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SPOTLIGHT FEATURE By SCOTT TAYLOR

Bob Picken

WINNIPEG MANITOBA

As a member of the Manitoba media, Bob Picken has been inducted into various Halls of Fame eight times!



See full story inside

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SPOTLIGHT: Bob Picken

Picken Enters His Eighth Hall of Fame



By Scott Taylor

Late last month, Bob Picken was inducted into the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame.

That's impressive all by itself, but probably the most impressive thing about Bob Picken's amazing career as a member of the Manitoba media is the sheer number of Halls of Fame into which he has been inducted.

Hockey sure isn't the only one. Fact is, there are eight of them:

- The Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame
- The Canadian Curling Hall of Fame
- The Manitoba Curling Hall of Fame
- The Manitoba Golf Hall of Fame
- The Manitoba Sportswriters and Sportscasters Roll of Honor
- The Winnipeg Blue Bomber Wall of Honor
- The Canadian Football Hall of Fame
- The Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame

"The Hockey Hall here in Manitoba is just the most recent and a lot of people kind of asked me why," Picken said with a smile, as he had a cup of coffee at Hu's on First, the restaurant at Shaw Park in downtown Winnipeg. "I guess a lot of people just don't remember."

"I was in high school at St. John's Tech in 1948 and the Winnipeg Tribune and Winnipeg Free Press typesetters went on strike – you know that strike has never been settled to this day. When that happened, a lot of unemployed journalists in town started the Winnipeg Citizen. It was a morning paper and a pretty good one that lasted for about two years."

"I was 16 and doing some work at the student newspaper at St. John's Tech and I guess somebody liked my work because they recommended to

the new editor at the Citizen that I'd be a good person to cover high school sports, golf, minor football and all the minor hockey over at the old Olympic rink."

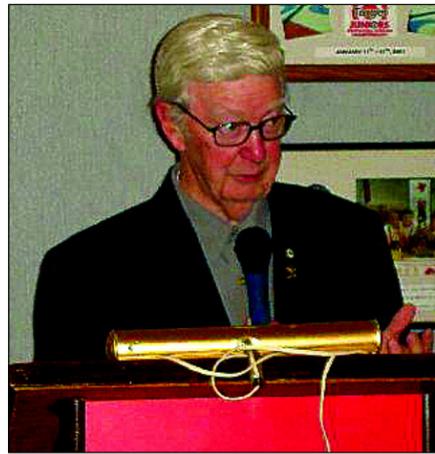
Picken did a good job for the Citizen, but when it folded, it looked like he'd be back in school writing for the student paper, when word came that they needed a secretary (it would be an "executive director" today) for the Manitoba Midget Hockey League. Picken accepted and his brief career as a hockey executive had begun.

However, while Picken, 78, has spent a lifetime in hockey, almost all of that lifetime has been covering the sport, not administrating it.

Fact is, when he worked at CJOB in the late 1960s, he did some play-by-play for the old Winnipeg Junior Jets, Ben Hatskin's precursor of the WHA Winnipeg Jets and also called games involving Father David Bauer's national team which was headquartered in Winnipeg.

However, as a broadcaster and reporter, he did a lot more than just hockey. In fact, from Grey Cup football on CBC, to national curling and golf events, Bob Picken has called them all. It's been one of the great media careers in Canadian history.

"In 1963, I had an interview with George Kent, the sports producer at CBC and I started my career there," Picken recalled. "But after a couple of years, George wanted me to go to Edmonton and work there. I really didn't want to go, but I was just about to accept when I got a call from Cliff Gardner at CJOB. They had just secured the rights for Blue Bombers



Bob Picken

“ I really didn't want to go, but I was just about to accept when I got a call from Cliff Gardner at CJOB. They had just secured the rights for Blue Bombers football and he said he 'Liked my pipes,' and called me in for an interview and an audition to do play-by-play. ”

- BOB PICKEN

football and he said he 'Liked my pipes,' and called me in for an interview and an audition to do play-by-play.

"Well, I did the interview and was hired as the first full-time sports director at CJOB, but I never did do the play-by-play. George McCloy did the play-by-play and I was the host, the interviewer and the colour commentator."

It was at CJOB where Picken also started his illustrious career as one of Canada's great curling reporters.

"On Wednesday of my first week at CJOB, Cliff (Gardner), who was the program director, said, 'Bob, get packed. You're going to Saskatoon,' and I thought, whoa that's pretty good. "He said 'Terry Braunstein is hot. He's doing well in the Brier. You get out there.' So just three days after I started at 'OB I was off on my first curling assignment as a broadcaster."

Picken worked at 'OB until 1969 when CBC called again. That's when he went to CBC and stayed until 1991 when he took early retirement.

But after all those years of covering sports, he wasn't about to retire. In fact, he got himself two quick jobs.

First, he accepted a position as media relations director for Bison Sports at the University of Manitoba and then took a freelance job covering golf and curling at the Winnipeg Sun.

Then, in 1994, CJOB Sports Director Bob Irving called him up and offered him a job covering "a little bit of golf and a lot of curling," at the Super Station. He was 62 years old when he took that job and he stayed with it for the next 16 years.

Robert Picken was born in St. Boniface, Man., in 1932 and has spent his entire 78 years in Winnipeg. He "almost" moved to Edmonton once, "almost" took a job as the play-by-play announcer of the Minnesota North Stars once and "almost" moved to Toronto twice, but Winnipeg sports fans have been lucky to have "Pick," as he's known, on the air here in Manitoba for more than 50 years.

"After awhile you set down your roots and you don't want to leave," he said. "Your home becomes comfortable. I was always comfortable here. I've been a very lucky guy. I've had two wonderful wives, each of them for more than 25 years, and I have three terrific kids."

His son Shane, 55, who has four children, lives in Kelowna. His daughter Kelly, 51, a former star basketball player at the University of Manitoba, lives in the Muskokas with her two kids. And his son Bobby Jr., is 49 and lives in Edmonton.

These days, Picken volunteers as the secretary for the Manitoba Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association and is still the draw master for the Grey Owl golf tournament. Even though he's taken a step back from full-time media work, he's still very busy in the local sports world.

"I guess, in my own way, I've made a little bit of a contribution to sport in Manitoba," Picken said. "I think I've had a very nice career here. And as I think back, I wouldn't do anything different." ■

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Bass drum applicants contact Ian Ross at imross@mymts.net or 889-6125.

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Financial Planning:

Cottage Succession Planning

BRIAN G. KONRAD CFP, Financial Consultant

For many families, preserving the family cottage is much more important than preserving any other family asset. This is because the cottage may evoke fond memories and emotional family ties. Many people want to be able to leave the cottage to their children, but do not plan for the tax consequences and family disputes which may arise at the time of their death. The concepts discussed in this article apply equally to any vacation property you may own, including a ski chalet or condo.

Tax Liability at the Time of Death

The first hurdle to overcome when leaving a cottage to your children is to make sure that there are sufficient funds in your estate to pay any tax liability which may arise at the time of your death. Many individuals do not realize that the increase in value of their cottage since the time it was purchased may result in a tax liability for their estate. This is because upon death, there is a "deemed disposition" of all of a person's assets, unless the assets are transferred to your spouse or common-law partner. A deemed disposition means that all of your assets are deemed to be disposed of for fair market value. Therefore, upon the death of the last spouse, there will be tax owing before the assets can be transferred to the next generation. The danger in failing to do estate planning is that you may need to sell some of the estate's assets (including the cottage) in order to pay the tax.

Principal Residence Exemption

One possible way to reduce the tax liability is to designate the cottage as your principal residence for tax purposes, and thus exempt some or all of the capital gains on the disposition of the cottage from taxation. However, families can only designate one residence as their principal residence for any given year. If you have owned more than one personal-use property during the same period of time, then the calculation of the principal residence exemption can become quite complicated. For example, if you have owned the family cottage for the last 20 years, but during that same 20 years you have bought and sold several "city homes" and exempted the gains on the sales of those city homes, you will not be able to shelter the entire gain on your cottage.

You do not have to designate a property as your principal residence until you actually sell the property or you are deemed to have sold it (as you would be in the year of death). At that point in time, you (or your executor/liquidator) should speak with your financial and tax advisors

to determine how to use the principal residence exemption to your best advantage.

Preserving the Adjusted Cost Base

Another option for minimizing the taxable capital gain is to ensure that all additions to the adjusted cost base or "ACB" of the property are fully accounted for. This is important because capital gains are calculated by subtracting the ACB of the property from its fair market value, so the higher the ACB of the property, the lower the gain which must be recognized. The ACB of the cottage is not just the amount you initially paid for it - many people pour thousands of dollars of capital improvements into their cottages over the years, thereby increasing the ACB. However, the ACB is not increased by sweat equity, only out-of-pocket expenditures. You should keep the receipts for the improvements that have been made in order to justify these costs in the event you are (or your estate is) audited by the Canada Revenue Agency or Revenu Québec.

Many cottage owners also had their properties appraised in order to use the \$100,000 lifetime capital gains exemption which was eliminated for real property in 1992. In order to claim the exemption, an election would have been made on your tax return by the 1994 deadline or such extended date as allowed at the time (all allowable extensions have now passed). If you made such an election, be sure to keep copies of the relevant documentation and the tax return on which you made the election so that the capital gain reported by your estate is accurate.

Planning with Insurance

If you know that your estate will have to pay a substantial capital gain tax upon your death, and you do not have any other way to minimize it, you will need to find a way to fund this liability, or risk the sale of the cottage in order to pay the tax bill. If your estate has sufficient liquid assets, this may not be a problem, but it is sometimes difficult to guarantee that there will be a sufficient amount left in the estate, particularly if you incur significant long term care costs. Life insurance is usually the solution used to ensure that there will be sufficient funds to pay the tax liability. Even if you can't afford it, your children may be willing to pay the premiums if it means preventing a "fire sale" of the family cottage at the time of your death. In any event, it will be important to have this conversation sooner rather than later, since delaying the conversation too long could result in the life insurance option no longer being available (due to age or poor health).

Gifting During Your Lifetime

One mistake that some cottage owners make is to try and escape paying tax by transferring the cottage to their children during their lifetime. These individuals assume that if they transfer the cottage to their children now, then no tax will be payable. Unfortunately, this is not the case, as the Canada Revenue Agency and Revenu Québec will deem the property to have been sold for fair market value at the time it is transferred to the children, potentially triggering an immediate capital gain. If you do not transfer complete ownership of the cottage, but instead add a joint owner or owners, then there is a disposition of a proportionate amount of the gain when an additional owner is added (e.g. if a sole parent is currently the owner, and that parent adds two children as joint owners, then two-thirds of the gain is triggered now, with the remaining one-third triggered at the time of the parent's death, although in some cases it may be possible to argue that the new owner is simply a "trustee", and does not actually have an ownership interest in the cottage). The only advantage to transferring part or complete ownership during your lifetime is that the amount of the gain taxable in the hands of the parents is "capped" at the time of the gift or sale. However, life insurance will not be an option for paying this tax, and the tax deferral in the hands of the parents is lost.

Problems can also arise if you sell the cottage to your children for anything other than fair market value. If you purchased the cottage for \$50,000, and then sell it to your children for that same amount at a time when the fair market value is \$100,000, you will be deemed to receive \$100,000, and you will have to pay tax on the capital gain. However, your children will only be deemed to have a cost base of \$50,000, resulting in double taxation when they sell the cottage. If you want to transfer the cottage to your children during your lifetime, the best options are to either gift it, or sell it for fair market value. If you give the asset to your children, you will still be deemed to have received fair market value for it, which may result in a capital gains tax liability, but your children will be deemed to have paid fair market value, so there will not be double taxation when they sell the property.

If you choose to sell it for fair market value, ask your legal advisor if it would be beneficial to structure the sale documents so that only 20% of the purchase price is payable in any one year, allowing the capital gain to be spread out over 5 years, as opposed to 100% being taxable in the year of sale. However, if you are not receiving the

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Coffee Break

June-July 2011

With Marion Clemens

Welcome to another report from the RM of Springfield.

June has been such a busy month for the community. Let's see - oh yes - there were the Kinsmen Daze, an always very popular annual event. It offered entertainment for all ages and tastes.

At the Springfield Library a very happy event was held with a book signing of two local authors: Sue Luckay and Elizabeth Romance. Luckay wrote about her experiences in Malawi, while Romance tells the story of Kalib - a dog she and her husband took home after finding him lost, scared and sick in the wilderness. Both books are available at McNally Robinson, Hulls bookstore and Indigo Winnipeg. I finished reading Kalib's story and liked it very much, even



Charity and Keiko - two beautiful Tibetan Terriers enjoying a day in Assiniboia Park.

though at times it was so very sad, but after all, the ending is a happy one.

Lori Orchard's workshop in regards to Urban Poling/Nordic Walking, held at the Library was interesting for beginners as well for people using this way of walking for several years already, like myself do since about five years. Walking with poles has been popular in Scandinavian countries for many years and is now getting more popular



Norman Wicharenko's 101st birthday party held at Kin Place Personal Care Home, Oakbank in May. L-R: Norman's wife Annie, daughter Gladys and Norman.

in North America, including Canada. The movement you use is the same as if you are doing cross-country skiing, without the skis. You can walk at any and all places while using 90 percent of your body's muscles.

From my own experience I can highly recommend pole walking (it's good for all ages. If you are seriously interested in taking up pole walking, contact Lori either per email orchard@mymts.net or by phone **204-485-6120**.

Barrier-Free Manitoba was organized in September 2008 with a single focus - to secure strong and effective accessibility-rights legislation. An important step forward has been taken, when the Manitoba Legislature unanimously passed a new law that requires the government to move beyond the promising words that have now been offered for over a decade. Under the new law the government must establish and resource an Assessability Advisory Council with the responsibility to develop recommendations on accessibility legislation within the next 12 months.

For more information please contact Patrick Falconer, Consultant to the Barrier-Free Manitoba Steering Committee:

Web: <http://www.barrierfreemb.com>, email: barrierfreemanitoba@shaw.ca.

Another successful event was the annual Alzheimer Memory Walk, held in Oakbank and Anola. It started at the Kin Place Personal Care Home with a large group of people together with students from the Ukrainian Bilingual grades 3, 4 and 5 with teachers Jeff Kozak and Ms Carson. The youngsters pushed wheelchairs and enjoyed cookies and soft drinks afterwards. Two very special individuals, Tasha Morissette and Vera Price came especially for this Memory Walk all the way from Virden. They told me that they wanted to do something for the Alzheimer Organization but couldn't find anything in or around Virden. So, they raised \$300 and brought the money to Oakbank and joined the walk. Special bouquet and thank you very much from Springfield. The Dugald Volunteer Group - well known for helping out wherever help is needed, served hot dogs, pies and beverages after the walk.

- Till next month - take care, drive, swim, bike and play safe

Cottage Succession Planning, *Continued*

entire sale price immediately, you may wish to take security against the cottage in the event future payments are not made as promised. If you do not intend to collect payment from your children, consider forgiving the debt in your will, but include it for the purposes of dividing the estate, so that your other children receive assets of similar value.

Another concern with transferring a cottage property to a child is the fact that you will lose control over that asset. This can be problematic in the event your child suffers a marriage breakdown, or has creditor issues. Think carefully before giving up control of a major asset such as a cottage.

Succession Issues

There are also non-tax issues to consider. Do you even know which, if any, of your children wants the cottage? Your children may be interested in coming to the cottage as long as you are there, but if they live in another province, or are not interested in maintaining the cottage themselves, you may be surprised to learn that they do not want to keep the cottage after you are gone. Discussing this issue with your children can help to alleviate disagreements after the time of your death.

Equalizing the Estate with Insurance

If one or two of your children wants the cottage, but some do not, the issue may become how to equalize the estate. If the cottage will form a large part of your estate, insurance may help fill the gap for the other children. Again, if you are not interested in paying the insurance premiums, do not rule out the possibility that your children may be willing to pay the premiums, if the insurance policy will be the solution to keeping the property.

Planning for Multiple Owners

If several children want the cottage, then you need to consider a co-ownership agreement. There should be something in writing setting out how the cottage will be used, who will pay for it, and who will be responsible for its upkeep. One idea may be to have the children sign a co-ownership agreement as a condition to inheriting a part of the cottage. In that way the agreement will be there long before there are any arguments. Once the parties start to disagree, negotiating a co-ownership agreement will become next to impossible. The co-ownership agreement should also specify how the parties can be bought out in case of disagreement and what happens upon the death of one of the siblings - will it go to the grandchildren? Or does it go to the surviving children only? Can it pass to a son- or daughter-in-law? It is best to resolve these issues sooner rather than later.

It is important to plan for how the cottage will be passed to the next generation long before it actually happens. Visit your Investors Group Consultant to learn more about the issues relevant to cottage planning, and how to prevent family disputes or unexpected tax bills.

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Too Much Fun in the Twin Cities for Just a Weekend

By Scott and Sally Taylor

There is a small restaurant-bar right in the middle of downtown Minneapolis called The Keys at the Foshay. The pies are to die for. Breakfast is a feast. And after a ball game at Target Field or a basketball game at Target Center, there is no better place for a late night snack.

The Keys is one of a handful or bar/restaurants in downtown Minneapolis near the theatre district, the baseball stadium and the basketball arena, that make an evening in the heart of the Twin Cities something special.

Of course, when you stop and think about everything Minneapolis-St. Paul and the surrounding communities provides for a Canadian visitor, it's difficult to make a weekend work. It's just not long enough. Like Chicago, once you get into it, you never want to leave.

Especially in the summer.

From the spectacular Target Field, home of the Minnesota Twins, right in downtown Minneapolis to Como Park in St. Paul to Claes Oldenburg's magnificent Minneapolis Sculpture Garden (featuring the breathtaking Minnesota icon, Spoonbridge and Cherry), the Twin Cities have everything. In fact, it's impossible not to find something you enjoy doing, even if that something is just shopping.

We have so much fun shopping in the Twin Cities that Ikea is a destination. From Mall of America in Bloomington to the Outlets in Albertville to the Target Store on the Nicollet Mall, there are so many places to shop, wander and mingle that you can kill a day doing nothing more than looking into store windows.

But, of course, there is more to the Twin Cities than designer labels and multi-national chains. This is, after all, a metropolitan region with 17 individual farmers markets.

Our favorite is the Mill City Farmers Market, open every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. from May through October. It focuses on Minnesota's cultural and culinary traditions and it's known as one of the city's best. It's located in the heart of the old mill district along the Mississippi River and after a visit to the market, I'd recommend walking across the Old Stone Arch Bridge to St. Anthony Main, particularly 117 Main St. E. That's where you'll find Pracna on Main, the oldest restaurant located on the oldest street in Minneapolis (www.pracna.com). It's another tremendous restaurant with a rockin' cobblestone patio that is a can't-miss meeting place during the summer.

You might not know this, but the state of Minnesota has more shoreline than California, Florida and Hawaii. Combined! Meanwhile, Minneapolis is called "The City of Lakes" and that's something that's impossible to deny. There are 22 lakes in the Minneapolis-



Arriving at Minneapolis

St. Paul region so if you decide to visit the Twin Cities in the summer, bring your swim trunks.

Of course, when we go to Minneapolis, we generally go to watch sports. And there is no shortage of sports.

Major League Baseball's Twins have a wonderful new home amidst the bars, entertainment complexes and new hotels in the northern part of downtown Minneapolis. The NFL's Vikings still play in the Metrodome at the southern end of downtown while the NHL's Minnesota Wild are housed at the beautiful Xcel Energy Centre in St. Paul and the NBA's Minnesota Timberwolves are right across the street from the ball park at the Target Centre.

And for those who love that old time baseball feeling, you can always attend a Winnipeg Goldeyes-St. Paul Saints game at Midway Stadium in St. Paul. It's inexpensive, plenty of fun and if you get tired of watching baseball, you can always go out into the parking lot and party with the tailgaters.

National Geographic wrote the following about the Twin Cities in April of 2011: "A pedestrian-and-pedal-friendly downtown and welcoming Midwestern vibe make it easy for first-time visitors to quickly feel at home in Minneapolis. Snow can fall here from October to April, so the arrival of warm weather launches a full throttle, June-August celebration of arts, music, and cultural festivals, farmers markets and fan-friendly Minnesota Twins baseball, played downtown at Target Field - ranked the top sports stadium in North America by ESPN The Magazine."

It's true. There is no better ballpark in North America, but make sure you bring your wallet. It's not cheap.

When it comes to hitting the Twin Towns, we're generally weekenders, but Minneapolis-St. Paul and the entire Minnesota capital region has so much going for it, a first timer might want to spend a few extra days. I mean, if you're just interested in gambling there is a great casino and an even better race track. And if all you want to do is



Target Field

ride a few rides, Valleyfair Theme Park has some great attractions.

However, if you decide you want to stay longer, try going at the end of August. That way you can combine a weekend enjoying the arts and entertainment of the Twin Cities, plus a few extra days with the crowds and the craziness of the Minnesota State Fair.

Located on the 320-acre State Fairgrounds site in St. Paul, the State Fair, "Showcases Minnesota's finest agriculture, art and industry." Its slogan is "The Great Minnesota Get-Together," and it boasts the largest daily attendance of any state fair in the entire United States.

It's great fun and the food is amazing. Scott's personal favorites are Walleye-on-a-Stick, Chocolate Covered Bacon (known as Pig Lickers) and the quarter-pound bacon sandwich. This year, the new foods at the State Fair are Sweet Corn Ice Cream, Deep Fried Cookie Dough, Teriyaki Chicken on a Stick, Crab Fritters and Chocolate Covered Jalapeno Peppers. Not sure about that last one.

There is so much to do at the Fair that if you really want to take it all in, give yourself a couple of days. With all the displays, the agricultural shows, the amazing food and the Grandstand Shows - this year the Fair features Reba McEntyre on Aug. 25, Def Leppard on Aug. 26, Steely Dan on Aug. 30, Toby Keith on Aug. 31 and Garrison's Keillor's Prairie Home Companion on Sept. 2. If nothing else, it's a wonderful way to end your summer.

The point of this exercise is pretty clear, we think. If you choose to get away to Minneapolis-St. Paul, you will not be disappointed. It's a capital region with four major sports franchises, a terrific race track (Canterbury Downs), a wonderful theme park (Valleyfair), a great casino (Mystic Lake), 17 farmers' markets, a rockin' state fair, 22 inter-city lakes, enough shopping to wear out your credit card and more restaurants than you can possibly enjoy.

However, if you're going for a weekend, you won't have enough time to take it all in. ■

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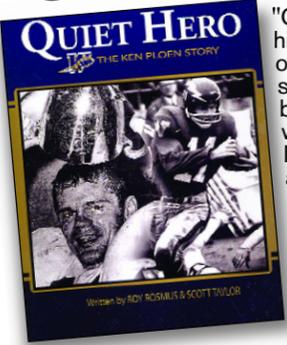
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- 4. Quiet Hero - The Ken Ploen Story,**
written by Roy Rosmus and Scott Taylor.

We will accumulate prizes right up until draw date - August 7, 2011!

Quiet Hero - The Ken Ploen Story



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Aug 7: 3rd Annual "FAME" Summer Festival

Fun, Art, Music & Entertainment & International 32nd Antique Classic Car and Shine Show, All Girls' Musical Exhibition (Heidi Artz, Katja Bartsch, Kayla Graber, Haley Hannah, Halle Khalifa, Katie Langemo, Savannah Ripplinger, Tust-ick, Jazmine Wolff, and Lexie Wyman), Alan Pearson Rosemaling display, Well known artist Vern Skaug & his sister Nancy Cogdill & her students, Photography by Anisa Nin, Boissevain Camera Club photos, *Artful Mittens to Love* by Sharon McGuire and Scavenger Hunt, Gary Fulsebakke with numbers from Billy Joel, Elton John, Gordon Lightfoot, etc. - 1:00 p.m. Water Melon eating contest (prizes) 20% off on all merchandise at the Retail Store, Drawing for children, & More - Starts at noon.

Aug 20 & 21: 7th International Country Gospel one of the most popular events of the year. Plus 6th Annual Quilt Show hosted by *Simply Sewing & JD Longarm* of Killarney, MN

Aug. 26-28: Metis/Michif Festival "Where the Fiddle & Mountain Unite" www.metisfest.com Four Days of Fun for the entire family

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Recipe courtesy of the **Stroke Recovery Association of Manitoba Inc.**, from their fundraising cookbook.

For information on support programs and activities or the recipe book, call, email, stop in, or visit the website.

**204-942-2880 / Email: info@strokerecovery.ca
Unit B - 247 Provencher Blvd., Wpg / www.strokerecovery.ca**



Fruit Crepes

Published with permission by Stroke Recovery Association of Manitoba Inc.

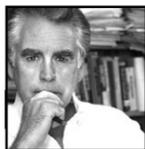
INGREDIENTS:

- 4 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon melted butter or margarine
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- dash of salt

INSTRUCTIONS:

With a whisk or food processor, blend all ingredients together until smooth. Let stand 1/2 hour to let bubbles escape. Lightly oil crepe pan and heat over medium high heat. Pour 1/4 cup of batter into hot pan and immediately tip to coat entire bottom. Place on burner and cook until edges begin to brown and batter loses its shine. Transfer crepe to cooling rack. Repeat until all batter is used. Crepes can be stacked if being used immediately - layer with wax paper if refrigerating or freezing. Fill crepes with fresh fruit and top with whipped cream. Makes 12 crepes.

The mission of the Stroke Recovery Association of Manitoba is to improve the quality of life for stroke survivors by assisting them to again become participating members of society through mental stimulation, self-help, and socialization. The Association also strives to educate the public in matters relating to stroke.



Hi, This Is Our Newborn. "Vague."

By William J. Thomas
Humour Columnist

"Mom, what do you think would happen if we didn't tell people what sex Storm is?"

This was the question recently posed to Toronto parents Kathy Witterick and David Stocker by their five-year-old son Jazz. Uber parents devoted to social justice and revolutionary causes, Kathy and David decided to let Storm divulge his or her sexuality, whenever he or she is ready.

When the news media picked up on the story that this Toronto couple was raising a genderless baby, the international storm that Storm created ... well, let's just hope nobody names their baby Apocalypse or Holocaust anytime soon. The parents of Storm intend to allow the five-month-old to grow up freely, unconstrained by social norms or biases toward males and females.

For now at least, Storm is neutral. So this could have been worse. They might have named the child Switzerland. Or Beige.

They strongly believe their three children who are also "unschooled," a form of home schooling based on curiosity

should make meaningful decisions for themselves at a very early age. Odd, wouldn't you say, a kid whose sexual identity is being kept secret is being taught to be curious and inquisitive.

Older brother Jazz for instance has selected his own clothes since he was 18 months old.

Said the mother: "Just this week, Jazz unearthed a pink dress at Value Village which he loves because it really poofs out at the bottom."

Yeah, I don't think this will cause any problems for the young lad at his first hockey practice. Dressed in a frilly pink dress, the other boys might actually mistake him for Don Cherry's son and make him 'captain' of the team.

Said the father: "If you really want to get to know someone, you don't ask what's between their legs." David has obviously never been in a cougar bar at closing time or the Belmont Hotel on karaoke night.

I agree, it's rude to ask but by the third date you'd want some pretty solid clues. I mean if you have to flip a coin to see who wears the wedding dress, this game has gone on too long.

People in general and child psychologists in particular are split on whether or not raising a child genderless is a good thing. One California psychologist who

has herself raised a "girlboy" named Jesse refers to such children as "gender smoothies, who have a blended sense of gender that is purely 'them'."

Oh boy, now we're raising kids to be a bunch of free-flowing, neutral-named milkshakes. Do we really need one more thing for young kids to be confused about? Did you ever think you'd see the day when a mother referred to her baby as "it"?

Many children still believe they were created as a magic trick and delivered by a stork. Now we're going to tell them they have to change in the trunk of the car when the family goes to the beach.

Edgardo Menvielle, author of *Gender Born, Gender Made* claims: "A person's gender is no more and no less than a creative individual achievement ... developed through social exchange." Really?!? I thought the word 'gender' was used as the more politically or grammatically correct word for 'sex.' I thought 'gender' determined the sex of a child by identifying one of two types of genitalia.

I'm no expert in these matters, but with a solid background in the basics of common sense, I thought if a baby was born with a "peeper," that baby was a boy. No peeper meant a girl.

Now I find out that as a newborn, I was apparently denied my "creative individual achievement." And it's way too late to sue my parents for telling the whole damn world that yes, I was born with a "thingamabob" and was therefore quite likely a boy.

Bill? Hell, my name could have been "Storm" upon which I would have immediately changed my last name to 'Chaser' or even 'Warning!'

A busy mother and teacher, Kathy Witterick does not have time to hide under a blanket every time she changes Storm's diaper which, as the name might suggest cannot be a pretty sight.

"If people want to peek, that's their journey," she says.

Well I don't know if it's so much a journey as it is a chance to win the office pool based on the kid's equipment which is now up to \$2000 since this charade began.

Now I'm not the world's most intelligent guy, but in conclusion I would like to quote my own experts on the subject of gender, The Kinks.

"Girls will be boys and boys will be girls. It's a mixed up, muddled up, shook up world except for Lola."

"Hey you!" Get used to it. If this thing catches on, you'll hear a lot of mothers referring to their de-sexed kids that way. The little ones, all of them from Dick to Jane should be playing more productive games.

For comments, ideas and copies of *The True Story of Wainfleet*, go to

How Smart Are You?

STR8TS AS SEEN ON TELEVISION'S DRAGON'S DEN **Medium**

						6	
5						4	
3	4			9			
		7		5			
9							5
		2					
		9	1		3		7
				3		5	

How to beat **Str8ts** – Like Sudoku, no single number 1 to 9 can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartments**. Each compartment must form a **straight** - a set of numbers with **no gaps** but it can be in any order, eg [7,6,9,8]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.

2	1		4	5	
6	4	5	3	2	
4	5		2	1	
4	3	6	2	1	5
3	5	2	1	4	
2	1	3			

SUDOKU X **Tough**

	5						8	
	6	1				7		
	3		2	5			4	
					4		1	
8	7		6					
	1			2	9		6	
		9				5	7	
	2						3	

To complete **Sudoku X**, fill the board by entering numbers 1 to 9 such that each row, column, 3x3 box and both diagonals contains every number uniquely.

For many strategies, hints and tips, visit www.sudokuwiki.org for **Sudoku X** and www.str8ts.com for **Str8ts**.

If you like **Str8ts** and other puzzles, check out our books, iPhone/iPad Apps and much more on our store.

Answers bottom of next page

Community Events & More

Email PSAs to:
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No faxes please.

EVENTS

Pineridge Hollow Farmers' Market - Saturdays, Jul. 2-Sept. 17, 9 am-1 pm. For info, contact: Pat Herman: 444-3280 or Elaine Berry: 783-8493 or email Jennifer Morrison: jennchris2009@gmail.com

The Seniors' Choral Society - under the direction of Richard Greig, are now accepting new members for their upcoming season, beginning in Sept. No audition required. For more info, please call Mary: 221-3373.

Pembina Active Living (55+) (PAL (55+) - Weekly **Nine-Hole Golf** - Monday (8 - 9am tee off) - call Gil - 275-3267. Weekly **Seniors' Bocce Game** - Wednesday (10 -12 noon) - RKCC, 666 Silverstone - call Ruth - 269-1903. Or e-mail: pal55plus@gmail.com.

The Nearly New Shop - Customer Appreciation Sale from July 22-30 at 961 Portage Ave., Wpg. All items will be 50% off throughout the week (silent auction items excluded). Regular hours: Mon-Sat, 10 am-4 pm. All proceeds go to the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba in support of pediatric research at the Manitoba Institute of Child Health and equipment and programs at Children's Hospital.

The West End BIZ - is offering fun and informative walking and bus tours of the West End's outdoor mural gallery from June through August. The engaging narrative includes history about the area, fun trivia, descriptions of the murals and an introduction to the unique restaurants and businesses of the West End. Tours are only \$5 per adult and \$2 per child, with a half hour refreshment break at a local restaurant. There are two routes to choose from with flexible start times. To book, call 954-7900.

Archwood 55Plus Inc. - Bus trip to Kenora and a Cruise on the Lake of the Woods: Friday August 12th. Programs and Activities starting in September 2011 include fitness classes such as P.A.C.E., Zumba, Tai Chi, Body Toning, Yoga, Pilates, and Indoor Walking. Painting classes, a Woman's Circle, and an Art Show and Bake sale are planned, as well as Bus Trips to Fall Suppers. For information on any of these activities please call Erith at 253-1779, Jean at 255-2223 or Melinda at 962-3331

Beausejour Farmers' Market 2011 - Fridays starting July 1 to Sept 9 at Green Oak Gardens on Hwy 44 east. Visit: www.beausejourmarket.webs.com for special events and customer appreciation days. For more info: 268-3199.

St. James Anglican Heritage Church - Nestled in the St. James Cemetery on the banks of the Assiniboine - plays host to a series of Summer Concerts. The log church is at 525 Tylehurst Street, just south of Portage Avenue at Polo Park. **July 27:** Songwriter's Circle with the hosts of Gordies, Happy Mike's and The Launch Pad Coffee Houses; **Aug 3:** Little Opera Company; **Aug 10:** Charmaine Bacon & Friends. Doors open 7:00 pm. Admission \$10. For info: http://stjamesanglicanchurch.ca/Concerts_in_the_Cemetery.html

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES - WINNIPEG:

Bethania Mennonite Personal Care Home - do you miss having a garden? Need some exercise? Consider assisting the gardener in maintaining the grounds for the residents and families of Bethania to enjoy. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator: 654-5035 or email: dianne.nixdorf@bethania.ca

Children's Museum - Are you fun, creative and interested in making a difference? Become a Children's Museum volunteer at 45 Forks Market Road, Wpg! Volunteers support: gallery activities, school programs, spring and summer day camps, after-school clubs, special events, and more. We offer a great team environment, training and mentoring, volunteer events, valuable career-related experience and more. For more info, visit: childrensmuseum.com or call: 924-4002, email: general@childrensmuseum.com.

Recovery Association of Manitoba knitters - If you knit, the Stroke Recovery Association of Manitoba (SAM) needs knitters to contribute to our Knits for Charity program. We sell knitted goods to further our programs to improve the quality of life for stroke survivors and their families. See our website at www.strokerecovery.ca.

Rupert's Land Caregiver Services - Volunteer Drivers needed for Ring-a-Ride, a transportation program, to take clients residing in South West Winnipeg to appointments, shopping and social outings. Flexible hours. Compensation for gasoline and parking is provided. For more info: call us at 452-9491

Bethania Personal Care Home and Pembina Place - volunteers needed for Meal assisting, 1 hr. time commitment. Training provided. For info, call Nita: 654-5046 or email nita.dueck@bethania.ca

K.I.N. Resource Council for Seniors - Bluebird Lodge Congregate Meal Program, 97 Keewatin St., seeking volunteers to help with the 4:30 meal - 3 hours once a week. Call 774-3085 for details.

The Friendship Force - Call to attend monthly dinner meetings. Guests welcome. Call Elizabeth: 452-5299 or visit www.friendshipforcewinnipeg.org

Meals on Wheels - Want to volunteer? Deliver noon hot meals to people in your community, 2 hrs, once/week or twice/month! Training, screening and gas honorarium provided. 956-7711.

SOCIAL PROGRAMS / SERVICES - WINNIPEG:

Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre - Protection and Prevention Orders: Legal Workshop for Female Service Providers - Wed, Aug. 10, 2011 at 1150A Waverley St., Wpg. Join MB Victim Services for this informative workshop! Workshop will cover information about Protection and Prevention Orders and the best practices to assist people to apply. Space is limited - Pre registration required. Call: 477-1123. This is a women only event for Female Service Providers. Healthy snacks and bus tickets are available. Women and Family Law Project - Funded By: The Manitoba Law Foundation. All Events are FREE - Non perishable food items or monetary donations towards FGWRC are gladly accepted. FGWRC is a Scent -Free environment.

Seine River Seniors - out of Archwood Community Centre, 565 Guilbault St., Wpg. offer Birthday lunches on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Call Orysia at 261-4055. Exploring Restaurants, the last Friday of the month; Celebrations Dinner Theatre - call Fran: 269-8584. Creative Writing in English or French on alternating Fridays. Call Pauline: 253-8160. More information available at: seineriverseniors@gmail.com.

55+ Men's Club, St. James Assiniboia 55+ Centre - Various programs for men only group to address physical, emotional and social well-being. Drop in for coffee, camaraderie, fun, mentoring, or for hands-on activities such as modeling (ie.: airplanes), wood carving, cooking, wood-working, gardening & more. For info, call 953-8841. St. James Assiniboia 55+ Centre Satellite site: 3172 Portage Ave., Wpg.

Seine River Seniors - are holding monthly Birthday luncheons and exploring restaurants. Other events include Celebrations Dinner Theatre and Creative Writing classes in English and French. Call Fran: 269-8584 or Sandra: 255-8332 or email: norsecanadian@yahoo.ca

Vital Seniors - St. Mary Magdalene Church, 3 St. Vital Road, offers: Bridge, Thursdays, 1-4, Gerry 257-5027; Carpet Bowling, Tuesdays, 1-3, Fran 253-9456; Line Dancing, Mondays, Beginners 11:45-1, Prairie Stars 1:15-2:45, Fridays, Beginners 9-10:30, Intermediate 10:40-11:40, Warren 334-3559; Scrabble, Mondays, 12-4:30, Don 487-7835; Lunches, last Tuesday each month, Ray 256-8660; PACE - People with Arthritis Can Exercise, Wednesdays, 11-noon, Bernice 253-9244.

Y Women - Group of 55+ that meets every 2nd Thursday afternoon, at the downtown YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg. (Cost to join is \$10.00 per session, session is Jan.-June, Sept.-Dec.). We have different speakers and take tours. Ladies contact Bonni Pereira: 953-7317 or email: bpereira@ymcaywca.mb.ca.

Jewish Child and Family Service - offers Bereavement Group which is specially designed for those who have experienced the death of a loved one. Begins Tuesday, Jan. 18 until Mar. 8, 7-9 pm (8 wks). No charge to participate. Contact Jewish CFS: 477-7430 to register. This group is jointly sponsored by Jewish CFS and Hospice and Palliative Care Manitoba. Adults of all ages and cultural backgrounds welcome.

Age & Opportunity West End Senior Centre - Free Social Dance, Mondays, 1-2:30 pm. Belly Dancing course, Fridays, 10-11:30 am at the Isaac Brock CC, 715 Telfer St N., Wpg. Woodcarving group meets Fridays, 1 pm, Clifton CC, 1315 Strathcona St., Wpg. Monthly events: Birthday parties, special outings. Call: 772-9581 for more info.

Boni-Vital Council for Seniors and Dakota Community Centre - 55 Plus Drop in Wednesdays at DCC, 1188 Dakota Street. Variety of programs offered. Physical activities (Tai Chi, etc.) in the AM, Health presentations at 12:00 and Social activities PM. Please call Karen at 255-2061 for more info.

Community Events & More

RURAL PROGRAMS / SERVICES / VOLUNTEERING

Springfield Services to Seniors - Congregate Meals are available to all community seniors. Oakbank: Mon/Tues & Fri. @ 5 p.m. Wed/Thurs. @ noon Call Vivian @ 444-3132; Dugald: Mon/Wed/Fri. @ 5 p.m. Sign up sheet at lodge; Cooks Creek: Mon/Wed/ Fri. @ noon Call Jean @ 444-6000; Anola: Mon. to Fri. @ noon Call Brenda @ 866-3622.

Ritchot Senior Services (serving seniors 55+ in the RM of Ritchot and Lorette) - Need people to be on our list of available drivers, friendly visitors, housekeepers etc. Call Denise: 883-2880

The Services to Seniors programs in North Eastman - Services: transportation, friendly visiting, phone calls, foot care, housekeeping, yard work, minor home repairs, Meals on Wheels, Congregate Meals, Lifeline, ERIK®, errands, etc. Call the site nearest you. Brokenhead Outreach for Seniors at 268-7300, H.E.L.P. Centre (East Beach area) 756-6471, Springfield Services to Seniors 853-7582, Two Rivers Senior Resource Council, Lac du Bonnet/Pinawa 345-1227 or Whitemouth/Reynolds 348-4610 and Winnipeg River Resource Council 367-9128

South Interlake Seniors Resource Council Inc. - Services for seniors and those with disabilities. (Stonewall, RMs of Woodlands, Rosser, Rockwood-wards 1,2,3,4). Services include Driver/Escort Program, Mobility aid Lending Service, Handy Helper, Housecleaning, Friendly Visiting, Telecheck-Telephone buddy, E.R.I.K., Life Line. Caregiver Support Grp. meets last Wed. ea month. For assistance and Resource info. 467-2719

Community Events & More

SOCIAL PROGRAMS / SERVICES - WINNIPEG (Cont'd):

Norberry-Glenlee CC - offers the following programs: Square Dance: Monday's 6:30-10:00, Seniors Bingo: Tuesday's 11:00-2:45, Bridge: Wednesday's 12:00-3:00, Red River Seniors Cards: Thursday's 11:30-3:00, Light & Lively Fitness: Intermediate M/W/F am. and Beginner M/F am, at 26 Molgat Ave., St. Vital, Wpg. Call 256-6654 for more information.

Le Conseil des francophones 55+ - is a community-based non-profit org. Its mandate is to ensure the accessibility and availability of French-language services and support programs for the French-speaking population 55 years and up who live in Winnipeg to help them maintain their autonomy and to improve their quality of life. 793-1054, 201-605 Des Meurons St. Saint-Boniface, Wpg., conseil55@fafm.mb.ca.

CIRCULATING EMAIL:

This year we're going to experience four unusual dates.
1/1/11, 1/11/11, 11/1/11, 11/11/11 and that's not all...

Take the last two digits of the year in which you were born - now add
The age you will be this year,
The results will be 111 for everyone in whole world.
Take the year you were born and add your age to it
The result will be 2011.

Laugh a Little

"It is amazing how quickly the kids learn to drive a car, yet are unable to understand the lawnmower, snowblower or vacuum cleaner." ~ Ben Berger

"I'd much rather be a woman than a man. Women can cry, they can wear cute clothes, and they are the first to be rescued off of sinking ships." ~ Gilda Radner

"When you're in jail, a good friend will be trying to bail you out. A best friend will be in the cell next to you saying, 'Damn, that was fun.'" ~ Unknown

"There are two different kinds of people in this world: those who finish what they start, and..." ~ Brad Ramsey

"A hard man is good to find." ~ Mae West

"The trouble with jogging is that by the time you realize you're not in shape for it, it's too far to walk back." ~ Franklin Jones

"A man may be a fool and not know it, but not if he is married." ~ H.L. Mencken

"A celebrity is a person who works hard all his life to become well-known, then wears dark glasses to avoid being recognized." ~ Fred Allen

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9	8	4	6	7	1	2	3	5
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6	5	9	1	2	3	4	7	
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9	6	1	4	3	8	7	2	5
7	3	8	2	5	6	1	4	9
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4	8	9	1	6	3	5	7	2
5	2	6	8	4	7	9	3	1

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