



May 2020
Issue 5

CHARLIE NIEDERMAYER

November 22, 1929 - April 29, 2020



On April 29, 2020, at age 91, Charlie lost his battle with mesothelioma. With his wife and family by his side at his home in Powerview, he said his last goodbyes peacefully. The Winnipeg River Arts Council would like to honour Charlie for all his achievements as an artist and all his support and encouragement for the local arts community.

Born in Saskatchewan, Charlie moved to Pine Falls in 1950. He worked for the paper mill – first as a pulpwood cutter and then as a steam engineer but his true passion was his after-hours creativity. A multi-talented artist, he created custom knives, carved wood, did taxidermy and made jewelry. He also handcrafted paddles, snowshoes, and all kinds of outdoor equipment. After he retired, he had even more time to make beautiful works of art.

His great love of the outdoors led him to knife making. In 1970, he made his first knife and when friends saw his creations, they wanted to buy them. When asked, he smiled and said, “Yes, I’m self-taught, but took one metal heat-treating course, by correspondence.”

He also read books and magazines, and asked steel companies lots of questions. First he made his own grinder and then bought a professional unit. He collected tools such as a band saw and drill press. By the early 1980’s, he had established a knife making business.

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Charlie's knives have been exhibited at knife shows in Toronto, Vancouver, and Calgary, and at gun shows in Winnipeg. He sold them to customers from all across Canada, Africa, Scotland, Germany, New Zealand, and United States. He said, "Hunters in the Arctic especially loved my knives."

All of his sales were generated by word-of-mouth. Despite no advertisements, he still couldn't keep up with requests. People sought him out to purchase his knives to give as exquisite gifts or keep as collectors' items. His customers never quibbled at his prices. They knew they were getting a true work of art and they could see the amount of effort and talent which had gone into each creation.



Charlie crafted his knife handles from various materials: deer, elk and moose antlers, ivory, bison horn, metals, jawbones of bear and timber wolf, and exotic woods and shells from all over the world. In the summer, he shaped and heat-treated his blades and made copies of popular styles.

He also handcrafted the sheaths, cutting leather, hand sewing, decorating the outer surfaces with stencils and etchings, and installing plastic inserts so the knives were protected and didn't slip out. He also made knives for chefs and created special wooden sheaths for these knives. His wife Christine has an impressive collection of kitchen knives, kept in a wooden rack on a pantry door.

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During the winter, in his basement studio, he carved game birds, raptors, and waterfowl, and created intricate sculptures of boreal forest animals, framed by carved antlers. For ten years, he exhibited these works of art in Prairie Canada Carvers competitions and won various awards for his artistry.

In the summer of 2019, he donated a hand-carved paddle to the Winnipeg River Arts Council art auction. Decorated with boreal scenes on both sides of the blade, this beautiful paddle led to a last-minute bidding war and really helped attract public attention to this fundraiser.

WRAC offer condolences to Charlie's family and friends. He will be missed; he was a true artist and a generous supporter of other artists.



FEATURED ARTIST

Ray St. Hilaire

For this month, Winnipeg River Arts Council updates the profile of local musician, Ray St. Hilaire. Born and raised in Winnipeg, he retired to live full time near the town of Lac du Bonnet, on the shores of the Winnipeg River. Before he moved to the country, he worked as an industrial mechanic in the city. But he never abandoned his love of music.

His musical journey began with learning how to play the accordion. When he was twelve, he took accordion lessons for six months. He said, "It's a wonderful instrument that seems to have fallen by the wayside over the years."



But his accordion sessions soon ended after he saw the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan show and experienced a musical epiphany. Somehow, he knew the electric guitar would provide "the ticket to my five minutes of fame."

He immediately switched to guitar. Since then, he has played rhythm guitar and bass guitar, and has sung in my many bands. A couple of years ago, he had the good fortune to be gifted an upright bass, also called a double bass. He uses it in his musical ensemble called "Rice and Beans, the Band." He said, "The upright bass is more fun than a barrel of monkeys. "

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To keep his fingers nimble and his voice strong, he welcomes all opportunities to entertain folks who love good music and loves to get hired by local venues. When asked what motivates him to keep practicing and performing, he said, "Music is so invigorating and at the same time relaxing."

For over forty years, St. Hilaire was involved in the Winnipeg music scene. He has performed all over Manitoba, as far south as Emerson and as far north as The Pas. Although he travels far and wide to numerous gigs, and even performs during vacations in Mexico, he happily makes time to instruct young musicians.

He said, "A musician loves to play for him or herself, but the greatest joy comes from sharing and showing his art with others. I have taught guitar for years and am so proud of my students who have surpassed my expectations."

His band has played at Festival du Voyageur, 4P Festival, and the anniversary gathering for Harley-Davidson Owners of Canada. He also loves appearing at the Lac du Bonnet Personal Care Home with his group and loves seeing how the residents respond to his songs.

According to St. Hilaire, the most worthwhile achievement has been performing every year for the Children's Wish Foundation at their charity fundraiser. In addition, he has volunteered for several years as a board member for the Winnipeg River Arts Council and even stepped up to serve as its president.

His favourite quote: "When the music is over - turn out the lights" Jim Morrison, The Doors.



Rice and Beans, performing at the 4P Festival in 2018. From left to right; Dave LaBossiere, Mal Maharaj on keyboards, Ray St. Hilaire, Wayne Martin on drums, Bob Mann and Denis Tellier on piano.



PADRE X

Sunday, March 7, 2021

Great Falls Hall



A story of bravery and beauty, this Fringe hit by Winnipeg writer Marc Moir brings to life the journey of John Weir Foote. As the only Canadian chaplain to win the Victoria Cross during the Second World War, Foote's heroism shines as he chooses to stay behind with his unit during the Dieppe raid.

The play begins in 1948 at a train station in Ontario. While waiting for a delayed train, Foote recalls his years in the army, his experiences at Dieppe, and the three years he spent as a prisoner of war. This is a remarkable story of an extraordinary man.

Padre X has received awards from Fringe Festivals across Canada including Best of Fest and Outstanding Drama. Critics have called it "a pure triumph" and "a beautiful performance".



"It's a beautiful performance, relaying a story that is simultaneously beautiful and horrible."

- Joff Schmidt, CBC News

Things to do at home!

Home Art Challenge

1. Choose a work of art
2. Recreate it



*Inspired by the Getty Museum
Challenge & Quearteencasa*

Thank you to Jen, Dave, Everett &
Harrison for their wonderful recreations!

Read
FOR YOUR
MIND

Exercise
FOR YOUR
BODY



meraki

[may-rah-kee] • Greek

(n.) to put something of yourself
into your work.

Soul. Creativity. Love.



ALLARD LIBRARY
Bibliothèque Allard Regional Library
Discover the Possibilities!

Are you using your library membership to its full potential? In this time of restriction and isolation you still have access to eBooks and audio books.

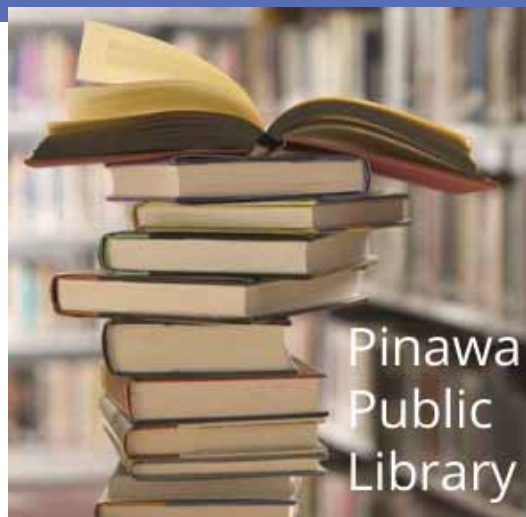
You need to have a computer, tablet, iPad or smart phone and you can use this service. eLibraries has thousands of titles available in both formats and multiple languages. The website address is <https://www.elm.lib.overdrive.com>, they also have a user friendly app called Libby.

If you want to get your user name and password to access these resources please contact Jen at asstlib@allardlibrary.com or Kelly at admin@allardlibrary.com

**Library will OPEN to
the public effective May 13th for 'pickup' only.
Victoria Beach Branch
remains CLOSED until further notice**

Please check our website for more information

allardlibrary.com



In response to the new COVID-19 safety regulations set out by the Manitoba Government, the Pinawa Public Library is offering a limited library service to our patrons, beginning May 5, 2020.

Please read this email carefully to make this service as safe and efficient as possible.

We ask that you search our website: <https://pinawapubliclibrary.com/> to browse our collection, check availability, and reserve items. Books, DVDs and audiobooks are available.

If you are not able to use the website, please email us with your loan requests at: email@pinawapubliclibrary.com

Though email is our preferred means of communication at this time, if you are unable to email us you can call the library at 204-753-2496. If we are unavailable, please leave a message and we will return your call.

There will be no interlibrary loan service at this time.

Pick Up: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, at the back door of the Community Centre. We ask that you contact us ahead of time to schedule a time slot to pick your items up, so we can have your order ready when you get here, and avoid congestion at the door. You can let us know when you arrive in one of two ways:

Call 204-753-2496 from your cell phone or ring the handicap buzzer for the back door. (We will wipe down the buzzer between patrons)

After this we ask you to stand back a distance of two meters while we bring your book order out and place it on a cart by the door. After we go back into the building, you can pick up your items.

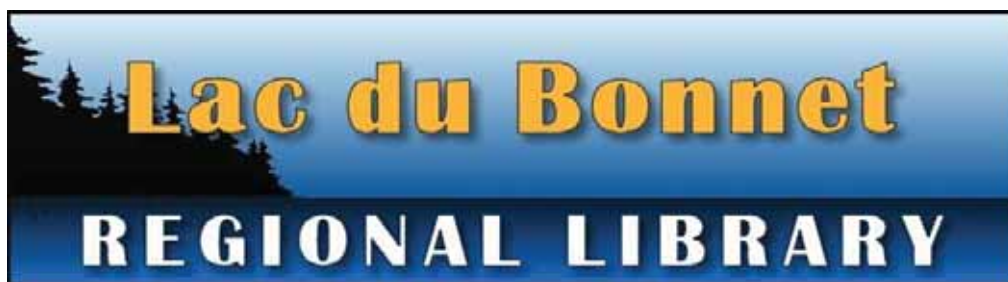
Do not pick up books if you are sick or under self quarantine due to travel or any other reason. Ask someone to pick it up for you.

Returns: We will accept returns during these same hours (Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm) only. We will have boxes set up for your returns. Please deposit your items directly into the box, do not use plastic bags. Returned books will be set aside for a full week before being shelved.

We have suspended all due dates and are happy to have you keep your books until the library reopens.

Please respect social distancing measures during pickups and returns by keeping 2 meters away from each other.

This service is experimental and may be discontinued or expanded at any time. Check our website for updates.



Curbside Pickup Available Now at the Lac du Bonnet Library

How to Access Service - 20 item limit per patron -3 wk loans

Online available through Library website lacdubonnetlibrary.ca

Go to MY ACCOUNT and sign in with your user name and password, if you have not used this online access before the Library will set you up.

*email – mldb@mymts.net or call 204-345-2653 and staff will assist you.

Once online access is set up you can go through the catalogue and place holds on your items. (Magazines require an email or phone call in order to get the proper month's edition)

Checkouts can also be placed by email or phone. Put your order in and we will contact you when ready. Staff can assist with genre and title selections.

We will contact you to arrange a pickup time. Please call when you arrive and your order will be placed on our pickup table. This will be a contactless pickup.

RETURNS MUST BE PLACED IN THE BOOK CHUTE, wrapped in plastic bags please. The returns will be quarantined for 1 week before being shelved.

Prearranged Hours for pickups will be within the following hours:

Tuesday – Friday 10:30 – 5:00; Saturday 10:30 – 2:30

The Library is in the process of establishing the guidelines and physical safety precautions that need to be put place to provide a safe environment for both staff and patrons. Until such time as the Library Board and staff have these measures in place the Library will not be open to the public. As our work environment contains many high touch displays, these precautions will be of a very strict nature.

The continued health safety of our community is the Library's #1 priority.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Manitoba Rural & Northern Art Show

Westman | Eastman | Central | Parkland | Interlake |
Northern Artists

The Edge Gallery and Urban Art Centre

611 Main Street, Winnipeg

September 3-20, 2020

Artwork can include but are not limited to:

- painting, sculpture, ceramics, textiles, watercolour, oil, acrylic, mixed media.
- limit one submission per artist

To Apply:

send image with your name, contact info, region, concept, size, date
of completion and medium
to visualarts@mbartsnet.ca

Please put **R&N Submission** in the subject line.

All entries will be selected by an external jury

Deadline: Submit your image by June 15, 2020

2020 Art Auction

The theme for this years fundraising art auction is **water**.

If you are interested in creating a piece of art please contact Jennifer at
204 340 0889 or winnipegriverarts@gmail.com

The pieces of art will be displayed throughout the region & online during
the spring and summer, with the online auction running August 1 - 27.

Artists will receive 30% of the funds raised on their individual piece of art.

Apply Now

Manitoba Showcase
October 23 & 24, 2020
Gimli, Manitoba

Deadline Extended to May 15!

manitoba **arts network**
connect - showcase - promote

Applications are now open at iWantToShowcase.ca for performers of all types; musicians, dance and theatre groups. Manitoba Showcase 2020 will be held from October 22-25 in Gimli, Manitoba. Fifteen to twenty performing artists will be selected to perform on October 23rd or 24th.

Add a little bit of body teSelected by a jury, artists will perform for an audience of arts presenters seeking to bring artists to their communities. The Manitoba Arts Network coordinates block booked tours of Showcasing Artists based on interest generated by presenters (art organizations) who attended Manitoba Showcase.

Besides being an opportunity to showcase, the conference features seminars, workshops, one on one meetings, art exhibits, a contact room and networking events, focused towards connecting artists, agents, industry professionals and arts presenters.

Manitoba Arts Network is the only organization that showcases and coordinates tours in Manitoba, generating \$120,000 – \$180,000 in artist fees throughout the year. Showcasing artists can receive up to four years of on-going bookings based on their performance at Manitoba Showcase.

For any questions on applying to Manitoba Showcase, please contact Leah at performingarts@mbartsnet.ca