

THE CLIPPER

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for space and/or legal
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and phone number.

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THE COMMENT PAGE

Putting Trust in School Trustees

By Sandy Nemeth

I am often asked what a school trustee does.

What are our responsibilities? What does it mean to be part of a school board? How can one fulfil the call to represent local voices when making local choices?

The answer is found in the title itself: to exercise trust on behalf of the public, which includes our students, families, staff, and our communities.

At its heart, this trust is to provide quality educational opportunities and experiences; to ensure that our greatest resource, our kids, are fully prepared for life within and beyond the classroom; to nurture a love of lifelong learning; to develop their skills and knowledge; to engage them in understanding our world, all who are in it and all that is in it, and to support them in taking their place as citizens and contributors to its success.

This is a very tall order. After all, trustees do not teach.

We don't decide which subjects are taught or how the curriculum is presented. We don't select textbooks or organize field trips. And we certainly don't become involved in the host of day-to-day operations required to make education happen. Instead, we work as teams of trustees which make up the school boards across Manitoba. We are political only insofar as we decide how resources are allocated, guided by the policies and budgets that we set, and conversations we have with our senior leadership teams.

Those considering running for election to their local school board may rightly wonder how they can represent community voice with so many different perspectives within.

My answer is that the duty of a trustee reflects the finer art of governance and of democracy.

Every member of your community matters, even those with whom you must agree to disagree. Dialogue, and healthy, respectful debate builds bridges. Anger and disrespect weakens, and can ultimately destroy them.

Equally helpful is to know that trustees are subject to laws, regulations and policy directives established by the federal and provincial levels of government. We must be guided in our words and actions by time-honoured requirements of non-partisanship, respect for human rights, diversity and inclusion, and promoting pluralism, fairness, equity and justice.

Acknowledging truth and serving as champions of reconciliation in respect of the relationship between Indigenous and other Canadian citizens are also among these guiding principles. Education is the new buffalo.

Those who are leaders in education must provide

this life-giving nourishment towards creating a new and healthy future. One where every child matters. Trustees must therefore stand together to learn from any and all mistakes that were made in the past, even while we focus our time and efforts on fulfilling, rather than denying, the high calls to action placed before us.

Trustees cannot substitute their own judgment in place of these rules and requirements.

We recognize that our own values, vision and ideas must come together with those of our fellow board members, and our community, so we can serve as role models of integrity, good faith, transparency and accountability, mindful too that we are subject to our board's trustee code of conduct. Trustees are held to account for our actions by the very community that we represent.

Our legacies, and the history of our contributions, is what they will

remember and upon which they depend.

At the end of this month, those running as trustees for the Mountain View School Division will be called upon to exercise the public trust.

As always, the Manitoba School Boards Association is here to provide support as they begin their journey as a trustee, and as all of the seats at their school board table are filled once again.

As local voices making local choices for the benefit of the communities we serve, fulfilling the high calling and duty of the public trust can be challenging.

The role of school trustee is often misunderstood, which is unfortunate, but easily clarified. It is not a job for the faint of heart, but it is rewarding, fulfilling and purposeful work that we do on the journey toward building public trust, and to ensure student, family, staff and community success.

— Sandy Nemeth is president of the Manitoba School Boards Association.

Clipper Publishing's What's It? Challenge

Can you identify what this item is and what it was used for?



Please include your full name, home community and date the photo appeared in The Clipper.

Photos by Pioneer Village Museum in Beausejour

Email your answer to news@clipper.mb.ca or call 204-268-4700

Last week's What's It?

The What's It? object in the Oct. 24 edition of The Clipper was a TYPESETTING MACHINE.

Congratulations to Joan Einarson of Cape Coppermine for being the first person to provide the correct answer.

Also providing correct answers were Norma Buss, Paul Albert and Jody Bowers of Beausejour, Ken Ezinicki of Cooks Creek, Morris Radych of Pine Falls and Ron Dyck of Gull Lake.



Royal Canadian Legion Branch 132, Beausejour, Manitoba

MEDIA BINGO

Congratulations to Carol Bowes for winning the \$100 consolation prize from the October 21st game

CURRENT JACKPOT
\$17,849.75

October 28th, 2024: Game #68 (Gold Card)

The 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st & 62nd numbers called will be for a chance to win the consolation prize of \$100. Potential Bingo Winner: The person(s) who bingos out in the least amount of balls called will be deemed the official winner.

Numbers printed as called from left to right, top to bottom.

G57	N31	I27	G54	G60	I28	N42	B1	B14
N43	I25	N36	I29	O69	O62	I21	G48	G59
G50	O64	O66	O70	O63	B13	G56	N33	I17
N32	O75	N45	G53	O61	I26	I20	O73	N37
G46	N41	B4	N35	O74	O72	B2	G55	B3
I22	B15	B6	O67	G49	B9	I18		

10 EXTRA NUMBERS FOR \$100 CONSOLATION PRIZE:

I16	O71	N39	I23	B7	O65	I30	I19	B10	G58
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Cards will be checked and must match the record of cards sold before a prize is awarded.

IF YOU ARE A BINGO WINNER

PHONE 204-268-2222 BY SATURDAY AT 12:00 NOON

to verify and record your bingo card. Winner(s) will be paid by cheque. Complete list of rules available at Media Bingo vendor outlets.

Games played every Monday. 1 Blackout game. Cards available at Beausejour Legion, Lac du Bonnet Legion, Pine Falls Legion, Tyndall Power Products, Guardian Pharmacy, Crosstown C-Store & Beausejour Clipper.

Numbers are called at 2PM on Mondays at the Beausejour Legion. The bingo numbers will be called and recorded as called on Monday at 2:00 P.M. These bingo numbers will be posted at the vendor, on the community websites and in the current issue of The Clipper Weekly which is available to the public on Thursday.

NO GAME MONDAY, NOV. 11, 2024 Licence # LGCA 722-MBI-40492