the former Merchants Hotel at 541 Selkirk Ave. into a new campus location known as Merchants Corner.

The department of Urban and Inner City Studies will operate in this facility, opening in December 2016. The University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) will also be opening its first satellite offices in the building.

UWSA president Rorie Mcleod Arnould believes the Merchants Corner will be more than just another campus building.

“In addition to being part of a new era in the inner city, Merchants Corner will be a hub of student and community organizing,” Mcleod Arnould says. “We embrace the opportunity to be immersed

within this environment and facilitate universal access to education.”

The Merchants Corner facility will house three classrooms, retail space and also include new student housing access with 30 separate units planned.

However, Jeff Palmer, manager of real estate, planning, and development for the U of W Community Renewal Corporation insists this housing will not be an exclusive residence for U of W students.

“If we found that we were not able to fill it with student families, we would make it open to the public,” Palmer says.

U of W president Dr. Annette Trimbee feels the facility could be beneficial not only for students, but for the experiential learning process, as well.

“I think that one's a winner to be honest with you,” Trimbee says. “And that's an example of a project that makes people proud to be a part of the University of Winnipeg.”

“Everybody I've talked to is incredibly enthusiastic about the change that

will happen on that street because of that development.”

The facility will be split into two structures bisected by the lane way with 17 units of family housing located on the north side and 13 on the south side. The housing will be available to rent to student families in the neighborhood not necessarily studying at Merchants Corner.

The new facility will also boast an additional 15,000 feet of space, more than doubling the capacity of the current Selkirk Ave. location.

Classes are scheduled to begin in the Merchants Corner facility by January 2017. The space will be shared with the Community Educational Development Association's Pathways to Education, a North End high school support program. University level courses will run during the day, with the high school program occupying the same classrooms after 4 p.m. each day. The UWSA offices will remain at the Portage Ave. campus.

Jim Silver, professor and chair of Urban and Inner City studies feels this interaction

between high school and university students is crucial. Silver insists high school graduation rates in North End areas can drop low as 25 per cent. It's hoped that the close proximity between these students will help to normalize the notion of post-secondary education in the North End.

“It will have the effect of driving up high school graduation rates,” Silver says. “We know we are going to be significantly increasing the numbers of North End and inner city residents who are attending university.”

However, Mcleod Arnould adds that rushing into operation is not the best way to form a successful community outreach program.

“We want to work on community consultation, work on understanding the problems that are facing our members who are studying in the North End,” Mcleod Arnould says. “We want to work very slowly and with a lot of intention towards developing the right programming opportunities and advocacy points.”



ADARA MOREAU



UW Commons concept model

COMMUNITY RENEWAL

The U of W's multi-million dollar expansion has set a precedent for post-secondary institutions to follow

DANIELLE DA SILVA

@DLOUISEDASILVA

CITY AND CAMPUS EDITOR

It may have taken ten years and \$217 million, but the University of Winnipeg may have finally filled in its “moat.”

Prior to 2006, when construction of the Richardson College for the Environment was announced and millions of dollars started flowing into the University from the private and public sectors, the U of W's development practices tended to keep the community out.

The inwardly focused institution balked on commitments to local stakeholders and promises of community access with the construction of the Duckworth Centre in 1983, leaving the community feeling burned.

“They tried to sell it as a community fitness facility that'd be available to the community, and then they built it, and it's built like a brick fortress that basically keeps the community out,” Jamil Mahmood, executive director of the Spence Neighbourhood Association, says.

Within a year and a half of opening funding for community programming within Duckworth was cut. It's no surprise locals residents were skeptical when the University embarked on its most ambitious development kick.

Since 2006, the U of W has invested approximately \$217 million into the downtown and west central neighbourhoods and has expanded the campus footprint by hundreds of thousands of square feet. Most recently the UNITED Health and RecPlex opened its doors to the university community and the public.

“Having a world-class sports facility in our neighbourhood and then not be able to use it would be a tragedy,” Mahmood says.

But according to Mahmood, between 500 and 600 community members have accessed the RecPlex since opening thanks in part to a community charter mandating space during critical hours and a shift in

attitude within university administration.

“A credit to the university admin, they worked really hard to make that happen,” Mahmood says of the community charter. “So that was one of the big steps that the university showed that they were willing to function in different ways.”

Dr. Annette Trimbee, vice chancellor and president of the U of W, says the university's development spree in the inner city stemmed from a desire to open its doors to the community.

“I was a student here in the '70s and it was a wonderful place, but I think it wasn't perceived as a place that was all that friendly to the neighbourhood,” Trimbee says. “We didn't exactly have a physical moat but I don't think it was a place that was quite as welcoming as it is today.”

Development was strategic in that the University hoped to engage the local indigenous, immigrant, and refugee communities as well as expand standalone master's programs. These goals came before the expansive buildings, though the two are closely connected, says Trimbee.

“I say we blew up the moat,” she says.

Under the direction of the University of Winnipeg Community Renewal Corporation (UWCRC), a unique non-profit development agency, the U of W's latest housing initiative is underway. Construction at 320 Colony St. has begun on a 14-storey, 112,000 square foot, mixed-use housing complex titled University of Winnipeg Commons. The building will have 46 affordable units and 56 market-priced units. The UWCRC will act as property manager for the facility.

According to Trimbee, taking on the role of landlord and real estate developer is in line with the purpose of the University and is another step in reaching out to the community.

“Students need places to live. The University of Winnipeg is very accessible by bus and there are a lot of students who would like to live downtown and we do need housing downtown,” Trimbee says.

By working with the city, the community and the province, Trimbee says the

U of W is helping revitalize downtown while ensuring other stakeholders are benefiting from the development.

“We're being a good partner, and a lot of universities, especially the downtown urban universities, get the value of that very powerful connection,” she says.

Brent Bellamy, creative director and architect with Number TEN Architectural Group, says it is the role and responsibility of universities to be catalysts for positive change within cities, and says the U of W is a perfect example.

“You can see the catalyst effect that's going on,” Bellamy says. “There are tons of restaurants all of a sudden around that area and student services that are happening beyond the original U of W block. It's having a transformational effect on that part of downtown.”

According to Bellamy, universities can actually help build a better city by bringing diversity, stability and energy to the downtown.

“I think the worst thing that ever happened to Winnipeg was in the '50s when the University of Manitoba decided that it needed to be out in the country,” he says.

“They used to be on Broadway in front of the Legislative building – if you could imagine what the city would be like with the University of Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba right beside each other, and the catalyst of energy that would be there with 45,000 students populating that end of town.”

And while an increased post-secondary presence in the core could change the dynamic of Winnipeg's downtown, Trimbee says the U of W has to remain mindful of its size. Following the completion of the University of Winnipeg Commons, development will likely slow, but may not halt completely.

“We need to always be intentional about what we're doing,” Trimbee says. “So I wouldn't say that (development is) over but I can also say that I don't have a great long list of things on my mind.”

The University's developmental focus

may shift in the coming years, from one of capital improvement to social and academic engagement.

“We brag about the role we play in downtown renewal and we talk about \$217 million and I want to get past those numbers, to what those buildings mean and the positive impact that the buildings have on people,” Trimbee says.

“The core of our operations is all about faculty, students and staff. It's about education. You need capital to support that endeavour but you can't let capital drive it.”



University of Winnipeg's 10 years of development

- Richardson College for the Environment and Science Complex at 599 Portage Ave.
- McFeetors Hall: Great-West Life Student Residence
- University of Winnipeg Students' Association Day Care Centre
- Buhler Centre at 460 Portage Avenue houses the Faculty of Business and Economics and Professional, Applied and Continuing Education.
- The AnX at 471 Portage Ave. covers 6,000 square feet inside the former Greyhound bus depot.
- Asper Centre for Theatre and Film on Balmoral includes the addition of two new acting studios, a film studio, editing labs and a state-of-the-art flexible theatre.
- Convocation Hall, located inside Wesley Hall, was fully restored in 2007.
- UNITED Health & RecPlex is most comprehensive athletic and wellness facility built in Winnipeg's inner-city.
- University of Winnipeg Commons 320 Colony St. - Apartment Complex South of Buhler Centre.

Winnipeg is ...



NICHOLAS LUCHAK

SLOW TO WAKE UP

Strong retail could change our downtown, slowly but surely

LARISSA PECK



COPY AND STYLE EDITOR

Downtown Winnipeg is an emerging district. The thing is, emerging takes time. Think about yourself emerging from bed on a dark, Winnipeg winter morning. It's a process.

And it's well under way. Between 2005 and 2013, we've seen over \$2 billion in investment in our downtown, according to the Downtown Winnipeg Retail Assessment, Enhancement & Implementation Strategy, 2014.

Glasshouse Skylofts, SkyCity Centre and Centrepoint (the new Alt Hotel/office space/restaurant/parking complex opening this spring) are a combined \$460-million investment, and have set the stage for upping the number of downtown residents, workers and visitors we host.

The \$180-million RBC Convention Centre upgrade, set to open in 2016, is already booked for conventions that will bring more delegates to Winnipeg from more cities far and wide. That's on top of the current 16,000 residents, 69,000 employees and 24,200 students occupying downtown spaces on a daily basis, and 900,000 visitors annually.

With the opening of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, continued

development and programming at The Forks, bigger-ticket attractions like Dali and Olympus at the Winnipeg Art Gallery, downtown and Exchange District tours and MTS Centre programming year-round, among all of the excellent arts programming we regularly see between the ballet, theatre companies and live music venues, there is plenty for downtown residents, visitors and tourists to do.

The downtown restaurant scene is growing steadily, with places like The Pint, Carbone and Nick's on Broadway opening recently, and favourite spots like deer + almond, Peasant Cookery and Stella's at the Plug In always bustling. We've got a ways to go before we hit our food and beverage plateau (brewpub, pretty please?), but there's no shortage of places for people to eat.

But where will they shop? If you compare Winnipeg to any other city similar in size, you see a much larger focus on downtown retail. The Shoppers Drug Mart does not close at 6 p.m., so you're not hooped if you need a snack or some Imodium or a plunger one night. There are retail options beyond Giant Tiger, Dollarama and Dollar Tree (formerly The Bargain! Shop).

So here's where I wish we could flip the switch and go from emerging to emerged. Throw off the blanket, turn on the lights and leap out of bed.

We recently welcomed the likes of Anthropologie, H&M, Urban Outfitters

and Banana Republic into the Winnipeg retail mix. These are the types of stores that create beautiful storefronts and window displays (which we are in desperate need of) in other downtowns. We buried them in Polo Park.

University of Winnipeg students are these retailers' target market. Instead of locating a five-minute walk away, they're a 15-minute bus ride.

These types of retailers could have the power to change the downtown landscape by retaining foot traffic and improving vibrancy and safety after work hours.

And yes, we are resistant to change – the thought of choosing to shop at Portage Place is unfathomable to many – and we

are downright outraged at the thought of paying for parking downtown. But we are also the ones who take annual seven-and-a-half hour pilgrimages to Minneapolis, stay a night or several in a hotel and pay duty on our purchases from these stores, so really what's a few bucks for parking?

We're emerging in many ways – some parts of our downtown are emerging faster than others – quality retail, it seems, is emerging from deep within.

Larissa Peck has studied, currently works, loves, plays, shops and (almost, according to the technical boundary) lives downtown. She is not good at emerging from her bed, and she's the copy and style editor for this thing you're reading.

**ENERGY EAST:
OUR RISK.
THEIR REWARD.**

Featuring Maude Barlow and Ben Gotschall

FREE Public Forum
Saturday, April 11
7:00 p.m.
Fort Garry Hotel,
Provencher Ballroom
222 Broadway





EMBRACING THE TRIMBEE ERA

Looking ahead to Winnipeg, counselling and algae blooms

MITCH VAN INEVELD

 @WPGTRUMPETEER

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Dr. Annette Trimbee, U of W graduate and former Alberta Deputy Minister of Advanced Education, is now well in to her first year as U of W's President and Vice-Chancellor. Many exciting things have happened under her watch including the recent \$825,000 grant to develop the Graduate Studies program. Dr. Trimbee joined us over the phone to reflect on her year, current issues on campus and the future of the U of W.

Trimbee started off the year with a particularly bold and well-received inaugural speech, promoting openness and collaboration with other institutions, as well as an emphasis on attracting students from marginalized communities.

On what inspired her speech, Trimbee says she witnessed a lot of positive change in downtown Winnipeg when she would return for weddings. She hopes to fulfil "the commitments made by (Dr. Lloyd Axworthy) to really open up our doors and be more open and inclusive," and to "attract new indigenous students, new immigrants and refugees" to the university.

Trimbee sees the university as playing an important role in growing Winnipeg's core, pointing out that universities "bring a vibrancy and stability to cities, and open up a portal to far-away places."

"We bring in a lot of energy and create a lot of optimism in Winnipeg's down-

town," she says. "Universities and cities in Canada work well together, and we have many shared objectives." However, she is careful not to overstate the U of W's role, noting that the university should be "working with the city, rather than driving the city."

Social justice has been one of Trimbee's main emphases throughout the year, being something she addressed at length in her inaugural speech. Dr. Trimbee, who has recently begun connecting with her Métis roots, is a vocal advocate of increasing indigenous enrolment and involvement in the University.

She thinks that an indigenous course requirement is a "great idea," and one that plays well into her goal of increasing indigenous faculty and course content on campus, as well as fostering a "warm, welcoming atmosphere" for indigenous students.

While Trimbee's role is mainly administrative, she holds a Ph.D. in Ecology, and remains very passionate about the subject. She recently presented a lecture/conversation on algae blooms, an opportunity she thoroughly enjoyed.

"Preparing for (the lecture) was a lot of fun," she says. "It gave me an opportunity to see how the state of the science has evolved since I was deeply involved in it. It also gave me the chance to challenge the conventional thinking a little bit, because sometimes when you're away from something for a while, you come to see it in a whole new light."

She also says her experiences in government allow her to bring a different view to

the table than what is typically presented at similar lectures. "I understand how policy is developed, I understand how governments make decisions and I've had experience trying to incent people to act."

Trimbee says opportunities like this lecture allow her to connect directly with students and researchers at the University, which she is grateful for. Dr. Trimbee traveled to Churchill with a group of geography students in August, and seeing those same students attend her lecture gives her "more reasons to get out and talk to students and faculty about what they're doing."

Speaking more on connecting with students, Trimbee made a point of commending student activists advocating for increased general counselling on their persistence and "compassion for their fellow students."

On the issue of counselling, Trimbee said that she's acutely aware of the unmet needs on campus. She points out that she has committed to strengthening in-house counselling at the university, but that we should remain open to partnering with the health system to bolster our services.

While she does not bring it up, it is noteworthy that Dr. Trimbee is University of Winnipeg's third female president, and one of only seven female heads of Canadian universities at the moment. Despite the increased scrutiny often felt by female managers and administrators, she says she does not really notice the gender dynamic in her work.

"I started out in the Department of Environment, and at that time I was sort

of the minority, so early on in my career I was quite aware of the gender imbalance, but as I rose to be Deputy Minister and I got more well-known in the community, it was on my mind less and less, so it's not really something I thought of before I took the position as President," she says.

"When I walk in to a room now and people know that I'm the president, I really feel that gender is not relevant," she says. "However, when I do notice gender is because I'm returning back to (Winnipeg), I sometimes walk in to rooms where I know nobody, and they don't know what position I hold, and then I sometimes feel like I have to be quite assertive to actually get in to the circle."

Overall, Trimbee's outlook on the future of the U of W is optimistic, but realistic. She knows what the problems are, and she will address them with foresight and calm positivity. She is pragmatic, but she doesn't let that compromise her progressivism, a refreshing attitude given the neoliberal tide sweeping university administrations across the globe.

Most of all, she loves engaging with students, which she had the opportunity to do in attending last week's Wesmen awards gala.

"It was phenomenal, it was a fun event... It was really great to learn about all of the other things that the Wesmen players do, from a community perspective," she says. "(Going to an event like that) makes me very proud to be a part of the University of Winnipeg. It was very inspiring."

Winnipeg is ...

STRANGE BYLAWS

The five dumbest laws and policies in Winnipeg, according to me

THOMAS PASHKO

@THOMASPASHKO

BEAT REPORTER

1. WE OVER-REGULATE OUR PSYCHICS.

It's no surprise that governments waste an absurd amount of time on arbitrary and unnecessary endeavors. Important tasks get put on the backburner while resources are wasted on the least pressing issues. There are few examples more emblematic of this dichotomy than the weird historical legislation of Winnipeg's psychics.

Prior to 2008, psychics and fortune tellers required a license to operate within the city. The licenses were painstakingly specific, even going as far as specifying the type of fortune telling practiced by the individual (tea reading, card reading, etc.). But on April 23, 2008 the City of Winnipeg repealed the necessity for psychics to obtain licenses. They're still required to obtain permits for all the other aspects of their business, but the license for psychics themselves were made unnecessary.

Now, I'm not taking a shot at psychics. But the entire field is undeniably subjective. An individual's psychic abilities can't be proven or disproven. They require no credentials or certification. A practicing psychic could openly admit to being a fraud without any legal impact on their business, since their legitimacy is irrelevant.

But, ultimately, who cares? Even if you're a non-believer, psychics are basically harmless. No one's forcing anyone to pay for psychic readings. At the end of the day, it's not especially significant. So why, then, has this field in particular been a subject requiring the close attention of civic authorities while much more pressing issues remain untouched? Marijuana and sex work laws remain stagnant and archaic, and racialized poverty and public indifference has turned into an epidemic costing hundreds of Indigenous women their lives.

So, can we please agree to let Winnipeg's psychics just do their thing, and focus on what really matters?

2. STUPID PET BANS.

The need for animal legislation in any city is obvious. No, we cannot have lions, tigers and bears roaming the streets. Alligators and poisonous snakes are clearly not reasonable pets to keep in a crowded city. But a quick look into Winnipeg's laws regarding prohibited animals reveals bans that are nonsensical.

The first and most obvious error is Winnipeg's ban on pit bull ownership. Pit bull bans are common across North America, and there's a surprising amount of public support for the practice. With bans in effect in Winnipeg and the entire province of Ontario, there's serious advocacy for nationwide provincial bans of pit bulls.

Many dog trainers oppose the stigmatization of pit bulls. Their use in illegal dog fighting has led to the misconception that pit bulls are inherently violent. According to the ASPCA, although pit bulls are more easily trained for violence than other breeds, pit bulls respond to the same socialization training as any other dog breed. Like with any other breed, pit bull violence is a result of irresponsible dog ownership.

But pit bulls aren't the only pointless pet ban. Winnipeggers are still prohibited from keeping chickens. It's a law that, again, stems from a misconception based in irresponsible ownership: that chickens are smelly and loud. Preventing Winnipeggers from keeping urban chicken coops prevents access to an inexpensive source of food. It's also associated with many other benefits, including sustainable weed and pest control, a reduced carbon footprint, and an alternative to factory farming.

Among the dozens of other pointless pet bans are the ban on domestic pigs, which falls under the ban of "all even-toed ungulates...other than domestic sheep." Which begs the question, why can we have sheep, but not pigs?

3. A PARADE BYLAW IS BEING USED TO SILENCE PROTESTERS.

The freedom to peacefully assemble is a fundamental right of all Canadians. Section Two of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms outlines it as a fundamental freedom of all Canadians, along with freedom of religion, expression and association. But one of Winnipeg's dumbest bylaws serves as a tool to circumvent this most basic of Canadian freedoms.

The bylaw in question is the "City of Winnipeg Traffic By-Law No.1573/77". Among a myriad other regulations, sections 9 through 11 of the bylaw explain that any Winnipegger holding or taking part in a parade must first receive a permit from the Chief of Police. The bylaw defines a "parade" as "any procession or body of pedestrians excepting members of Her Majesty's Armed Forces, numbering

more than thirty (30) standing, marching, or walking anywhere on a street."

What that means is that any group of more than 30 people in Winnipeg's streets is technically a "parade." And without a parade permit, any individual in a group of 30 or more people without a parade permit can be arrested and charged under the bylaw. This allows authorities to silence protests and deem them unlawful.

So in conclusion, the parade bylaw is bullshit. A protest and a parade are not the same thing. The necessity to regulate parades should not supersede the fundamental freedom to peacefully assemble. The attitude that arbitrary regulations trump human rights reveals a deeply flawed attitude in the culture of security in our city.

4. RENT CONTROL AND CONDOS ARE SCREWING LOW-INCOME RENTERS.

Home ownership is on the decline. According to Forbes, renting is becoming increasingly popular, especially among millennials. In light of real estate mishaps and economic woes over the last decade, the 20th century ideal of owning a house is looking increasingly dated.

So why is Winnipeg so difficult for low-income renters? The growing trends of rent control and emphasis on condos make it seem as if Winnipeg simply doesn't care about renters.

According to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Winnipeg's vacancy rate was only 2.5 per cent in October 2014. That means renters in search of apartments are already big fish in a tiny pond. But Manitoba's rental laws are permitting landlords to drastically increase rent costs through renovations. Essentially, a landlord can make minor renovations to their building as a basis to drive the price of rent way up. Even though landlords are legally obligated to offer renovated apartments to their previous tenants, that practice doesn't hold much water if a renter can't afford a steep increase.

The problem extends to condo developments as well. Just last week, I inter-

viewed an Osborne Village resident whose three-apartment house is about to be torn down, along with two others, for a condominium complex. That's nine potential low-rent apartments whose tenants are now several more big fish in the ever-shrinking pond.

The City of Winnipeg seems to value condo conversion over protecting low-income renters. With the trend moving away from home ownership, this is a serious error in judgement on the City's part. Winnipeg's housing priorities are in need of serious reevaluation.

5. A BIZARRE SIDEWALK-SHOVELLING LAW.

Of all the weird and arbitrary Winnipeg laws, this is the weirdest and most arbitrary. We all know that Winnipeg winters are brutal. Sidewalks obviously need to be cleared. We've all witnessed snowbanks too tall to see over and been thankful for the fact that we don't have to snowshoe our way through them.

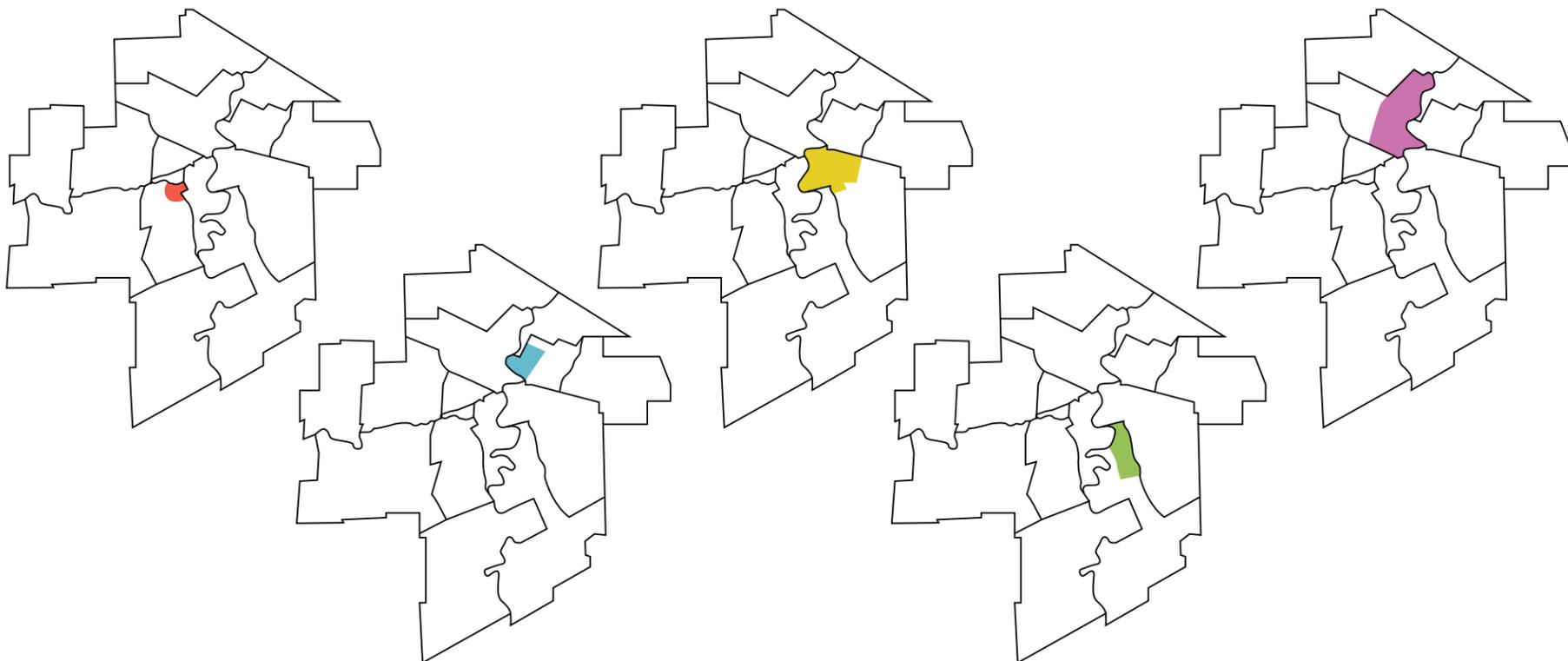
1983's Sidewalk Cleaning By-law (No. 3422/83) states that "all persons owning or occupying property abutting the street or streets listed...shall remove or cause to be removed and cleared away snow, ice, dirt, or other obstructions from any sidewalk adjoining to their property...within forty-eight (48) hours of the time when the snow, ice, dirt or other obstruction was formed or deposited thereupon."

What that hilariously worded paragraph states is that there is a specific list of streets that are obligated to clear their own sidewalks of snow. For some reason, the city decided these areas weren't theirs to clear. The owners of the properties risk a potential \$150 of fines for not complying.

What's especially weird about this is that the "list" of streets is actually just a two-block stretch. Specifically, it's Osborne Street between River and Stradbrook Avenues. This two block stretch, home to beloved institutions like Music Trader and Little Pizza Heaven, is the only place in the city required to shovel their own sidewalks. Why? Who knows.



MATT KEHLER



UNICITY

The people in your neighbourhood

TONY HINDS

 @THETONYHINDS

BEAT REPORTER

It's deceiving to look at the map of Winnipeg and think of it as simply "one city." A massive, sprawling hunk of Manitoba, dotted with Slurpee cups and Jets jerseys. It's only when you look at the individual communities, each area operating a little bit differently than the next, do you get a sense of who lives here.

THE NEW KID - CORYDON AVENUE

Corydon Avenue's reputation as merely a string of Italian restaurants has been inaccurate for years. Great new coffee shops, drinking establishments, restaurants and boutique stores have added variety to the area's flavour. These booming, independently owned businesses, which include Normandy Shoppe at 791 Corydon, have breathed new life and eclectic flair into the neighbourhood.

Inspired by spots such as Vancouver's Old Faithful Shop, Normandy's owners Chris Saniuk and Amanda Remond opened shop in November 2014, and have been overjoyed by what has become a neighborhood hangout. The majority of their customer base lives in the surrounding area, but many patrons will cross the city for a chance to shop there. Saniuk feels the initial idea for Normandy Shoppe was born out of necessity.

"Nobody was really doing what we're doing," he says. "We really just filled a void. All our products are stuff that I believe in and wanted to be wearing anyways, just no one was selling them in the city."

For Saniuk, running a business in the Corydon area makes going to work an absolute pleasure.

"It's the kind of place where you can walk down the street and run into someone you know everyday," Saniuk says. "It's got a lot of like-minded individuals and design tastes and aesthetics. You kind of just find each other."

Quick Picks: Normandy Shoppe, Marble Slab Creamery, Green Apple Skate Shop, Kristina's on Corydon

THE UP AND COMER - ELMWOOD

Elmwood was named after its once-abundant elm trees that lined residential roads. Many of those trees are gone today, but some can still be found on the picturesque streets that run off of Henderson Highway. Conveniently located near the downtown area, the reasonable real estate costs are drawing many young couples to the area. Elmwood resident Emma Durand-Wood runs a blog called Winnipeg O' My Heart, focusing on her experience as a former Vancouver resident moving to Manitoba. She and her family have called Elmwood home for over six years.

"It's a very special part of the city and most people don't even know that it's here," Durand-Wood says. "Buying a house in this area, you'll pay like \$100,000 less than if you were buying in the Corydon or Wolseley area."

The resurgence of Elmwood doesn't stop with the real estate. Retailers and small businesses have also caught a boost. Unique spots such as Sam's Place at 159 Henderson Highway are changing the way Winnipeggers think about Elmwood. Sam's Place is a used-bookstore-coffee shop-live music venue run by the Mennonite Central Committee. On the second and fourth Saturdays of every month they host a free open musical jam session, affectionately titled Jammin' at Sam's. All are welcome to attend, bring a guitar and have some fun.

Quick Picks: Sam's Place, Savoir Faire Shop, Fresh to the Bone grocery store, Bikes and Beyond

THE UNDERDOG - ST. BONIFACE

Arguably Winnipeg's most culturally distinct area is St. Boniface, a place where you could live your whole life and only speak French if you wished. A mere baguette's throw from downtown and scenically located right by the river, St. Boniface has something for everyone. A newly sprouted live music scene has appeared in the area, emanating from spots like Le Garage at 166 Provencher Blvd. Le Garage owner Ray Beaudry feels this change has been long overdue.

"We've established ourselves as the neighborhood place in the area," Beaudry

says. "We grew from there. We've become a destination place. I don't take it for granted that we're one of the places people consider."

Beaudry thinks of St. B as a "city within a city." The neighborhood's population is made of people from many varying socioeconomic backgrounds, including many university students, living side by side. St. Boniface resident Nicolas Audette feels the area's central location is another major draw.

"Everything that you need is within a five mile radius," Audette says. "That was the first thing I noticed when I moved in."

Quick picks: Le Garage, Chocolatier Constance Popp, Red Top Drive-Inn, Deen's Caribbean Restaurant

THE ALWAYS BEEN THERE - ST. VITAL

Whether it's old or new, St. Vital has always been there. Beautiful tree-lined streets, ideal for walking or jogging merge with roadways with fast traffic flow, connecting residents to the many businesses in the area.

The notion that St. Vital feels remote and disconnected from the rest of the city is a common misconception. The route to the downtown area is actually rather swift, even by public transit.

As one of the most historic neighborhoods in Winnipeg, St. Vital is also home to the city's first mosque, the Hazelwood Mosque at 247 Hazelwood Ave. Built by Winnipeg's Islamic community in the 1976, the mosque remains open today.

President of the Manitoba Islamic Association, Dr. Idris Albakri feels the Hazelwood Mosque has maintained its architectural beauty.

"It hasn't changed that much over the past 40 years of its existence," Dr. Albakri says. "It has a high wooden ceiling like an old ice rink. It's very rustic from the inside, which is why I like it."

Quick picks: Hazelwood Mosque, St. Vital Park, Dairy Delight, Limelight Karaoke Bar

THE FUTURE - THE NORTH END

Across the railyard lies the most talked about part of Winnipeg, the North End. The rumours you may have heard are greatly exaggerated. The North End is a significant and historic multicultural area, with some of the oldest and most architecturally beautiful houses in the city. Thanks to low real estate costs and a thriving school division, Winnipeg's North End is a perfect fit for a young family.

Michelle Arnaud is the chair of the Farraday Neighborhood Resident's Association (FNRA) an organization whose goal is to provide a sense of well-being for the North End community. The FNRA often host events around the area, including Hockey Night with the Farraday School Division. Arnaud believes the neighborhood is the quintessential place to look for a starter home.

"You really do get a good sense of family here," Arnaud says. "I'm very chummy with quite a few of the people on my block. You see kids running around and playing with their friends. It's really a great place for a family to come and move in."

Many prominent businesses can be found on Selkirk Avenue including Gunn's Bakery at 247 Selkirk Ave. Operating from the same family-owned location since 1937, Gunn's offers some of the finest pastries and sweets in Manitoba. Arthur Gunn, the bakery's owner grew up in the area and still hangs his hat in the North End today.

"All my friends were born and live in the North End," Gunn says. "It's a nice place to be. There are quite a few people involved in changing what's going on here. We're on the cusp of reinventing the North End again."

Arnaud feels her home neighborhood has amazing potential to grow, given the proper encouragement.

"We really do love this area," Arnaud says. "(The North End) like the little gem that's just waiting to be polished to become the brightest star ever."

Quick picks: Gunn's Bakery, Luda's Deli, Capriotti's Sandwich Shop, Windmill Lunch Ltd, Neechi Commons

Winnipeg is ...

HERITAGE

Heritage buildings in Winnipeg are worth a second look

DEBORAH REMUS

 @DEBORAHREMUS

ARTS REPORTER

Heritage buildings are a valued part of Winnipeg's cityscape and could be receiving more protection than they traditionally have.

Changes started rolling when the Historical Resources bylaw took effect on June 1, 2014. Among other things, this bylaw strives to make heritage designations clearer and requires owners to get a permit to make alterations.

Following the recommendation of city council the public service has also been working on a report which will be released on March 26.

When making the report they looked at how Hamilton, New York City, Boston, Toronto and Washington D.C. protect their heritage resources.

One goal is to work on ways to prevent demolition by neglect, which is when an owner allows a building to deteriorate so

much that it can't be repaired.

The Vacant Buildings bylaw and Neighbourhood Liveability bylaw try to ensure structures remain in good condition, but there are some gaps that could be addressed.

"I'm hoping that they'll come up with a better way to deal with demolition by neglect so that we have some tools to ensure that owners take care of their properties and the city doesn't have to lose these heritage resources," Coun. Jenny Gerbasi (Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry), chair of the historical buildings and resource committee for 15 years, says.

"Some owners do a wonderful job and others just let their buildings rot and they somehow manage to get away with that. I want to see laws that will motivate owners to take good care of their buildings."

Christian Cassidy is a local history buff who blogs at West End Dumplings and

who also wants to see more protection. Cassidy hopes the city will start recognizing heritage buildings everywhere and not just keep its focus in the Exchange District.

"I consider myself pretty practical when it comes to heritage buildings, but nobody says McPhillips is the coolest street in Winnipeg. The areas of the city that people find interesting and tourists visit have some historical significance to them," Cassidy says.

The city public service is wanting to specifically preserve character defining elements, certain aspects of the building which make it historically significant.

"It's not illegal to own a vacant building so we want to ensure that the building is still protected and we want to enhance our protection so all of the character defining elements are protected," city heritage planner Rina Ricci says.

"We're very specific about what's actually important about that building, whether it's the front façade, marble floor, interior door frame, the staircases or stained glass windows," John Kiernan, manager of the city's Urban Design Division, says.

The public service believes that occupancy is the best way to conserve heritage buildings, such as the Peck Building, which is vacant at 33 Princess St. A recent example of adaptive reuse would be the Metropolitan Theatre, which is now a multi-purpose events centre owned by Canad Inns.

"We would like to see adaptive reuse of all buildings if possible. The owners and the community aren't happy when a building sits empty so we want to work collaboratively to make sure protection is enhanced," Kiernan says.



MIKE SUDOMA

FOOD SHARING

Opportunities to build communities around food exist year-round

LAUREN CLIFFORD

 @LAURENMARIECLIF

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Everybody's gotta eat, but not everybody can afford to eat well. Eating healthy, locally produced food is trending across the county, but eating well doesn't have to be limited to the summer gardening months. Despite our long winters there are many organizations around Winnipeg working to promote local food production and sharing year-round.

From community gardens like the South Osborne Orchard, to organizations like Food Matters Manitoba, sharing and learning about healthy, local food is happening all over the place, throughout the year - and it's pretty awesome.

Damien Gangé, coordinator at The Good Food Club (GFC), says that knowing where your food is coming from and what to do with it is important, but can be difficult, especially for folks living on a low or fixed-income. The GFC (part of the Winnipeg Food Share Co-op) partners with local farmers to make locally produced food like potatoes, chicken and dairy avail-

able year round and at an affordable price. They then focus on teaching folks what to do with their food in group programs.

"[If] you have limited funds and no oven, you're gonna go buy a slice of pizza...[people] want to know, like, if I got a big bag of vegetables and I got a big summer squash - what do I do with that?" Gangé says.

Getting folks together to learn and share about locally produced food is also a key aspect in the operations of Food Matters Manitoba.

"I think people are really wanting to connect to where their food's coming from - who's producing it and how it's being processed," Kreesta Doucette, executive director of Food Matters, says. "We just did a workshop responding to that demand - it was called 'Pork Chop' and we had participants learning how to take apart a side of pork and learning how to break it down into bacon and pork chops...people were really excited about that."

Other organizations, like the Knox Community Kitchen, are there for folks who have food they want to share with the community but can't afford to produce it.

The Knox Community Kitchen provides commercial kitchen space to help low-income individuals to get their food or catering business off the ground. Located in the basement of Knox United Church in Central Park, the kitchen is open 24-hours a day, seven days a week and costs just \$10 an hour to rent.

Sebastien De Lazzar moved to Winnipeg from Belgium just over two years ago and emphasizes how the kitchen and its shared collective has helped him to get his business off the ground.

"The price, of course [is] a big, big help because it's affordable and they have a network and they help us grow through that network and that's amazing," De Lazzar says. In fact, the collective helped connect De Lazzar with Tallest Poppy

Owner Talia Syrie.

"I'm cooking for the Tallest Poppy, mainly, so if you go there and you order chicken and waffles the waffles are mine".

The Knox Community Kitchen also hosts a weekly market in the basement of the church where people can buy local food, locally made crafts and hot meals at an affordable price.

"The indoor market helps the community in the sense that there isn't anything in that part of the town...its indoor and we serve hot food too," De Lazzar says. "It's not very busy, not a lot of people are attending but...if people just want to be curious and just show up there its great, the concept is great".

To become a member of the GFC visit their website, westbroadway.mb.ca/good-food-club or drop by 608 Broadway. Check out the next Knox Indoor Market at the Knox Community Kitchen on March 27 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Visit foodmattersmanitoba.ca for information on upcoming events and markets around the city.



DOUG KRETCHMER

OPPORTUNITIES/LIMITS

The Uniter talks with six professionals about their career experiences in the city we call home

JILLIAN GROENING

@JILL_GROENING

BEAT REPORTER



SEAN MCKAY

Owner and Head Chef at The Mitchell Block

Growing up with a dad in the military allowed a young McKay, now 34, to call many places home. Born in Ottawa, McKay spent his formative years in Winnipeg's St. James area before moving to Europe for high school. It was while in Belgium in his early twenties that McKay

Why do you live in Winnipeg?

Isolated in the middle of the continent and frigid temperatures for half of the year, the reasons people settle in Manitoba's capital city are as vast as the suffocating fields surrounding the perimeter highway.

For some, Winnipeg's urban community allows for career opportunities and growth. Between a small, supportive population and affordable living, individuals are able to

take risks with their careers and blaze trails in their line of work. For others, the city is merely a springboard. With a tough job market and a growing population, Winnipeg can be a dead zone of career limitations.

The Uniter asked six individuals about the benefits of forging a career in our prairie city and also about the difficulties. For some careers you need to pack your bags and say goodbye.

decided to return to Canada.

"I still don't know how my family ended up back here," McKay says with a laugh. "But it was easy to. It's all very familiar."

Swayed by the old European-style buildings, McKay knew he wanted to open a business in the downtown area. On a street his mother used to label as dead and low-income, McKay now runs a high-end restaurant and lounge.

"What's exciting is getting to see Winnipeg and my neighbourhood grow," McKay explains. He's been located on McDermot Avenue for a year and a half and in that time has seen two vacant buildings transform into new businesses. "It's not like moving to Toronto and having to compete. Here I get to be a part of the change. Things are happening everywhere and it's cool to be a part of that growth."



FREYA OLAFSON

Dancer, Performance Artist, Creator and founder of Nuna (now)

In a city that prides itself as a cultural capital, Olafson, 31, is one of its most active artistic forces.

From performing, to creating, to jetting around attending residencies and taking part in workshops, Olafson has been able to construct a sustainable career in the arts while living in one of the most artistically

underfunded provinces.

"Were I to be in another city, I don't believe I'd have access to resource and knowledge exchange that happens on a grassroots level," Olafson says over the phone from Edmonton where she is performing her work HYPER_. "It's able to happen because the disciplines are small enough."

Despite Winnipeg's small and limiting tendencies, necessity allowed Olafson to create the kind of artistic experiences that she desired autonomously or in exchange

with people in other communities who were like-minded.

Yet one difficulty has been visibility.

"It's challenging to get people to come and see work that is happening in Manitoba," Olafson states. A remote city centre with little funding for travel and touring often breeds work that is created within a small artistic bubble. "That has definitely been an obstacle for me. Visibility has been a definite barrier."



DON RITSON

Tattooer and Owner of Rebel Waltz Tattoo

Opening up a small business can be risky regardless of the location. For tattoo artist Don Ritson, 32, starting up a shop in his native Winnipeg has proved to be both challenging and rewarding.

Located in the city's West End, Rebel Waltz Tattoo (RWT) caters to Winnipeg's steadily growing population of ink-covered bodies and also brings in guest artists

from larger city centres.

While Winnipeg's affordability and supportive, open-minded client base are both factors in RWT's success, one difficulty has been the city's legislation.

"Winnipeg has precious few incentives for small businesses and our taxation and licensing policies, both municipally and provincially, can be quite stifling," Ritson explains. "The previous administration seemed more interested in attracting and retaining large, corporate businesses over

small outfits run by locals but Winnipeggers have an indomitable spirit."

No stranger to entertaining thoughts of moving, Ritson realizes that a city is only as good as the people living in it.

"As corny as it sounds, I want to leave a legacy for my kids to be proud of and more often than not that involves blooming where you're planted and doing something that's difficult instead of bailing to the big city."



BRI FOSTER

Fashion Design Student at Ryerson University

While Winnipeg boasts some fine educational institutions, there are certain programs that simply do not exist in our little prairie town. Fashion design is one of them.

Even if Winnipeg did provide a degree program, the city's fashion industry is not

exactly vibrant.

With companies such as Silver Jeans, Nygard International and Mondetta Clothing Company based out of Winnipeg, it is no comparison to the options available in Toronto or Montréal.

"In Winnipeg you'd be having to wait for positions to open whereas in Toronto there are always positions available," Bri Foster,

30, says over the phone from Toronto.

Even in regards to independent options, Winnipeg just doesn't have the resources.

"When it comes to designing on my own work I don't think I would be able to do that [in Winnipeg]," Foster says. "Winnipeg is limited in that way for sure."



CAMILLE KENNEDY

Senior Director of Marketing at Hip Digital Media

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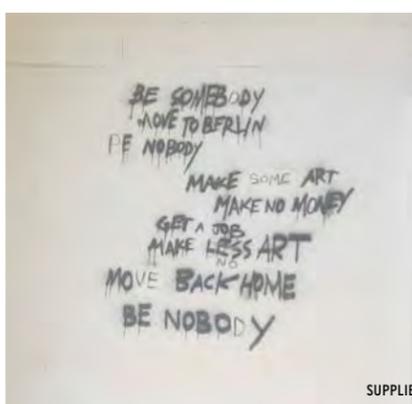
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CYRUS SMITH

Artist

Paris in the '20s, New York in the '80s - there is something to be said for being located in the cultural mecca of the moment.

Working as an artist in Berlin, Cyrus Smith, 38, is able to live comfortably in an affordable city that is the pulse of the international art world.

After graduating with a B.F.A. (Hons) from the University of Manitoba, Smith knew he wanted to travel. There were no big

dreams of world domination, just a desire to expand his horizons.

Like many Winnipeg artists who find success elsewhere before their hometown clues in (eg. The Royal Art Lodge), Smith understands that the city's isolation is an advantage.

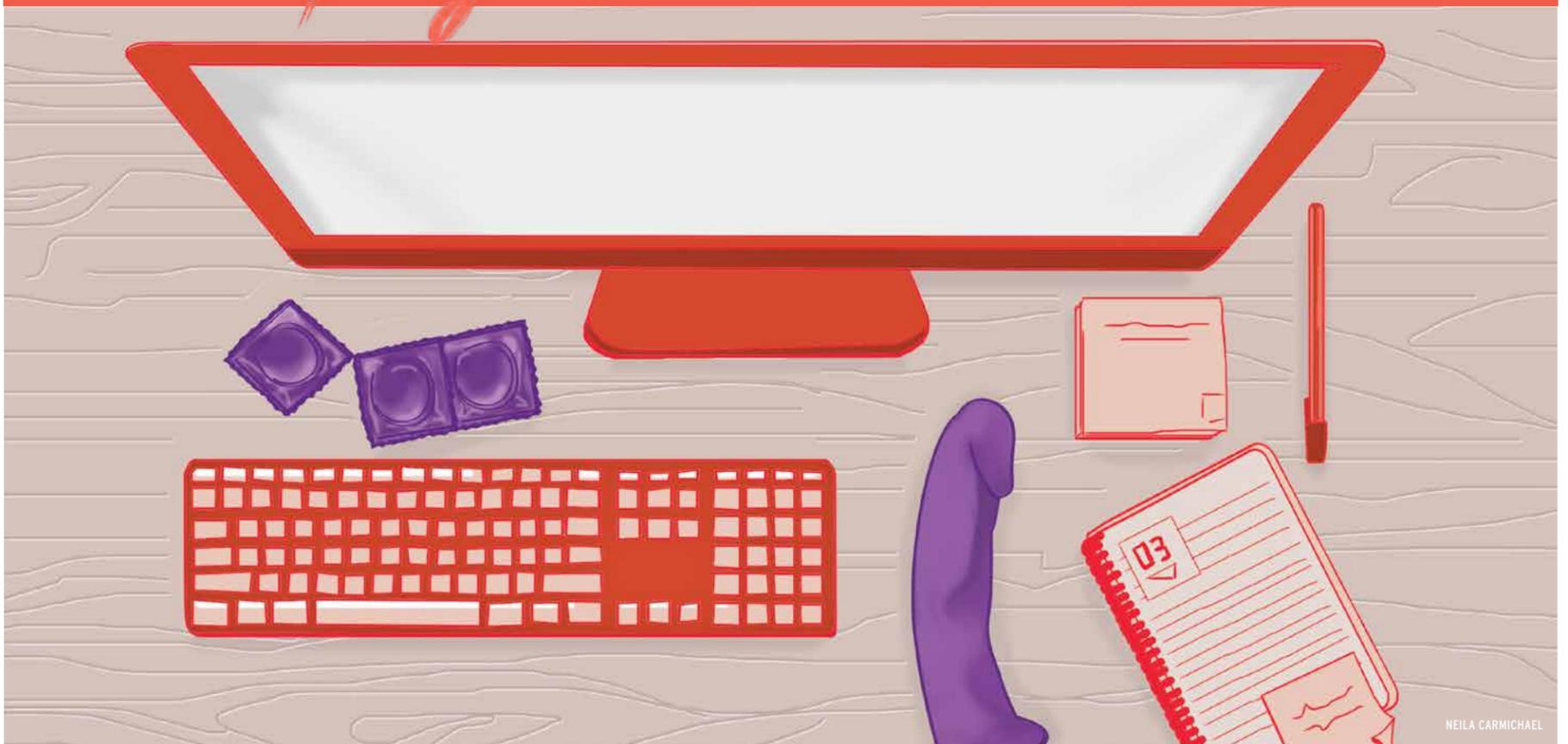
"I think it's to Winnipeg's benefit that it's not so explosive," Smith says over Skype. "Everyone has connections to other cities but I think it's okay that that success is not possible to attain if you just stay in Winnipeg."

Regardless of Winnipeg's limits, it will always remain a supportive and stubbornly

familiar community. It might suffer from small-town syndrome and have the world's ugliest drive from the airport, but its hardships allow for innovation and pioneering.

"For the ones who aren't always there it's like you need that anchor," Smith says. "It's like a piece of you that you hope never changes. For some people they go back home and everyone's moved away and they feel empty and lost and I hope Winnipeg never becomes that."

Winnipeg is ...



NEILA CARMICHAEL

SEX WORK

Beyond stereotypes, and stories of empowerment and exploitation, sex workers deserve human dignity

SHANAE BLAQUIERE



VOLUNTEER STAFF

Prostitute. Sex worker. Victim. Whore. Sexually exploited woman. A woman who sells sex has probably been described vivaciously as many, if not all, of these terms at some point in time. She is named by others occasionally with accuracy but often with a deluded discourse that crumbles upon closer examination.

When sex work is discussed, two clashing narratives prevail: the woman is either a victim or an agent - as if our world was ever simply black and white.

"Some people who sell sex may identify as sex workers; some may identify as prostitutes or victims or any number of other things," Regent, a Winnipeg woman who identifies as a sex worker and who readily proclaims that she has agency, explains. "When we're talking about those individual stories, it's really important to respect how people are identifying themselves and their own narratives and experiences."

According to Regent, her identification as an agent is one that challenges local myths. Regent says the sex trade dialogue in Winnipeg is dictated by the victim narrative, which she attributes to larger discussions of race- and class-based discrimination, especially where Aboriginal women are concerned.

"As someone that's not from Winnipeg, something that struck me when I moved here was how much of the discourses that you hear are centred around sexual exploitation and nothing else," Claudyne Chevrier notes. Chevrier is a PhD candidate in Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba who is in the midst of researching and writing an ethnography on sex work in Winnipeg.

Last year, advocates like Chevrier and sex workers like Regent joined in coalition to form the Winnipeg Working Group in response to Bill C-36. The Winnipeg Working Group, a chapter of the Canadian Alliance for Sex Work Law Reform, aims to advocate for the decriminalization of legislation that empowers and protects those working in the sex industry.

"We're not going to eliminate any of the problems around sex work by criminalizing clients or by further limiting the choices of sex workers," Regent says.

She and Chevrier, along with their fellows in the Winnipeg Working Group, argue that law reform would mitigate risk for sex workers across the board, whether they choose sex work from a wide spectrum of options or do sex work because they feel they have no other choice.

The West Central Women's Resource Centre is also part of the conversation. Executive director Tanya McFadyen and neighbourhood immigrant settlement worker Damien Leggett

say that, although they respect agency-based sex work, it is sexually exploited women who access their centre.

"What we're seeing in our particular centre is women who have a long history of being sexually exploited as youth [and] as children, and then using the arena of sex to then survive," McFadyen says. She explains that the exploitation narrative and the agency narrative are different conversations altogether and often get muddled up within one another.

McFadyen is frustrated that academic voices so often emphasize agency-based sex work. "I do historically think it's good that we've shifted towards viewing sex as something that somebody, being privileged or educated, can choose. It's just that we can't negate the other experience either."

Leggett stresses that the agency-versus-victim discussion is tied to class and race issues. "I think there are different terms to be used for different populations," he says. "Privilege is the difference. Some people are making a choice and some people aren't able to make the choice."

"I certainly don't fit into a whole slew of groups that tend to be marginalized," Regent says, explaining what constitutes her agency. She cites her background in communications, middle-class upbringing, marketability as a sex worker and a strong support system as factors that play into her choice. "I did feel like I had other options should it not work out or should it not be for me," she says.

Leggett adds, "What does it actually mean to have a full spectrum of choice? Not just, 'Am I going to get money for food tonight?' That doesn't seem like a choice."

Although Chevrier and Regent's agency perspective differs from McFadyen and Leggett's experiences with sexually exploited women, they agree on a great deal. Women have the right to choose how to use their bodies. Some women do not get to choose. Sexual exploitation more drastically affects

racialized and lower class people, especially Aboriginal women. This exploitation is a manifestation of colonialism.

So where do we go from here?

"Humanize them. Just be their friends," McFadyen says with vigour. Leggett nods. "Basic human dignity. People aren't defined by the work that they do, whatever it is. It's just one part of a human being."

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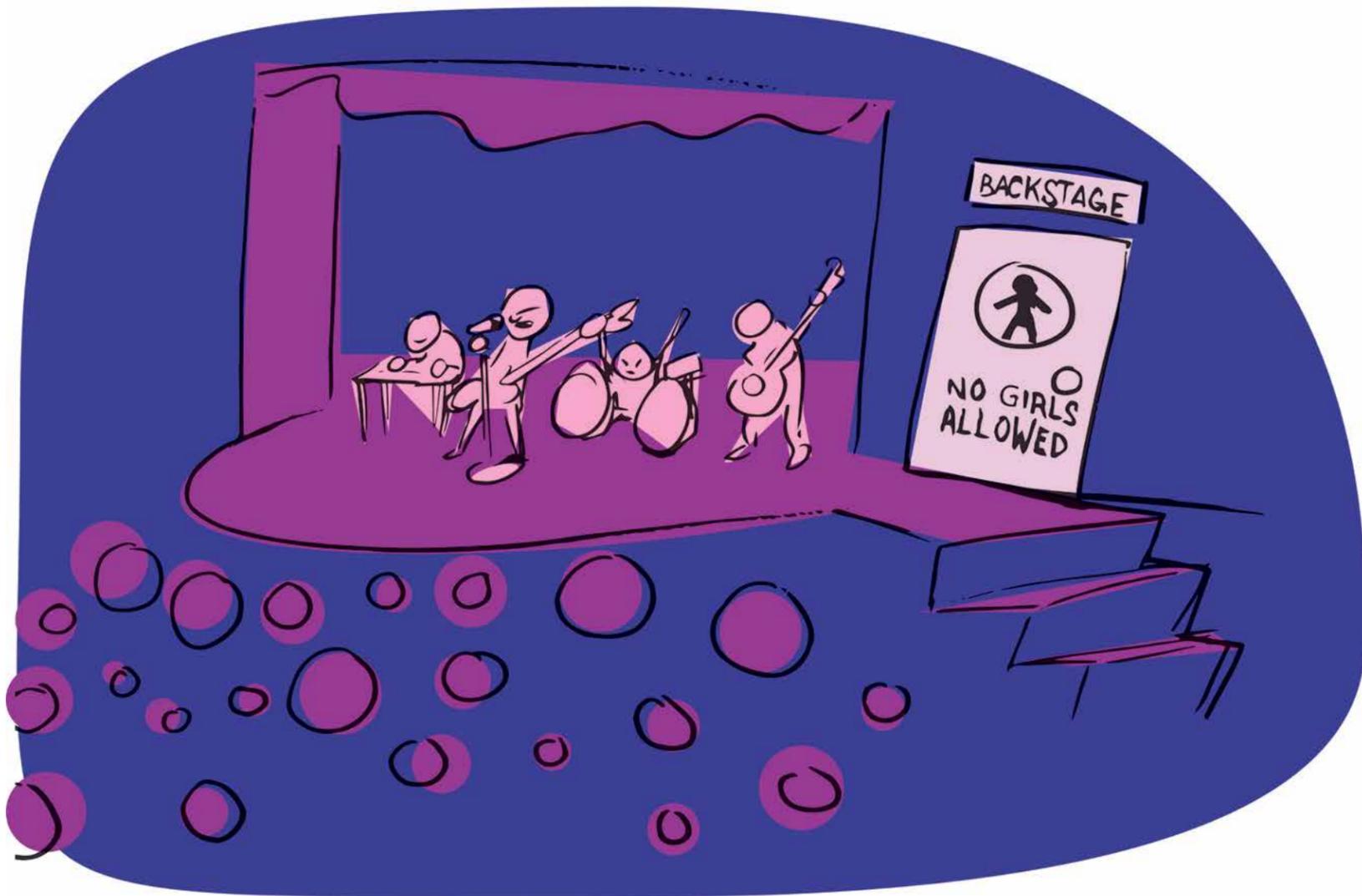
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DAVID BOCK

A BOYS CLUB

Music scene sees influx of new venues, but still needs to make space for others to participate

ANASTASIA CHIPELSKI

 @ANACHIPS

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Running a music venue is a bit of an odd occupation, with no clear path for training, a small cadre of colleagues who are all doing something a little different, and no guarantees of security.

Recently, however, more Winnipeggers have joined the sparse ranks of venue owners. Union Sound Hall, The Park Theatre, The Purple Room, The Handsome Daughter, and the Good Will Social Club have all opened their doors in the past three years.

And as their ranks expanded, many others - including the owners - couldn't help but notice an obvious trend: How is it that it's almost entirely men hosting the shows?

"Women are generally underrepresented in small business in Canada (and likely worldwide)," Sara Stasiuk, director of operations at Six Shooter Music and past executive director at Manitoba Music, explains.

"There is definitely an old-boys club in music, and there just aren't many mentorship opportunities for women by women. It's not that a man can't mentor a woman - my primary mentors have been men - it's just a different dynamic."

Networking and mentorship are key, and there are no clearly defined prerequisites for many music industry positions. However, understanding how industry positions become populated in the Winnipeg music scene may help to shed a bit of light on the ongoing gender disparity.

David Schellenberg, one of the owners of The Good Will, has been carving out a name for himself as a talent booker his whole adult life.

"I started when I was a kid just play-

ing shows in a band. I started playing when I was 15, I think I bought my first show when I was 17. And I just bugged Jack (Jonasson) to let me do shows at the (Lo Pub)," Schellenberg explains. "And then he was overwhelmed being GM and booking, so I just took over the booking."

Though he ran the Lo Pub, Jonasson is quick to admit that he didn't come to the position with much relevant bar or business experience. However, he made up for it with his passion for the music scene.

"I never worked at a bar before the Lo Pub, never worked at a restaurant, never served a table," Jonasson, now general manager of the West End Cultural Centre says. "So when I decided that was something I wanted to do, I kind of just went whole hog into it."

Most venue owners agree that having a degree of business acumen is helpful, but not a prerequisite for starting a venue. However, it can be a steep learning curve even for seasoned members of the music industry.

"I consider Tim (Hoover) and I to be pretty savvy promoters, but we knew zero about the building code, the permits, all of that stuff you need to know even to just open the front door, let alone have a liquor license or anything else like that," Tyler Sneesby, part owner of both The Good Will and Union Sound Hall, explains.

Sneesby also draws upon his experience in working with the Winnipeg Jazz Festival, but acknowledges that running a venue is a whole different ball game. Rather than having a few months of intense show promotion, venue owners and bookers are contending with an ongoing cycle of filling dates.

"It's kind of like with the Jazz Fest except it never ends," Sneesby says.

Venue owners can't just have an ear for music and a mind for business - it's an incredibly varied skill set.

"You need to have relationships with agents, funds for start-up, marketing expertise, show production expertise, excellent HR skills," Stasiuk explains. "This all takes business planning and money and passion and guts and love of music - it's a rare person who has all those qualities."

For those who aren't looking to run a venue, but work in booking or promotion, there are still few opportunities. Jobs are scarce and rarely open. However, if you're looking for work, there's no shortage of ways to put on a show.

Owners like Sneesby are grateful to work with independent promoters when booking shows. And alongside venues, music festivals offer another opportunity to get involved in the music scene.

Lauren Swan, one of the organizers of Big Fun, got started simply by showing up. "I was just going to shows a lot, and kind of developed a community," Swan explains. She went to school for marketing and PR, and so when her friends talked about starting a festival to celebrate local music, she saw a way to put her skills to use.

Though it started as a lark, Big Fun has been going strong for four years now.

"Working in the music scene's hard, it's a boy's club for sure, and there's a lot of things that I have to deal with that the guys don't, and it took four years of demanding respect and having them back me up," Swan says.

"I get mistaken or passed over for being a girlfriend or a pal all the time," Swan says.

"But I think that having the confidence and going for it, and finding women and allies and people who got your back is great. There's a lot of great women in the scene, like Sara Stasiuk and Rachel Stone, like Jodie Layne from Rainbow Trout, and there's a lot of really great female musicians too."

Visibility and access to the music scene continue to be an issue in Winnipeg, but one that is hopefully changing through initiatives like Cootie Club, which recently held a showcase at the Purple Room.

"Providing spaces where women can get involved in the scene and not be, whether it's through perception or through actual acts...shunned from the scene is an important step," Paul Little, artistic director of the Purple Room, explains. He hopes that more overall involvement might be reflected in venue ownership eventually.

Jonasson agrees, and puts it bluntly: "I think it comes down to patriarchy. Because men largely own everything, they own money, and the realm of the bar, the realm of the live music venue is a very dude-heavy realm."

Beyond more opportunities for women, a significant change in the landscape might also require some other movers and shakers to rethink their position.

"The key is actually more women participating in music and more men stepping back and making space for women to participate in music," Jonasson says.

"Largely the problem is that there's just a bunch of dudes that are just crowding the space. And it's going to take a real cultural shift in the minds of those of us that are male in the music scene to sort of step back, and make some room, and...participate in creating opportunities for women to be a part of it."

Get out and support your local scene and scenesters at The Good Will (thegoodwill.ca), The Handsome Daughter (thehandsomeddaughter.com), The Purple Room (purpleroom.ca), The Park Theatre (parktheatrevideo.com) and Union Sound Hall (unionsoundhall.com). While they're the opposite of new, the West End Cultural Centre (wecc.ca) has had many women at the helm, so that's pretty cool too.

Winnipeg is...

DERIVATIVE DESIGN?

On criticism and compromise in graphic design

MARLOWE BROWNLEE

 @MARLOWEEXTER

VOLUNTEER

Nils Vik almost found himself in some hot water a few weeks ago over a quote pulled from a recent article in *The Uniter*. The article was highlighting Urban Ink's Dix Ans D'Affiches, currently showing at Parlour Coffee. The quote was circulated through Twitter via the Graphic Design Council of Canada, Manitoba Chapter.

@GDCMB: "Would you agree with @nilsvik that 'most graphic design firms are just rubbish in Winnipeg?'"

When Vik, a former EQ3 furniture designer, is not at Parlour Coffee or Little Sister Coffee Maker, there's a good chance he's at the University of Manitoba Faculty of Architecture. He is a studio critic, and is not shy to dole out criticism for the sake of the design process. In fact, he views it as absolutely integral to producing sound work.

"I think ideally the best work would come from someone who is open to criticism. But at the same time able to separate when criticism is towards the work versus the person," Vik says.

The conversation that @GDCMB's tweet spurred was productive, and is best summed up by the following tweet, one that seems to align with the ethos Vik subscribes to.

"Context or not, it's truth; most of any arts/culture sector is rubbish. Film, music, design. It's why we celebrate the good," Jeope Wolfe tweets.

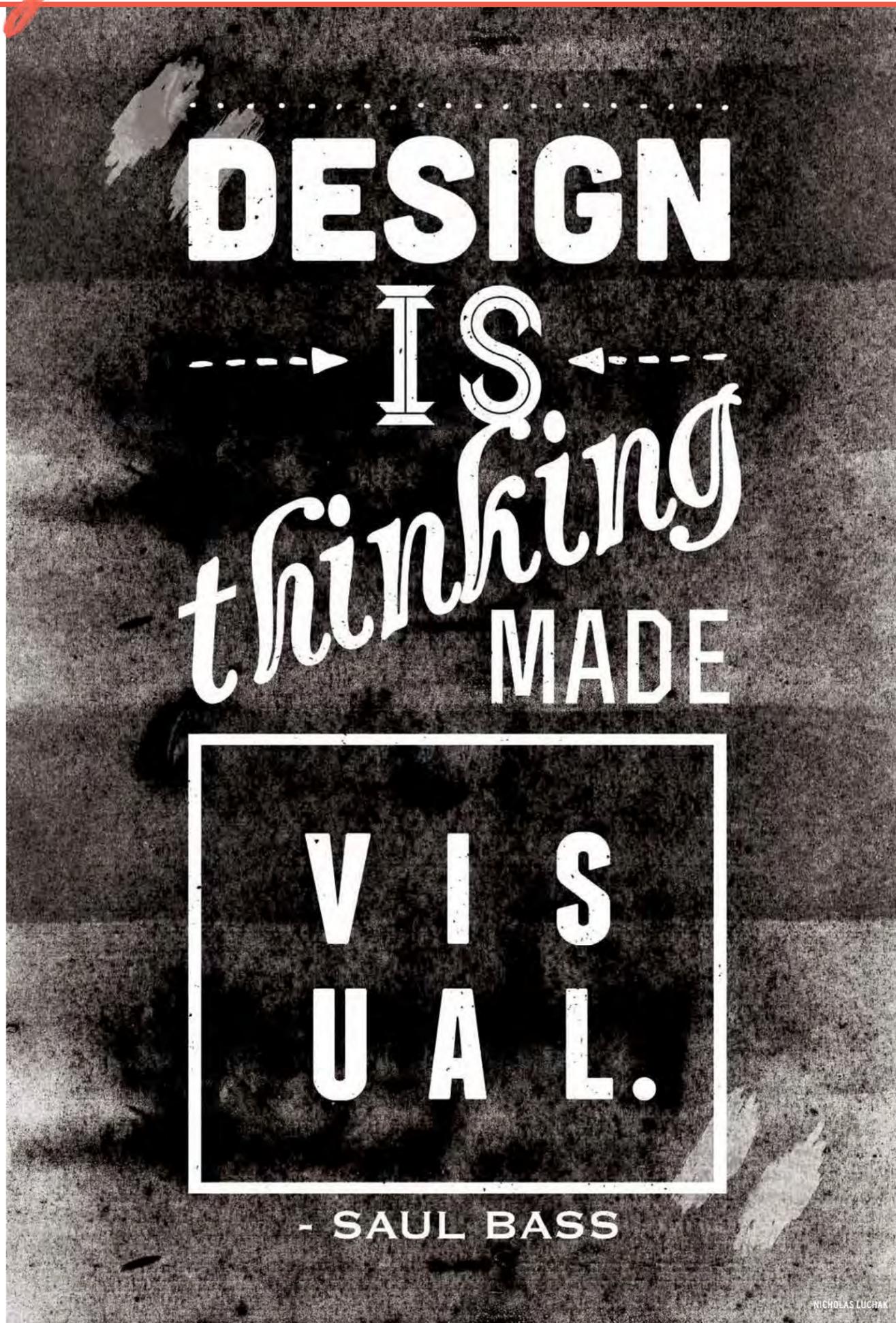
Graphic designers must straddle customer service and creativity. They refer to their creations as products: brand identities, graphic materials, websites. Function is their primary concern. So why call any of it rubbish?

John Lyttle, designer for Lester Communications and communications chair at GDCMB, says, "We need to be told that what we're doing is rubbish so that we can improve the work we're doing."

Most of society interacts with finished branding on a daily basis, but the finer points of design are important to the community that produces these products. Graphic designers are creative people. They are drawn to the profession by their desire to express themselves creatively, coupled with their understanding that a warm bed and a full belly do not materialize in the ether of Adobe Creative Suite.

There is a consensus among designers on what separates the functional from the unique, the interesting, and the moving. Jayden Klassen, a freelance graphic designer out of #TGFS, explains.

"I think what it comes down to is... if you can see that there's soul in it," Klassen says.



By this, he means remarkable design is that which halts your gaze (and your incessantly clicking thumb), and makes you appreciate its visage, not how it relays information to you. There is, however, one small caveat.

"When a designer or maker gets married to their project or work, there's a danger in that they become defensive of it because it's an extension of themselves," Vik says.

What's the way around this issue? Klassen attributes his exposure to criticism during classes at Red River College that helped him to separate his soul from the work.

Put your soul into your work, yet separate your soul from your work? Sounds complicated.

The issue compounds in the studio/firm setting. As Melissa Krawetz, senior graphic designer at Honest Agency explains, compromise is an inevitability.

"I feel like there's always compromise in one form or another, it can seem like an ever-changing landscape of compromise. You are always taking into consid-

eration time, money, creative input from others on the team, production schedules, client feedback, or design that has already [been] established."

Krawetz goes a layer deeper, noting that compromise itself is a creative process.

"I suppose it's compromise, but it's really constant problem solving and that's the nature of design."

Sometimes compromise enters the professional landscape before a designer is in front of their computer. "There are compromises you have to make as a professional. You don't always get the exact job that you want," Lyttle says.

If designers find themselves in this position, and are unable to do work that tickles their creative fancy? A simple solution:

"I think you just, you do it. For free. Realistically, you need a portfolio, right? If no one's hiring you to do innovative work, you make innovative work on your own and show it," Vik says.

"Artists are a prime example. They make work. For themselves, right? No one's pay-

ing an artist, a lot of the time anyways, to make work. So if you want to show that you can make great work, you just make it. Go ahead and make it."

Having created brand identities for many of his friends' prominent new business ventures - Thom Bargaen, Wilder Goods, and forthcoming Commonwealth Manufacturing - Klassen echoes Vik: "You need to just get your work out there and have people see it."

The aforementioned work was all done on trades, and while not being *for free*, Klassen relayed that the exposure resulting from these bodies of work - as well as that which came from multiple art exhibitions - has paid dividends a paycheque cannot.

And if you don't feel you should do any work for free? Klassen is open to your ideas. In his own words:

"Just because you've left school doesn't mean that you shouldn't still be a student, and that you shouldn't still be learning and growing."

DIY VENUES

Basement bands are an important part of Winnipeg's music scene

DEBORAH REMUS

 @DEBORAH REMUS

ARTS REPORTER

Bands are playing under-the-radar shows in Winnipeg, if you know where to look.

Usually these D.I.Y. venues are BYOB (bring your own booze) and don't charge a cover, but if they do it's on a pay-what-you-can model. These spaces can be great for bands looking to book their first shows and get used to performing for an audience.

Just last December, a local emo/math rock band called Sit Calm invited some friends and played its first gig in a house show setting.

"I'd say there was probably 90 people there, we just ended up playing our set in the basement," guitarist Nick Fondse says.

"House shows are really fun because everyone's packed in super tight and it's more of a party setting so you can be a little bit more laid back and have a good time."



ADARA MOREAU

D.I.Y. venues also serve as an alternative when all the licensed venues are booked, which can be a common problem in Winnipeg.

The HMS Arlington has been putting on shows for five years and saw an increased amount of traffic just before The Handsome Daughter and Good Will Social Club opened their doors. Stefan Wolf is one of the organizers and his band, Pop Crimes, played a CD release show there last summer because the other venues were booked solid. Out of town artists such as Vancouver's Jay Arner and Minneapolis' Animal Lover have also stopped by to play gigs.

"I first started doing folk shows because there wasn't really any venue for it and then we started having friends coming through Winnipeg that couldn't

get shows so we just started putting them up here," Wolf says.

"It's hard to say if there will be less shows here now that those venues are open because there's something special to be said about house shows. When the band is comfortable and the crowd is comfortable it can make for a really awesome experience."

The HMS Arlington has an upstairs performance space that could probably fit 100 people and there's also the option to play the basement, which can also fit 100 bodies.

"I feel like this house exists in this tiny little microcosm because we've had some pretty crazy shows and we've never had any noise complaints, which is great. I never really ever want to have to deal with that," Wolf says.

Graham Hnatiuk runs another D.I.Y. venue in the city called Suite 421 and also fronts Hearing Trees. He echoes that licensed venues can be booked for months in advance, but says he originally founded the space because his band didn't know how to get shows in the first place.

"Looking back we probably didn't have a lot of confidence so it was just easier to play for our friends than to go out and play at the Cavern or the Handsome Daughter or wherever," Hnatiuk says.

"Now I feel like I'm helping out by giving other groups the chance to play their first show without any pressure. I definitely think these spaces are important."

We can't give out specific addresses, but if you keep an eye on social media or ask some bands maybe you can catch a show at one of these places.

PROTEST

Winnipeggers stand against Bill C-51

CAROL LINDSEY

 @CAROLLOUISELIND

VOLUNTEER STAFF

On March 14, hundreds of Winnipeggers participated in a Canada-wide Day of Action by marching and protesting against Bill C-51. Apparently I am not the only Canadian who finds the Harper Government's proposed Anti-Terrorism Bill to be alarming and Orwellian. If you aren't alarmed already, here is why you should be.

It isn't about protecting Canadians from terrorism - it is an attack on civil liberties. It is about suppressing opposition and muzzling the rights and freedoms of Canadians. Governments who enact these types of laws do not have your best interest in mind.

So, why should Winnipeggers be concerned? Bill C-51 would give more power to police and the Canadian Security Intel-



DOUG KRETCHMER

ligence Service (CSIS) and allow them to potentially violate the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The bill would give the government broader decision making power when it comes to deciding what national security is, or to define which groups and individuals are threats to security.

"What it means is more unnecessary policing of Canadians and a return to a McCarthy-like era where dissent is criminalized," Damon Nasser Bath, one of the protest organizers, says. "If you look at our government's recent history with legislation passed as well as the actual 'Committee hearings' themselves for this bill, it's an attempt to grip on power and criminalize opposition."

For example, peaceful protesters voicing opinions that are in opposition to those of the current government could be targeted for further investigation by the

police if the government simply decides that they are a threat to the economic stability or the national security of Canada.

Bill C-51 will also likely restrict freedom of speech and expression because people will be more afraid to speak out. This is because the bill provides a very loose definition of what or who could be a threat to national security, a definition which includes speech, words or actions that promote terrorism. The problem with this is that terrorism is very loosely and broadly defined within the context of Bill C-51. As a result, regular law-abiding people could be targeted by police. This is not something that goes hand-in-hand with democracy.

Other miscellaneous points contained within Bill C-51 include: detaining people who might perform a terrorist act in the future (at the discretion of police opinion), increasing the time that people can be detained without charge, sharing your

health and financial information with the RCMP if you are seen as a security threat, the creation of a secret no-fly list and allowing CSIS to conduct more of its work in secret.

Erosion of civil liberties isn't something to ignore because these are things that have happened in countries that experienced despotic nightmares. In the past, other countries have experienced their governments simply deciding which categories of the population are threats to security, and then arresting these people whether or not they are really threats, or just regular people.

I'm glad Winnipeggers protested Bill C-51 because it is so important to defend democracy, and politicians may consider the viewpoint of protesters if they think it will affect their approval rating in advance of the next election.

Carol Lindsey is a Public Relations student at the University of Winnipeg.

Winnipeg is ...

GROWTH & DIVERSITY

Demographic trends create opportunities for Winnipeg's future

SPENCER FERNANDO

 @SPENCERFERNANDO

COMMENTS EDITOR

Winnipeg faces significant demographic changes in the years ahead, both in terms of our overall population as well as our cultural diversity. Embracing those changes and building an inclusive community will be essential to ensuring our city has a strong future.

The 2014 Community Trends Report by the City of Winnipeg details these changes:

According to the report, Winnipeg ranks 6th among Canadian cities when it comes to immigration, stating, "The Toronto area receives the largest share of Canada's immigrants. In 2013, Toronto saw approximately 81,800 immigrants, followed by Montreal (43,950), Vancouver (29,450), Calgary (17,505), Edmonton (12,717), and then Winnipeg (11,100)."

The Community Trends Report also discusses Winnipeg's Indigenous population, stating, "The number of Aboriginal people in Winnipeg has been growing. In the City of Winnipeg, Aboriginal people total 72,300 persons, while in the City region (CMA) the number is just above 78,400 persons." The report also states,

"Aboriginal people account for 11% of the population in Winnipeg. Thus Winnipeg has both the highest concentration and the largest number of Aboriginal people out of large Canadian cities."

The Indigenous population is expected to grow rapidly, as Mia Rabson wrote in the Free Press, "The First Nations population in Manitoba grew more than four times as quickly as the population as a whole. Provincially, the First Nations population grew 22.9 per cent between 2006 and 2011, and the Métis population grew 16.3 per cent. The entire population of Manitoba grew by 5.2 per cent in that time frame."

This growth and diversity is a great thing, as Winnipeg can be a positive example to Canada, and the world when it comes to embracing diversity, respecting our Indigenous heritage, and building a diverse and equitable community. However, as we have seen, there is more work to be done to get there. Just recently, a Winnipeg day care was targeted with racist pamphlets. Additionally, the well-known *Maclean's* article on racism that created an intense

amount of discussion demonstrates that Winnipeg faces some challenges on the road to achieving our full potential.

While addressing prejudice and promoting inclusivity is important first and foremost because it is the right thing to do, it is also going to be essential to the economic prospects of our city.

According to a Conference Board of Canada report for the City of Winnipeg, "From 2012 to 2035, population growth is expected to average 1.2 per cent per year, while real gross domestic product (GDP) growth is forecast to average 2.3 per cent per year."

"Migration has become an increasingly important factor for population growth, and Winnipeg's ability to attract new migrants will continue to be an important determinant of its future economic potential," the report continues.

Indeed, it is clear that Winnipeg's future economic prospects will depend on new Canadians.

"Winnipeg is expected to attract an average of more than 9,500 net interna-

tional migrants each year from 2012 to 2035. Although the population will age as baby boomers retire, increased levels of immigration will help support growth in Winnipeg's labour force."

With these facts in mind - and while remaining aware of the struggles our city faces - there is reason to be optimistic about the future of Winnipeg. We have many leaders who are stepping up and taking action to create a better view of our city.

In that regard, Mayor Brian Bowman announced the creation of a Mayor's Indigenous Advisory Circle led by Wab Kinew, Associate Vice-President of Indigenous Affairs at the University of Winnipeg.

This, as well as the One Winnipeg initiative, are important steps to embracing openness and inclusion in our city. As leaders continue to step up, we have every reason to believe that the future of Winnipeg will be bright and hopeful.

Spencer Fernando is Comments Editor for The Uniter.



MIKE SUDOMA

WEST END SNAPSHOTS:

Saigon Park Memorial

CHRISTIAN CASSIDY

 @WESTENDCASSIDY

VOUNTEER STAFF

Across the street from the Ellice Avenue entrance to the University of Winnipeg, in what is called Saigon Park, there is a memorial tree and stone commemorating the nine people who were killed in the Haselmere Apartments fire of 1974. It was a blaze that led to a showdown between the City and landlords and changed how Winnipeg's fire code was enforced.

At around 1:15 a.m. on the morning of Jan. 18, 1974, a passing motorist noticed smoke coming from the 1910-era three-storey walk-up located at 559 Ellice Ave. at Furby S. He drove to the nearest payphone

to call it in, and "by the time I got back, everything and everybody was in hysteria. Some people were still yelling from the windows and some people were jumping."

By the time the fire was extinguished later that morning, nine people ranging in age from 19 to 70 were dead. It is believed to be the second deadliest fire in our city's history.

The tragedy was compounded by a couple of factors. First, it was discovered that a man who had been staying over with his uncle in one of the suites intentionally set the blaze after an evening of drinking.

Then, at the coroner's inquest into the deaths, it was revealed that the building had no fire protection measures in place and that it wasn't required to have these measures under the city's fire code.

The Haselmere had no sprinklers, fire alarms or smoke detectors. Internal stairways were not shielded by a firewall and the exterior fire escapes were unusable. The reason for these lapses had to do with a grandfather clause in the city's 1911 fire code which exempted apartment buildings that pre-dated it. Former fire chief Jack Coulter recounted to the Free Press



CHRIS CASSIDY

decades later that "It (the Haselmere) was just built to burn."

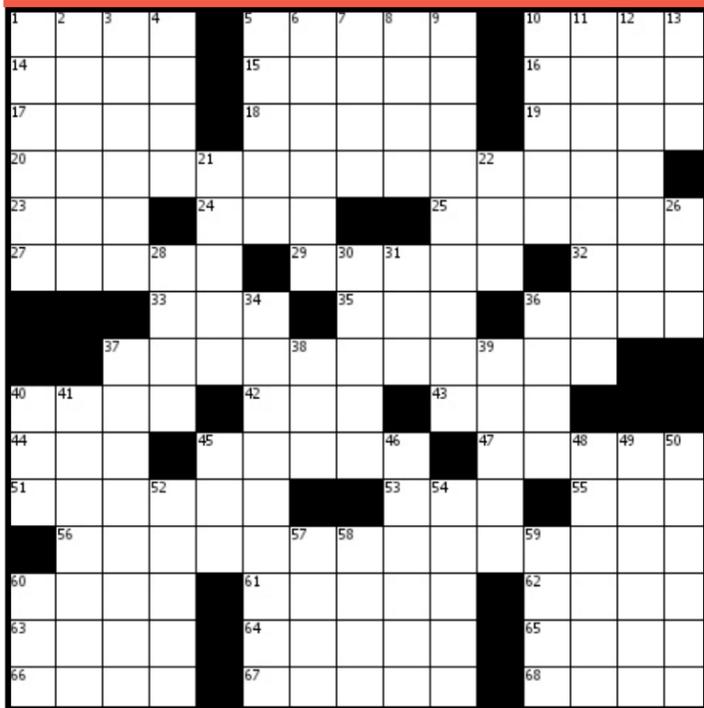
Less than two weeks after the fire, city council tasked the city's Buildings Commission with tackling these deficiencies and on May 15, 1974, it began enforcing the fire code for all buildings, regardless of when they were built.

Landlords fought back. They argued that the changes would cost them tens of thousands of dollars per building and end up putting many of them out of business. Some raised the dark scenario of a severe housing squeeze as landlords walked away from their properties or demolished them rather than upgrading. They went to court to challenge the commission's ability to retroactively enforce the fire code and won.

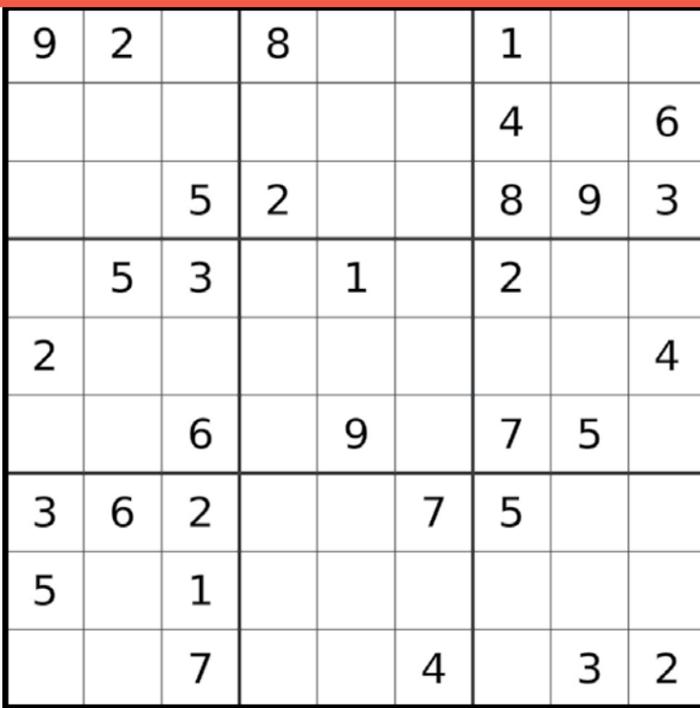
The city had to go back to the drawing board to create a brand new bylaw giving the commission the authority to enforce the fire code in existing buildings. That bylaw passed in August 1975 and the long process of inspecting the city's 1,750 apartment blocks, 250 of which were constructed before 1911, began. It took years to complete.

It was an awful fate for the nine victims but their deaths on that awful night in January 1974 has undoubtedly saved the lives of countless others in apartment fires that were prevented.

Christian Cassidy explores local history at his blog West End Dumplings

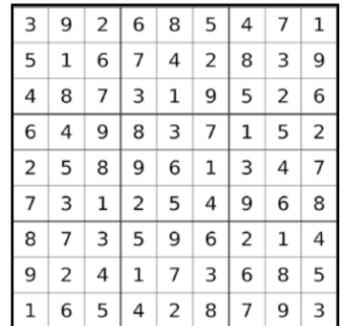
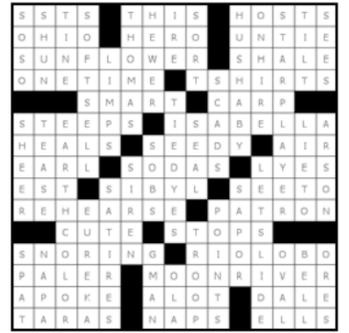


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SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLES.



ACROSS

- 1. Pierce with a fork
- 5. Top floor topper
- 10. Zapata "zip"
- 14. Discredited (with "down")
- 15. Semi-soft cheese
- 16. "--- a Song Go Out of My Heart"
- 17. Cain's victim
- 18. Cutting light
- 19. Chowder choice
- 20. Shout from an exhausted spelling bee contestant?
- 23. Homer Simpson says it
- 24. Condition of wow
- 25. Slicker
- 27. Football coach Amos Alonzo ---
- 29. Prepares for press
- 32. Swindle
- 33. Bumbling one
- 35. Tolkien forest giant
- 36. Interruption starter
- 37. Shout to someone with a blindingly bald head?
- 40. Border upon
- 42. Computer option
- 43. --- Xing (street sign)
- 44. Ryan of "Sleepless in Seattle"
- 45. Arm wrestler's pride
- 47. --- and all (as is)

- 51. Corresponding partner
- 53. Ballpark fig.
- 55. It might follow you
- 56. Shout to a talkative butcher?
- 60. Home of a famous listing
- 61. Telegraph developer Samuel
- 62. Redding of R&B
- 63. Divisible by two
- 64. Girl with a gun
- 65. Cool off like a boxer
- 66. Sign over
- 67. Like Fran Drescher's voice
- 68. Waffle brand

DOWN

- 1. Where to find fans
- 2. As well
- 3. "Queen of Soul" Franklin
- 4. Dracula portrayer Lugosi
- 5. Radian
- 6. Perfectly
- 7. Derri?re
- 8. --- fixe (obsessive thought)
- 9. Redheaded comedian
- 10. Williamson of "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution"
- 11. In satisfactory condition
- 12. Sure shooter
- 13. Source of PIN money?
- 21. Continually find fault with
- 22. Ill. neighbor
- 26. Tach letters
- 28. Joint problem
- 30. Spread salt in winter
- 31. Neither Rep. nor Dem.
- 34. Nicolas Cage flick (with "The")
- 36. Verdi work
- 37. Having a turned-up snoot
- 38. Fond du ---, WI
- 39. Not yet familiar with
- 40. Current unit
- 41. Apt place to shout, "Honey, I'm home?"
- 45. 1987 hit for Michael Jackson

- 46. Omar Khayyam's land
- 48. Disorderly
- 49. Setting straight or righting
- 50. Is responsible for
- 52. 747, for example
- 54. Type of trap or wool
- 57. Geraldine Chaplin's mother
- 58. Java vessels
- 59. Negative slang word
- 60. Muscle used in push-ups
- 48. Disorderly
- 49. Setting straight or righting
- 50. Is responsible for
- 52. 747, for example
- 54. Type of trap or wool
- 57. Geraldine Chaplin's mother
- 58. Java vessels
- 59. Negative slang word
- 60. Muscle used in push-ups
- 44. Northeast and southwest
- 47. Scout assemblage
- 48. Small quarrel
- 49. California wine valley
- 50. Fed
- 52. Track shape
- 53. Liberty ___
- 54. Digger's finds
- 57. Slangy suffix

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