

PERSPECTIVE

Vol. 17, No. 1 Fall 2008



Worship service, First Mennonite Church



The "Grey Power" team. Back row from the left: Vaughn Rempel Snider, Nancy Runke, Kris Janovcik, Greg Guenther, Jared Niessen and Rick Hildebrand. Front row: Marla Langelotz, Paul Penner, Herb Guenther (no relation to Greg) and Laurena Ens.

50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Westgate Mennonite Collegiate's 50th Anniversary began this year with a co-ed volleyball tournament on Sept. 6. Six teams participated in the event and it seems like age and wisdom prevailed over youth and enthusiasm. The "Grey Power" team won the most games, showing that experience does make a difference. Congratulations to team members pictured at right.

There were many events on Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 3-5. The Class of 1983 celebrated a 25 Year Reunion on Friday evening. Classmates enjoyed catching up and visiting with each other again. First prize for most committed classmate goes to Joanne Hiebert Schmidt, who travelled from Germany to be with us for this event.

The Cyclathon celebrated with a 50 km ride around the "Big Loop" at Bird's Hill Park. A small group of cyclists enjoyed a sunny October day to relive memories of struggling through those tough early cyclathons. All Cyclathon participants enjoyed the food and fellowship, especially the currywurst stand, organized by Charlotte Kroeker and some of our German Exchange students.

Our Coffee House allowed alumni to tour the school and see some of the changes

that have taken place over the years. We were also treated to music by various alumni groups. Many thanks to House of Doc, Westgate parent Stan Kroeker, Karen Barg and Wes Elias, magician Graham Wiebe, and a band including Jeremy Dunn, Evan Rogalsky and Curtis Carrick for sharing their musical gifts with us. Thanks also to Jason Pankratz for emceeing the evening with his unique wit and charm.

The weekend came to a close with our worship service at First Mennonite Church on Sunday afternoon. Thanks to the many people who helped organize and lead this wonderful service, thanking God for all that Westgate Mennonite Collegiate has been over the last 50 years. ■



Class of 1983



Stan Kroeker



Cyclathon



WESTGATE'S FUTURE

Several months have passed since Westgate stood before the City of Winnipeg's Appeal Committee to seek approval of our school's redevelopment plans. The July 17th decision to turn down our request for the necessary variance brought an end to an intensive process that had involved many hours of planning and consultation.

Efforts to secure civic acceptance for the proposed redevelopment were co-ordinated by our Board, chaired by Colleen Braun-Janzen, and the Building Committee, chaired by Henry Dyck. Donovan Toews of Landmark Planning and Design Inc. facilitated a series of consultation sessions with the Armstrong's Point Association executive

and the wider community, and Dudley Thompson of Prairie Architects Inc. excited us with his creative school redevelopment designs.

The school's presentations were thorough, and we were honoured by the support we were given by many local area neighbours, school parents and our wider constituency. We felt that our development plans would be an asset to this community; however we respect the neighbourhood's concern for the community of Armstrong's Point. Our existing facilities will continue to serve students and staff well.

While we are disappointed in the outcome of our efforts, this process has given us clear parameters for future discussions. In the coming months the Board will consider the school's future direction and it is anticipated that the Westgate community will have opportunity to provide valuable input as we consider our long-term vision for the school.

We are looking forward to a blessed Westgate future! We are celebrating 50 years of inspiring students to live as people of God. We are fully subscribed at each grade level and will continue to encourage our supporting churches to consider Westgate a part of their lives. *Bob Hummelt, Principal* ■



In what we believe to be a Westgate Mennonite Collegiate first, pictured here are three generations of Westgate graduates. Hilde (Fast) Neustaedter (Class of 1962), daughter Angela Neustaedter Wiebe (Class of 1981) and granddaughter Gabrielle Wiebe (Class of 2008).

NEW STAFF

Westgate Mennonite Collegiate is pleased to welcome our new staff to the school. In September we bid farewell to **IRENE DERKSEN**, who served as our accountant for almost 10 years. We welcome **GEORGE KOMZAK** to the accounting office and wish him well in that position.

JASMINE SANDERSON has joined our full-time custodial staff, helping **GREG TAYLOR** keep the building clean and well maintained – welcome Jasmine!

Welcome also to **HEIDI KOOP** ('04) who joins us as an Educational Assistant in Student Services.

New members of our teaching staff include **JARRETT REMPEL**, who replaces **TANIS THIESSEN** teaching Physics, Science and Math. **JILLIAN CLEGG** joins us in the gym and the classroom (Language Arts), helping us out while **KARL WIEBE** enjoys his leave of absence this year. ■



George Komzak Jasmine Sanderson Heidi Koop Jarrett Rempel Jillian Clegg



Ms. Sanderson doing the heavy lifting.



CHORAL CONCERT CELEBRATION

Two hundred eighty singers united in the Westgate gym on November 7 to join voices and praise God in song. A full house was able to enjoy a vast array of choral music, from familiar hymns to African praise music and even modern contemporary artists. Alumni and community singers joined current Westgate Choir members and “future” singers from the Sargent Mennonite Junior choir in a wonderful evening. Thanks to all those who were able to participate and help plan this 50th Anniversary event.



Vic Pankratz conducting Westgate Concert Choir



Sargent Mennonite Junior Choir

SECOND PLACE IS THE FIRST WINNER



Sometimes a second place finish can be disappointing; in other cases it can become a great opportunity. Gabrielle Wiebe (at centre in photo) finished second in the “A” category at the recent Manitoba German Language Contest. The first place contestant was unable to accept her award, so Gabrielle was awarded the first place prize—a trip to Germany.

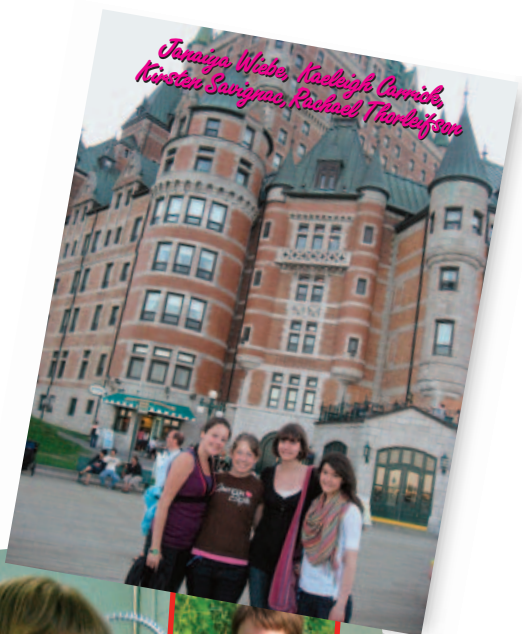
In addition, the entire Senior C category was won by Westgate students: Kaleigh Carrick took 1st place, Katja Peters 2nd and Joanne Gordon 3rd. Along with this recognition, our winners received a significant cash prize—*ausgezeichnet*!

Other prize winners included Wendy Kopeschny, 3rd in Intermediate C. Congratulations to all 13 Westgate participants!



Quinzy

*Jonnygo Weiss, Kaeleigh Carrick,
Kristen Savignac, Pauluel Thorleifson*



Kaeleigh Carrick:

This past summer I spent five weeks in Québec City through a program called Explore. This program brought together teenagers from all over the world to learn French and share amazing experiences. I cannot begin to express how incredible the experience was for me, and how many wonderful memories and friendships I will always have from those five weeks. From classes in the morning, to activities in the evening, and excursions on the weekends, it was non-stop. Also, this year was Québec's 400th Anniversary, so there were many special events happening in the city. My highlights of the trip were going to Montréal twice—once to La Ronde and once to the Biodôme, walking around Vieux Québec on the weekends, and watching many concerts for the Festival d'été. For only \$30 in total I saw Akon, Linkin Park, Wyclef Jean, Feist, Stars, and four other very talented bands. I also went to see Paul McCartney, who gave a free concert to more than 200,000 people. Wow! For people who would like to improve their French (I know mine did!), there is no better way than to be immersed in a city in our own country where it is spoken everywhere. Also, if you would love to make friends from all over Canada, Italy, Mexico, and Spain, I highly recommend going on this program. I know I completely loved it, and the five weeks went by way too quickly.

Elayna Bergen:

Elayna and Marie Bergen were part of First Mennonite Church's missions trip to Toronto and rural communities in southern Ontario. The trip emphasized food justice. Elayna writes:

Marie Bergen

Elayna Bergen



Ben Ryan



Mathieu Sawatzky



What I did

"While in Toronto, we had a scavenger hunt in Chinatown, keeping our eyes peeled for 'places you could sleep if you were living on the street' and 'something that makes you feel uncomfortable.' We were also on the lookout for people who we thought could be tourists or locals. In rural Ontario, the schedule included tours of fruit orchards, fruit-packing facilities and a little cheese shop that makes its own cheese. It was an eye-opener for me to see where our food comes from and to meet and talk to the people who make it possible."

Ben Ryan and Mathieu Sawatzky:

Ben Ryan and Mathieu Sawatzky were members of Team Winnipeg at the Manitoba Summer Games. Ben was a standout in the water and out, earning nine gold medals—yes nine! (eight in swimming and one in triathlon). As if that wasn't enough, Ben also earned a bronze medal in the individual triathlon race. Mathieu's exceptional speed earned him three gold medals on the track, (4x100m, 100m and 200m) along with a bronze in the individual triathlon race.

JACQUELYN KLASSEN:

This summer Jacquelyn Klassen (Gr. 9) and her soccer team, The Chicas, traveled to Spain to play in the Peloteros Cup tournament. The Chicas were the first North American team to be invited to this tournament, which hosts teams from four continents!

The girls not only participated in the tournament, but won the gold medal in a dramatic shootout against the home team. It was not like playing in Winnipeg at all; temperatures during games often reached 40 degrees.

The tournament was held in Seville. A highlight was the private tour of the Seville FC Stadium. It was a thrill to

this Summer . . .

stand on the same turf that so many soccer greats have played on. Scoring a goal in the final shootout was definitely a highlight for Jacquelyn but being exposed to other cultures was even more thrilling. Just ask her about the difference between Portuguese and Spanish boys. Swimming in the Mediterranean was also an experience not to be forgotten. Jacquelyn still trains with The Chicas and is looking forward to more international adventures with them.

Ross Brownlee:

Ross Brownlee was on faculty at the Amherst Early Music Workshop in New London, Connecticut. It's a meeting place of top level early musicians from all over the world. There were over 30 countries represented by students and faculty this year. They offer courses in all types of early instruments, dance and voice, and each year focus on the music of different countries. This year would have been very appropriate for Westgate, as they had some intense German studies! Following the course which was the first three weeks of July, Ross spent a week exploring the fine cities of Boston and New York.

Shelley Dalman-Betts

Shelley Dalman-Betts took part in a three-week French course at the University of Quebec at Trois Rivières, designed for teachers. It was a French immersion course, which included field trips to Montreal and Quebec City—a truly enriching professional development opportunity and a fun holiday as well!

Gabrielle Wiebe:

"This summer I had the amazing privilege of spending one month in Germany. The program, set up by a German organization called the PAD, was the top prize in the annual Manitoba German Language Contest.

I was a part of the last PAD group of the summer—group 37. My group was led by three German leaders. There were 10

of us "Preistraeger" (winners) in my group and we ranged from ages 15 to 18. In my group there were two Japanese, two Palestinians, three Czechs, and two other Canadians and our common language was German. Together we travelled to many cities including Bonn, Cologne, Berlin, Hannover, and Munich and stayed with a host family in a small town, Alfeld. I learned a lot about Germany and other cultures as well as continued to strengthen my German. The trip was an experience I'll never forget and if you ever want to hear about it, I'll be more than excited to talk to you!"

Rachel Kilgour:

Rachel Kilgour travelled to Red Deer for the Western Canada Regional Equestrian Championships, which included teams from B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan Manitoba, and Northwest Territories.

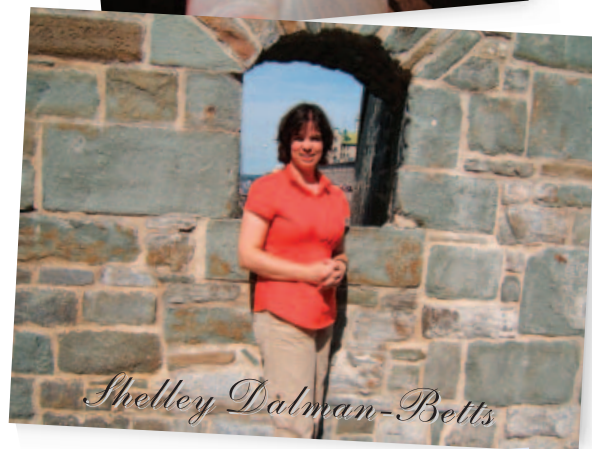
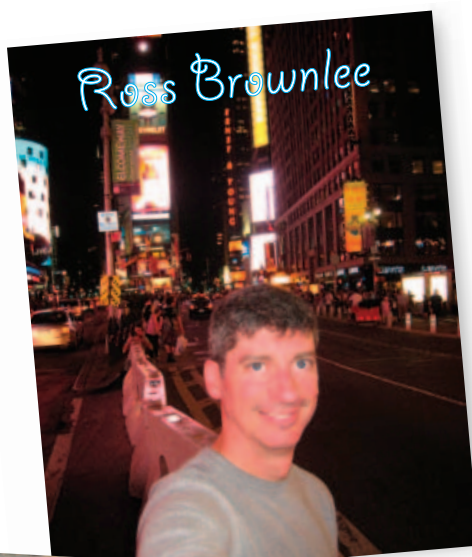
Equine Canada does not hold National Championships, as it is too expensive for so many horses to travel about our country. So, they hold two events—the Western and Eastern championships and then the results get combined. Rachel placed 4th in her division.

DID YOU KNOW ...

that 36 alumni, 19 current students and two staff of Westgate Mennonite Collegiate were working at Camps with Meaning camps this past summer? What a gift to our children—thank you for your efforts. ■

And did you know that the following volunteer coaches are either Westgate parents and/or alumni?

Doug Durksen, Karl Langelotz, Michael Klassen, Rob Winter, Nick Evans, Keelyn Lewis, Kaitlyn Lewis, Vaughn Rempel Snider, Herb Guenther





A Winnipeg tradition—Slurpees at 7-Eleven!



Exchangers cheer on the Bombers to one of their few victories of the season.

Exchange students discover Canada



Cassandra Hill traveled to Canmore, Alberta on the Labour Day long weekend to participate in an annual pipe band event. Her Exchange partner, Janne Besendahl (at centre in photo), accompanied her and had the opportunity to join the band as “honourary drummer”—truly a new experience for her.



Julian Kroeker, Jonah Langelotz and their exchange partners Malte Kurzweg and Lasse Karweit enjoy the Sentinel Pass hike near Lake Louise, Alberta, over the Thanksgiving long weekend.



Exchange students enjoy a backyard birthday barbeque at the Kroeker home while the warm summer weather still cooperated.



Jana Kasselmann prepares to throw her ball at an Exchange Glow Bowling party.



CROSS COUNTRY WRAP UP

The Junior and Senior Cross Country teams had a terrific season of training and competing in some of the best weather in recent memory. Ben Miller (Gr. 7), Amy Baergen (Gr. 7) and Allison Baergen (Gr. 9) consistently placed between first and fourth in all their races. The season culminated with the Varsity Boys winning AAA silver and the Varsity Girls bringing home a bronze in the Provincial Championships at Roseisle.

Bronze Medalists

Back row (from the left): Kirsten Savignac, Stephanie Rempel, Svenja Niederkrome, Nicole Wiens, Kaeleigh Carrick, Tonya Wagner
Front row: Janne Besendahl, Naomi Langelotz, Luise ("Sehr Schnell") Wagner

Tasting victory

From the left: Robert Loch, Lasse Karweit, Thomas Aitken, Jonah Langelotz, Ryan Kennedy, Ben Ryan, Jacob Miller



WINNIPEG TRANSIT – EAT YOUR HEART OUT!

The new Westgate Bus Service is in full swing. Aside from a few construction zones creating long bus delays during the first few weeks, students and parents are happy with the convenient front door service. We are very pleased to be working with WMES as our partner in this initiative. Flexible tickets make this service ideal for students with changing schedules. Registration is accepted at any time during the school year. Go to <http://snipurl.com/4kt2w> for the registration form or call the office for more information.



LIFE LONG LEARNING

Junior High teacher Herb Guenther is trying to model the importance of life long learning to his students. After some frustrations with his own typing abilities, Herb joined one of our 7:55 a.m. Keyboarding classes in order to increase his typing speed and efficiency. Way to go Mr. Guenther!



ALUMNI NEWS



CHRIS HIEBERT ('90) and Allison Shevernoha were married July 20. Also pictured are brother **JASON HIEBERT ('89)** and David and Leona Hiebert. Leona works in Westgate's office.



On Oct. 16, 2008, **WILLI PENNER ('94)** and his wife Jen were blessed with the arrival of a girl, Tatum Katja Penner—1.67 kg. Although seven weeks premature, mom and daughter are doing well and looking forward to being at home.



JOHN ('90) and **SYLVIA FROESE (nee Penner, '89)** have three children: Garrett (8), Nicholas (4) and Emily (almost 2). John has been working as a network administrator at Agriculture Canada for 11 years. Sylvia is a computer teacher in the Lord Selkirk School Division. The family has a passion for bowhunting in their spare time.



SCOTT BERGEN ('05) writes: After completing three years of my Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theology and Music at Canadian Mennonite University, I decided to take a year away from my more formal studies and do some voluntary service. I'm working with Mennonite Church Canada Witness and Mennonite Mission Network's Radical Journey program in Paraguay this year. I'm teaching English to the youth of CONEMPAR, the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Paraguay to better equip them to host Mennonite World Conference (July 14-19, 2009) in Asunción, Paraguay. Teaching English is also a social justice initiative, as those with English training can more easily escape poverty and more easily provide financially for themselves and their families.

Congratulations to Westgate grads **NATHAN TOEWS ('03)**, big brother **CHRIS TOEWS ('98)** and classmate **JORDAN FAST ('98)**. They were baptized at Douglas Mennonite Church on June 15, 2008. We wish you God's blessing as you continue on your journeys of faith.

Westgate presence at CMU

If you've ever wondered if Westgate students do anything after they leave this school, check out our alumni presence at Canadian Mennonite University. These are just some of the ways our graduates are making a difference in their respective post-secondary lives:

Student President – Zach Peters
VP Finance – Noelle Koop
Director of Yearbook – Josh Ewert
Returning Student Rep – Dan Epp
Blaurock Cafe Manager – Megan Klassen-Wiebe
Residence Assistants – Nick Ewert and Alec Schaefer

Best Dressed Foursome: (l – r) brothers Anthony ('03) and Michael ('98) Kasdorf, Kyle and Mark ('03) Dyck



GOLF TOURNY

Once again, Westgate friends and alumni gathered at Southside Golf course on the last Wednesday of August to celebrate community and enjoy a day of golf with old and new friends alike. This year's event raised almost \$4,000 towards new sports uniforms for our Westgate athletes.

Special thanks to our Prize sponsor, Winnipeg Building and Decorating (Henry Thiessen) who helped supply all participants with special 50th anniversary golf gloves to celebrate the occasion. Also, we would like to recognize the many hole sponsors who helped make this event a success:

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Derksen Plumbing & Heating
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Gondola Pizza
Winter's Collision Centre
Merlyn Self Storage
Stefan Homes
Security Decorating
Edward Jones
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Hole-in-one sponsor – Standard Press ■



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