

## Delivering the Goods

By Doug Durksen

**BENJAMIN FORD RYAN** - World Silver Medallist. Impressive, yes? But wait, at... bike couriering? Is that a thing? Yes, it turns out - it is very much a thing. This August, Ben (class of 2012), competed in the Cycle Messenger World Championships in Jakarta, Indonesia, and, well, we already spoiled the result - but the story of how he got there is kind of interesting too.

Shortly after graduating, Ben reconciled his love of cycling and the need for an income and got a job as a bike messenger here in Winnipeg. He quickly found himself loving the tight-knit community and connected to bike messengers all over the globe. He moved on to larger (and warmer) places, working in Toronto and Montreal before 'settling down' in Vancouver.

Ben's journey this summer to Jakarta started with a short warm-up ride from London, England to Istanbul, Turkey. He left London with 80 other couriers and cycled to Brussels to compete in the European Cycle Messenger Championships at the end of June. From there his 'bikepacking' trip took him through Basel,

Milan, Zagreb, Belgrade, Sofia, and, finally, Istanbul. As he summarized the ride - 3431 km of cycling, 23,087 m of climbing, 26 days, 13 nights camping at the side of the road, and only one flat tire.

He then traveled from Istanbul to Jakarta (by plane) for the main event - a 6 day competition with couriers from around the world. Ben and about 300 other couriers explored the city by racing 'alleycats', or simulation races. Competitors also took part in side events, such as track standing, longest skid, and 'foot-down' - which Ben describes as "kind of like a mosh pit on a bike; you're just trying to knock each other over. Last one standing wins" which sounds...just terrible.

Having survived these early festivities, Ben entered the weekend qualifiers, and he and about 80 other messengers advance to the finals. The final race, which can last up to 4 hours, takes place on a closed course with competitors simulating a work day. They're given a map and several manifests, picking up and delivering packages all over the course. After the dust had settled Ben had a silver medal and the satisfaction of knowing that, not only does he love his job, it turns out he's really quite good at it, too.

This is Ben's third World Championship. He's raced in Riga, Latvia in 2018, and Montreal in 2017. No doubt he'll be back again next year in Bogota, Colombia, not because he's hungry for glory, but because of the international community he's found that has embraced him, given him couches to sleep on across the globe, and created lasting friendships. Who wouldn't want more of that?



Alex Friesen (left),  
Declan Moulden  
(middle) and Ben Ryan  
(right) on the 2012  
Westgate Bike Trip



## VOICES CRYING OUT

By Adam Klassen Bartel

On Friday, September 27th the halls of Westgate were quieter than normal. The usual buzz of activity was lessened as two-thirds of the student population decided that instead of attending classes they would work for their future in another way - by striking to stop climate change.

According to grade 12 students Olivia Pries-Mallet and Jenna Martin who were at the strike, there was a palpable tension between fear and hope.

"It was chilling to see such a big group scared for our future," Olivia said, "especially seeing young kids chanting about how the world is changing for the worse."

"It feels like we can't do a lot about it, but we can start a conversation," added Jenna.

But both grade 12 students felt empowered being part of the group that hopes to change things for the better. "You can either be scared the world's



ending or go to the climate strike and try to make a difference," Jenna stated emphatically.

Before the official strike began the Westgate Concert Choir participated in an ecumenical prayer service for the Earth, adding their voices to leaders from the Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Christian communities.

"It's important for students to see all these faiths represented, with everyone saying the same thing," said Vic Pankratz, who lead the choir that day.

The choir sang Earth Song by Frank Ticheli.

The words are simple, powerful:

*"This dark stormy hour,  
The wind, it stirs.  
The scorched earth  
Cries out in vain..."*

*But music and singing  
Have been my refuge,  
And music and singing  
Shall be my light."*

"Someone writes these beautiful words and the students get to communicate them to others. They get to have a voice in this crying out," Pankratz said.

When asked why they decided to add their voices to the strike, Olivia and Jenna were clear: "We're in school to learn for our future. We were protesting for our future."





## WESTGATE BY THE NUMBERS

Our fundraising for the 2019-2020 school year is already off to a great start. Our Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament, Dine and Donate, Cylathon, 2K1K Campaign have already raised significant funds for our school and students.

**\$29,700**



**\$55,000**



**\$47,000**

**DINE  
AND DONATE**  
Westgate Fall Supper



Our latest campaign to retire our building debt from our Campus redevelopment in 2017 was launched in April 2019. Called the 2K1K Campaign, it uses the formula that we need 2 thousand people to donate 1 thousand each to raise the \$2 Million left owing on our building.

We are happy to report that 2K1K Capital Campaign has so far raised \$81,000 from 43 donors. Donations have been made at events like Dine and Donate, on-line through Canada Helps, and from personal cheques mailed into our school. Go to our website [www.westgatemennonite.ca](http://www.westgatemennonite.ca) to learn more about how you can donate to this fund today and contribute to the NEW and improved Westgate!

The remaining goal to end our building debt currently stands at \$1,950,000

By Bob Hummelt



After five years as a physical education instructor and athletic director at Springs Christian Academy **KEVIN KAMPEN** '06 has come "home" to teach Grade 6 math and physical education. Kevin, who grew up attending Springfield Heights Mennonite Church, brings many years of volleyball and ultimate coaching with him.



Considered a "West End biker," **ADAM KLASSEN BARTEL** pedals early each morning to open the library. A fresh graduate of Red River College's Library and Information Technologies program, Adam also serves on the Leadership Steering Committee at Hope Mennonite Church.



**JEFF HIEBERT** has joined the support staff as Computer Technology Coordinator. His role as the "computer guy" is clearly the tip of the iceberg as he also shares his time teaching robotics and coding with an inner city school. Jeff is familiar with our school as his daughters Emily ('15) and Meghan ('17) graduated from here. Jeff is also a member of Sterling Mennonite Church, and has joined former and current students in an annual service trip to Cross Lake.



Student Services welcomes **LINDSEY PERERA** (nee Pankratz '13) as an Educational Assistant. Lindsey grew up in Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship and has worked ten years with camp kids and adults with disabilities. She has also remained involved with Westgate after graduation by serving as an assistant coach to the Junior Varsity Girls Volleyball team for the last seven years.

## RETIREMENT

### A BUILDING WELL SUPERVISED – MR. TAYLOR RETIRES

By Ozzie Rempel

How lucky can we get? On his way to a morning coffee with friends, as a matter of the purest chance, Greg Taylor bought himself a newspaper and noticed an ad for the building supervisor's position at Westgate. Noting the imminent close date, Greg made a quick call to principal Reg Klassen and scrambled to prepare an application and resumé and arrive in time for an interview. The interview went well. And, for twenty-one years, Westgate has benefitted from that serendipitous paper purchase.



required, Greg has done more than keep the school a "neat" place. He has kept it shining.

Greg's biggest challenge by a large margin was moving the school to Chapman and back. Loading five semi-trailers full of furniture, boxes and equipment; organizing the warehouse the Westgate gym was to become; preparing the inadequate temporary Chapman facility with only a few weeks before the start of the school year – was a herculean task. And then there was the move back! However, Greg says, "Reassembling dismantled millwork in new spaces and making it all fit and look great gave me and [colleague] Ryan [Bemister] great satisfaction."

Greg recalls Reg Klassen telling him: "If you get this position, you'll find that we are a family." Greg says it's been true. He has felt very much a part of the Westgate staff and community, and has enjoyed participating in unexpected capacities. Dressing up for Halloween was a given, and Ski Trips were fun too, but he's also

hosted the staff Christmas party, been on the Grade 9 Retreat to Moose Lake, and - a special highlight - accompanied the Grade 9 Human Rights Study Tour to Washington with Julia Thiessen. "The kids have been great," he says. "Such impressive talent - athletically, musically, and always respectful and friendly in hallway encounters." That works both ways. The same must certainly be said of Greg, and staff have long appreciated his quick, efficient, and friendly responses to their many – very many - requests.

He will miss the people. "But what a way to leave!" Greg says. With the building in the best shape it has ever been in, with full confidence that Ryan is prepared to take on the role of building supervisor, he's ready to leave a wonderful work place to go to another paradise. Greg is looking forward to moving to his new home at Traverse Bay - fishing - snowmobiling - relaxing with friends - and travel! On being asked about the prospect of permanent residence in a quiet lakeside location: "I'll find things to do," he says, smiling. No surprise there, and as Greg has shown us all for some time, he's sure to do them well.

**2019** marks the centennial anniversary of the Winnipeg general strike. The city has commemorated the event with a new art installment in front of the Pantages Playhouse Theatre, Rainbow Stage ran *Strike! The Musical*, and the Manitoba Museum modified their “early Winnipeg” exhibit to highlight the feel of Winnipeg during the spring of 1919. We found it only fitting to set the Charles Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol* against a background when worker – employee relations were challenged, and greed nearly conquered goodwill. Students at Westgate began the process of turning the original text to script as early as June, as Aurora Wiebe and Nora Kroeger (both class of 2019) worked on interpreting the text and setting the tone for the directors to follow. As classes began in September, students started the audition process; rehearsals and workshopping

the script immediately followed. Over the next ten weeks, the cast began to breathe life into Dickens’ ghosts, while Kathy Pankratz and her costume crew designed and constructed over fifty costumes. Dances were learned, sets were built and during the second week of November, students took up residence



at the Gas Station Arts Centre. With the help of four junior students and a director’s son, *A Christmas Carol* hit the stage. Received by sold out crowds, and coupled with freshly fallen snow, the play found a way to warm people’s hearts and put everyone into the festive season of giving.



## DINE & DONATE

**FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW,** Westgate held a community Fall Supper in our gymnasium. Nearly 500 plates of delicious perogies, farmer sausage, and let’s not forget the famous oat squares, were served by over 80 student volunteers, parents and staff. In addition to being a wildly successful fundraiser for our Capital Campaign, this casual evening brought together many generations of our Westgate community – from recent grads to great grandparents. Hope you can all join us again next year!

**WESTGATE'S 15TH ANNUAL ALUMNI & FRIENDS GOLF TOURNAMENT** took place on August 27th at Bridges Golf Course. The weather was downright miserable, but spirits were high among all the dedicated golfers and volunteers. Many long time community members showed their support once again this year and we raised net profits of \$29,700 for our Capital Campaign! We're just under \$2M dollars away from retiring our building debt from the 2017 campus redevelopment and thrilled at the success of the Golf Tournament which has raised over \$360,000 in the 15 years it's been going. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported our school.



## WE WOULD LIKE TO ESPECIALLY THANK OUR GENEROUS LEAD SPONSORS:

### Titanium Sponsor:

Gondola Pizza – Derek Loewen ('89)

### Title Sponsor:

Crosstown Civic Credit Union – Neil Enns

### Grand Prize Sponsor:

Westgate Enterprises – Matthew Kroeker

### Lunch & Refreshment Sponsors:

Stefan Home Builders – Randy & Sandy Douglas  
The Standard Press – Woldemar, Michael ('98) & Tony ('03) Kasdorf

### Eagle Sponsors:

Canad Inns Destination Centres – Christian Kelly  
Century 21 – David Unruh  
Burrow's Lumber – Chris Dirks  
East Side Storage – Rachel Niessen  
Garry Loewen & Associates – Garry Loewen  
IG Wealth Financial – Wesley Dueck  
iRangers – Rob Zacharias ('88)  
J Penner Plastering & Stucco – John Penner ('84)  
Remco Realty – Tom Ewert  
Rudy's Auto Service – Rudy Epp ('87)  
Snider Orthotic Design – Luke Snider  
Winnipeg Building & Decorating – Henry Thiessen  
Winter's Plumbing & Heating – Keaton Winter ('10)

### Par Sponsors:

Kornelius Loewen C.A. ('64)  
Winter's Collision Repair Centre – Rob Winter ('93)

### Corporate Sponsors:

G.P. Financial – Gord Kroeker  
Legacy Sports Medicine – Brad Baydock  
Prairie Architects – Damien Fenez

#### Titanium



#### Title



#### Grand Prize



#### Corporate



#### Lunch / Refreshment



#### Eagle



#### Eagle



#### Hole Guest





### THANK YOU TO OUR HARD WORKING VOLUNTEERS!

Ben De Ryck  
Deanna Penner  
Lori Hildebrandt Penner  
Terry Dirks  
Ryan Bemister  
Tracy LeClair  
Debbie Watson  
Chloe Brand  
Conrad Brand  
Mason Dueck  
Maren Penner  
Aliya Penner  
Joe McCallum

### 2019 Golf Committee

Alexis Dirks  
Bob Hummelt  
Chris Dirks  
Wes Dueck

### THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED ADDITIONAL PRIZES!

Howard Wiebe ('79) – Big Sand Volleyball Clothing  
Garry Fast ('85) – Team Insurance Brokers  
Mardina & David Andrews – Park West Inn  
Nick & Alison Diacos – Carlos & Murphy's  
Christian Kelly – Canad Inns Destination Centre  
David Unruh – Century 21  
Winkler's Meats  
Bridges Golf Course  
Lakeview Resort Hecla Golf Course



Save the Date

## SPRING BURSARY BANQUET

Monday May 11, 2020

We hope you will join us this year for our annual Spring Bursary Banquet on Monday May 11, 2020.

"In only 5 years, we have seen the requests for bursary funds double to approximately 20 families with total bursaries awarded more than doubling from about \$25,000 in 2015-16 to \$63,000 in 2019-20. It is great that we are able to provide these funds for so many families so that finances do not prevent their children from attending Westgate. However, it does mean now that while we used to carry forward about a year's worth of bursaries each year, the last two years have seen us spend virtually every dollar we have in the fund. So, we really depend on the generous donations at our Annual Bursary Banquet!"  
– A message from Paul Klassen, Board of Directors Chair.

## CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to our Cross-Country teams on their performance this season. At provincials all our teams ran a good race on a tough course, in challenging conditions. We finished as the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th fastest AAA teams in the province in our various categories. Congratulations to the Varsity Girls on their bronze medals, and to the Junior Varsity Girls on their silver medals!



## VOLLEYBALL

## JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS

Congratulations to our Junior Varsity boys for winning a silver medal in the M.S.H.A.A. AAAA Provincial Finals. It was a tough game against the Steinbach Sabres that went to 5 sets at the University of Manitoba IG Athletic Centre on November 25th.

This was a historic season for our Volleyball program, as the only other time our AAA school competed in a AAAA Provincial Final was when the Varsity girls also captured silver in 1997.

The boys won a number of tournaments this season including Garden City, John Taylor and West Kildonan. They also finished in second place at the River East tournament, and SCAC AAAA League. Sam Ludwig (gr. 10) and Dylan Martens (gr. 9) were named all-stars in the Provincial final. Congrats to all the players and coaches Kailan Janzen, Maiya Westwood and Peter Westwood for all your hard work!



*Harrison Ens and Sam Ludwig close the block against Steinbach at the U of M during the AAAA Final.*

## GRADE 8 GIRLS

The grade 8 girls also finished the season as Champions! They won the M.C.S.A.A AAA Tier 2 final against Holy Cross on November 30th. Congrats to all the players and special thanks to coaches Karina Fast, Jaymi Fast and Michael Catanese.





## VARSITY BOYS

The Varsity Boys are the 2019-2020 M.H.S.A.A. AAA Provincial Champions! They had a great season and finished with a 2-set victory against Calvin Christian in the final on November 30th. Owen Dyck and David Nelson were named tournament All-Stars, and Rowan Penner was named MVP!

This season they also won the 2019 Spartan Dig, the Linden Christian Varsity Boys Volleyball Tournament. Congrats to all the players and head coach Karen Froese and assistant coach Hillarie Kuhl.



Owen Dyck goes up for the kill



50th REUNION  
CLASS OF 1969

*Front Row, L to R: Elsie (Klassen) Tessmann, Lorie (Fast) Bergen, Julianna (Isaak) Enns  
Middle Row: Helga (Klassen) Berger, Marlene (Pauls) Laucht, Ernie Wiebe, Dorothy Van Dyck  
Top Row: Rudy Derksen, Don Riediger, Gerhardt Dyck, Peter Rempel*



**WHAT MAKES A SCHOOL?** Over and over again, the members of the class of '69 remembered the connections they had with one another and the respect and love they had for their teachers as the best part of their Westgate experience.

On September 5th, 13 members from the class of 1969 and their guests gathered at 86 Westgate. They enjoyed a tour of the redeveloped facility and could be overheard marvelling at how they "survived" and even "thrived" with such a different facility back in the day. They complimented the current Westgate community for making the effort to "better the tools".

The celebration continued at the University of Winnipeg Women's Club, with life storytelling and sharing memories, and then ended with a wonderful dinner at Bistro Dansk. Special thanks to class members Lorie (Fast) Bergen and Helga (Klassen) Berger who took leadership in making this event come to be!

As part of the time at 86 West Gate, it was interesting for current staff to interview our alumni and learn of a different time: a time when the facilities limited sports opportunities to just

the male students; a time when young women would leave school (even if they loved it) after grade 10 to go join the workforce and contribute to the family income. Other common memories were more familiar to today: having the football end up in the river during lunch pick up games; getting in trouble for uncontrolled giggling with friends; and enjoying coffee in the local cafes.

Many alumni of '69' remembered being challenged to try things they were not sure they could do. They were given opportunities to explore and serve in many ways. This resulted in lives of volunteering and working for their churches and wider communities. Among the group, music and life in the church played a big role. Of the 13 gathered, at least half of them cited being part of church choirs, boards and being accompanists to choirs (25% of them).

There was a deep hope that Westgate will continue to be a place in which students are met where they are at, respected and honoured, inspired and taught and sent into the world with a sense of who they are, rooted and confident because of where they have come from. May it be so.

**If you have a decade reunion coming up, please get in touch with Krista Neustaedter Barg about planning and reconnecting with your former classmates!**

**[knb@westgatemennonite.org](mailto:knb@westgatemennonite.org)**



**THE CLASS OF 1979** met for their 40 year reunion this summer. Hosted at the Headingly farm of former classmate Howard Wiebe, the group of 17 reunited four decades after leaving the hallways of Westgate. "It was so much fun getting to know people again," said Howard, "Games were planned, but all people wanted was to get reacquainted. It was perfect."



*Front Row, from L to R: Val Regehr, Gayle Wiebe, Linda Peters, Ingrid Loewen*  
*Second Row: Mike Sawatzky, Rick Loewen, Karl Dyck,*  
*Third Row: Ken Pauls, Karry Toews, Enrich Enns, Bernie Krause, Howard Wiebe*  
*Fourth Row: Rob Warkentin, Don Peters, Lorne Klassen, Wally Murovec, Rick Hildebrand*

## NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

While volunteering at a women's shelter/centre in Romania, Bethany Regehr '14, who is currently studying social work at Booth University College, was assigned to work with children who also needed care. She came to know Andrada, a young girl who capably assisted Bethany in this work. Bethany saw great potential and was impressed in Andrada's ability to learn English. After consultation with Andrada's family, Bethany sponsored her to come to Canada to attend Grade 8 at Westgate. While transition in culture and food has been a challenge, school work and extra-curricular involvement has gone very well. In particular, Bethany has noticed a shift in Andrada's "mindset" as she has become very comfortable with her teachers and is enjoying taking part in open class discussions. Welcome Andrada!



## FRENCH IMMERSION STUDENTS

Four grade 12 students successfully challenged the DELF B2 exam this past June. Success on this exam affirms that the students have achieved upper intermediate ability in French, and allows entry into French university (and a number of Canadian universities) without a language proficiency test. Nous sommes fiers de vous!! We are proud of you!! Congratulations to Scott Maier, Mollie Brown, Toby Bergmann, Andrea Sutherland (pictured from left to right).



## BIRTHS



**ARDYN GEORGE BEMISTER** to parents Ryan (staff) and Katelyn Bemister and younger brother to Zander on July 16, 2019



**HOLLIS LEWISTON OLSTAD** to Jessica Janzen Olstad ('02) and Ronnie Olstad and older sister Swayzie on April 26, 2019



**MILO IVAN KROEKER** to Julian Kroeker ('10) and Naomi Kroeker on August 29, 2019



Kaitlin Rempel ('06) and Alex Huard welcomed twin girls **SYDNEY** and **EVA HUARD** on October 6, 2019

## WEDDINGS



**BRENDAN WIEBE** ('10) and Maral Sarkes on July 6, 2019.



**AINSLEY WIEBE** ('08) and Adam Stoykewych on September 27, 2019.



**JASON** ('13) Friesen and **LACEY** (Siemens) Friesen on July 7, 2019

## IN MEMORIAM



**MRS. ANNE LOEWEN** passed away October 19, 2019, mere hours before her 90th birthday. During Westgate's first 35 years, Mrs. Loewen volunteered in a myriad of fund-raising activities held by the Westgate's Women's Committee to help secure the school's financial survival. In 1981, she and her husband Aron agreed to reorganize and manage the Westgate Thrift Shop on Selkirk Avenue, where after the store doubled its monthly income and helped augment the school's mortgage payments on its \$1million construction debt amid 22% annum interest. Anne and Aron's children, Ed, Carol and Eric attended Westgate and Mrs. Loewen took keen interest in the activities and progress her granddaughters' Mielen, Rebecca and Melissa's experienced in the school she had devoted so much time and energy to support.

If you'd like to share,  
please get in touch!

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