

## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

A Port in the Storm is a project that brings people in Manitoba together for a united cause. Our capital campaign began 2 years ago, with the goal of raising 6.4 million dollars to build a 40 room home in Winnipeg for rural and northern people traveling to the city for medical treatments.

We are now one-third of the way to reaching this goal with over 2 million dollars raised. The generosity of Manitoba people is outstanding and the passion and commitment of volunteers across the province is remarkable.

We would like to make special mention to the Thompson fundraising team. This dedicated group of people set a fundraising goal of \$300,000. In January, they announced that they exceeded their goal by raising 1/2 million dollars for the project. From a fundraising drive of the Vale employees recently matched by the company, significant donations from the Elk and Rotary groups to Cookie Walks, Radio-a-Thons, Bake Sales and Christmas concerts, this amazing group of people and overwhelming community support far exceeded their expectations. Thompson has set an example for the rest of the province and we salute them for what they have achieved.

We are now seeing momentum build in the province and have exciting plans to move our campaign forward. We have had donations coming in from all across the province and most recently from groups in

Congratulations to the fundraising team in Thompson for exceeding their fundraising goal and Vale's matching donation.



Flin Flon, Minnedosa and Gillam. Manitoba Nurses Union has announced that A Port in the Storm will be their charity of the year and we presented at their AGM in May. We will also be featured in their fall newsletter reaching over 11,000 nurses across the province. Support from the Rotary clubs in Manitoba is mounting, with speaking engagements being set up across the province. Plans are underway for a Gala event which is being held in September in the North East region. As well, we are working on the translation of our written and promotional materials to reach the francophone community and our fundraising tool kit can be accessed on our website in June which will illustrate many exciting ideas on how people in Manitoba can get involved.

The current work of many of our standing committees within the organization is

worth mentioning. The building committee is in active search for a property. Our communication team has developed a plan to support top of mind awareness and a major gift, broad-based fundraising campaign in the regions. As well, we are in the process of converting to a dynamic, web-based fundraising database which can be accessed from anywhere in the province. It has innovative capacity to support a provincial-wide capital campaign of this nature.

Stay tuned for more exciting announcements to be made soon. We welcome support from across the project. This house is for Manitoba people in their time of need and a project that we can all take part in.

Respectfully submitted by  
Joanne Loughery, President  
& Board Chair



## New toolkit to help you plan your fundraiser

Not only is organizing a fundraiser fun and rewarding, it helps us to get closer to our goal of providing a safe and affordable place to those who need it while undergoing medical treatments in Winnipeg.

Whether you're a first-time fundraiser or just looking for tips and ideas, you'll want to check out our new Fundraising Toolkit, available online in June. We've gathered together tools and answers to your questions to help make your fundraising efforts a success. We've included a planning guide and checklist, fundraising guidelines for third-party events, ideas for events, sample media releases and posters, a pledge form and letter templates.

We encourage you to use these tools and to call us if you have any questions. Your commitment and dedication are integral to the success of our campaign and is much appreciated. Thank you!

## Here is a sample of event ideas from the toolkit:

- Golf Tournament
- Curling Bonspiel
- Basketball, Volleyball, Hockey Tournaments
- Fishing Derby – Kids or Adults
- Snowmobile Poker Derby
- Slow Pitch or Snow Pitch Tournament
- Swim-a-thon – Dance-a-thon – other A-thons
- Card Games – Hearts/ Poker/others
- Scrabble /Monopoly/ Trivial Pursuit Tournament
- Bingo
- Scavenger Hunt/Derby/ Amazing Race
- Plastic Duck Race

# A great read in support of a great cause

The Rolicking City Police series of books was written with a good time in mind. I'll never think of myself as a writer. I'm a retired RCMP officer trying to spin out humorous policing stories. I wrote RCP: Blue Deceit in 2009, and the sequel, RCP: Fear of Surrender, this past year. The books are set in a fictional northern Manitoba city situated eight hours north of Winnipeg, and the main characters, Staff Sergeant Earl Jeans and Detective Kate O'Malley, tackle policing struggles that so often aren't captured in conventional fiction. When I started the effort, I wanted to support a worthwhile cause. Both sides of my family have battled cancer and I know that long-term accom-

modation and care represent a huge financial challenge. APITS represents lasting hope and, at the same time, a comforting sanctuary from the unknown. Both books split profits with APITS and it is only through the generosity of Manitobans that I can continue to support APITS. Both are available online at [rolickingcitypolice.com](http://rolickingcitypolice.com), and distributed at the Precambrian Art Centre, Thompson; The Orange Toad, Flin Flon; and McNally Robinson in Winnipeg.

*Lou Morissette, now retired, worked for 26 years in five provinces with the RCMP, including four northern postings. He lives in Thompson with his wife and daughter.*

## Yvette's Story

My name is Yvette and I just turned 60 in April. This birthday was very special compared to my 44th birthday in 1995 when I was in the hospital for a biopsy. After weeks of tests, I was told I had stage 4 Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. The day you hear the "C" word feels like the end of the world. I went from tears, to why me, to feeling sorry for myself. I then picked myself up and fought for my life. For six months it's chemo, nausea, hair loss and more tests. The next 11 years with more treatments we're able to keep the cancer under control, then one day in January 2006 my oncologist sent me to the Manitoba Blood and Marrow Transplant Program at CancerCare. When Nurse Michelle mentioned "transplant" I said "No way am I

getting that done".."what are your options" answered Michelle "1..Keep having more and stronger chemo. 2..Do nothing and wait to die. 3..Stem cell transplant." So transplant it is, once I made up my mind I want it done now. But first we need a donor, luckily my brother Paul was a perfect match, what a gift!

Another tough decision was to sell our house and move to Winnipeg, (we were told I could not go back home for at least 3 months after my transplant). So now between more chemo we have to sell our house, find a house, pack etc.. Please someone I need to get off this roller coaster ride.

Okay, so our house sold, and I have to be in the

hospital for Oct. 5th. We bought a house, but it needs some TLC which will get done while I'm in the hospital. I've run out of time...this is when our wonderful family and friends come in. They help finish the packing while I'm in the hospital having a chemo party. On the morning of Oct. 5th my brother Paul brought me in. Saying goodbye to my two dogs and leaving my house and home for the last time was a pretty emotional day.

While I'm in the hospital Joe (hubby) organizes an auction, helps the contractor with renovations at our new house, runs in to see me, then realizes he needs to take a stress leave from work.

Oct. 12th is transplant day – thank you, Paul! So now we wait for my counts to go up enough to leave the hospital which finally happens Oct

26th. But where do I go...I have no immune system and can't move into our house since the renovations are not finished. We can't even hammer a nail in the wall or paint for the first year post-transplant. Brother and sister-in-law to the rescue.

We could not have gone through this journey without the help of our family and friends, the great team at Cancer Care and our strong faith. Having a place to stay after my transplant would have made things so much easier for us; we would not have sold our house during this stressful time. I've been lucky to have had this second chance especially after I was told when I was diagnosed there was no remission for the type of Lymphoma I had. Turning 60 is wonderful, every day is a gift...

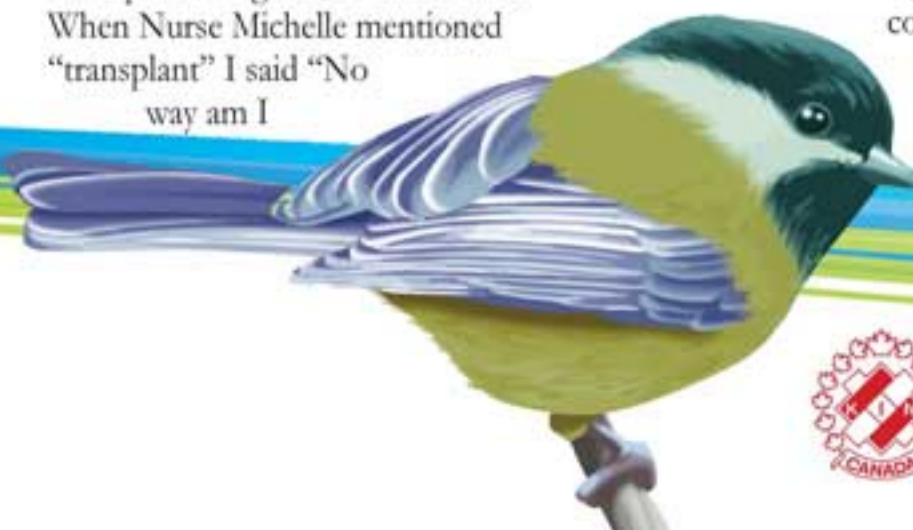
## Building Committee Update

The building committee is actively in search of the ideal location for the house. Residents across Manitoba have been asked for their opinions on important aspects related to location. It was clearly identified that a quiet, residential area, close to amenities and ample parking were of utmost importance. Since appropriate land is scarce in the city of Winnipeg, the search has been expanded to existing structures that can be renovated for our purpose. The committee is currently reviewing very promising sites that have exciting potential. This is our priority and we hope to make this important announcement very soon.

*Respectfully Submitted  
Gary Carr  
Building Committee Chair*



*a rendering designed by Teri-Lyn and her group  
TERI-LYN WOLFRAM B.ENVD  
- PROJECT COORDINATOR  
Nejmarchitect*



*We appreciate the ongoing and continued support of the Kinsmen Club of Winnipeg. Our office space is graciously donated by their organization.*

## BIO

### Meet Laura

It was 1998. Seinfeld fans were glued to the TV for the last episode of the show about nothing; readers worldwide were introduced to a boy named Harry Potter; and Laura Mikuska was ready to launch her own business.

Long-time fund development and event management specialists with plenty of experience in helping organizations of all sizes, the Mikuska Group helps charities, non-profit organizations and academic institutions achieve their potential.



#### Laura Mikuska

Laura is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and strictly adheres to their Code of Ethical Principles and Standards of Professional Practice. She earned a Bachelor of Arts (with a major in French) and offers full bilingual services.

Laura is passionate about what she does and counts herself among the lucky ones who have found a career they truly enjoy. She also gets a kick out of her favourite pastimes: winemaking, listening to jazz greats like Oscar Petersen, and sipping on a martini come Friday night. (Thanks to cheeky friends, she collects everything martini: from shakers to socks.)

When Laura's on leisure time, you might find her golfing with her twin sister at one of Manitoba's many beautiful courses, or trying new recipes on the grill.

If Laura's house were on fire, the first possessions she'd grab are the abstract monoprints done by her artist father Frank Mikuska (examples of which appear on her website at [www.mikuska.com](http://www.mikuska.com)). Laura says she's more patron-of-the-arts than artistic but admits she inherited her dad's speak-your-mind nature, combined with her mother's tactfulness.

You could also describe Laura as an advocate; she and her husband Simon have been a strong voice for the awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder since discovering their adopted 21-year-old daughter suffers from the condition.



#### Rotary Club of Flin Flon members

(l to r) Dave Kendall, Rob Schiefele, Tim Spencer, Jane Robillard, and Glenn Smith

We have received \$70,000 in grants from the Winnipeg Foundation which has been instrumental in building the foundation of this organization and \$100,000 towards the capital project.

Momentum is building in Flin Flon, where close to \$40,000 has been raised including a \$20,000 donation from the Rotary Club.



#### Co-op dividends

Patrons of the Thompson Gas Bar Co-op had the opportunity to contribute to A Port in the Storm over the past year through an innovative program. A membership was purchased for \$10 in the name of APITS, and members who bought gas could direct that their purchase be under that membership. In addition, purchases from non-members could choose to put under the APITS membership. This resulted in a dividend cheque of \$3,136 this spring.

#### Why not approach your local Co-op gas bar for a similar arrangement?

Members of the Thompson fundraising team; Left to right: Jim Hickey, grandson Nolan, Atalia Hickey, Penny Byer, Wally Itson, Bev Desjarlais, Marie-Josée Castonguay, Sue Collie (Manager Thompson CO OP) Linda Dearman

## INCREASING CANCER BURDEN IN MANITOBA

In 2008, 9,040 new cases of cancer were diagnosed in Manitoba. 43% resided outside of Winnipeg at time of diagnosis. 30% travelled to Winnipeg for diagnosis and treatment.

(CancerCare MB, 2008)

# A Port in the Storm raises \$4,500



Photo by Amanda Boyd

*Josh Kreiser, son of former cancer patient and project inspiration Sue Leslie, draws the winning raffle ticket for A Port in the Storm's second annual dinner fundraiser.*

By **AMANDA BOYD**

Chris Dmytriw of Storm. The winning ticket is Minnedosa, is the was drawn by Josh Kreiser,

son of former cancer patient and project inspiration, Sue Leslie. Chris has won a five course dinner for six at a heritage home in the Minnedosa Valley, as well as a one night stay for six at the Fairmount Bed and Breakfast. Last year's winner was Bonnie Emerson of Winnipeg.

A Port In The Storm will be a 40 room house in Winnipeg where adult patients and their families can stay while receiving treatments. It will offer an economic, safe, clean, family-orientated environment suitable to patients and their needs. The project's goal is to raise \$6.4 million and while it has a ways to go yet, this year's fundraiser sold approximately 225 tickets and raised about \$4,500.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Bev Desjarlais - Region 7 North & Creighton SK  
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Greg Pilgrim, Building Committee Advisor

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Val Strath

## OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

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Val Strath  
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Summer Student: Emma Mikuska-Tinman  
**IT Support:**  
Seerx Inc  
Milne Equipment  
Elm Computers  
**Storm Kits:**  
Pat Benjaminson  
Erin Richardson  
Tina Kreiser

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**Committee Members:** Gary Hanna

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**Website:** Pat Benjaminson  
**Webmaster:** Bill Campbell

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**Committee Member:** Grant McMillan

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Albina Morin  
Dr. David Szwajcer  
Betty-Jo Young

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN & FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Chair: Joanne Loughery  
**Committee Members:**  
Evelyn Yarn  
Pat Benjaminson  
Val Strath  
Sharon Stevens  
Gary Hanna  
**Campaign Counsel:** Laura Mikuska and group

## VOLUNTEERS COMMITTEE

Chair: Pat Benjaminson  
**Committee Members:** Joanne Loughery

**YES** I want to help make the House of Hope dream a reality! Please accept this contribution.

Please mail your contribution to:  
**A Port in the Storm**  
161 Rue Grandin, Wpg,  
MB R2H 0A8  
Phone 1-204-231-0720

Receipts will be automatically issued for \$20 or more.

Thank you to everyone who have already generously donated.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Here is my tax-creditable gift of:  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My cheque is enclosed, made payable to A Port in the Storm

I prefer to donate through my:  Visa  Mastercard

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Digit Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Card Holder: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please reach us at: 161 Rue Grandin, Wpg, MB R2H 0A8, Phone 204-231-0720, Fax 204-237-4008  
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