

CROSSROADS

MENNONITE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

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FIVE STORY CATCH UP

MCI's Vibrant
Community

MCI MUSICAL REFLECTIONS

Celebrating the success of
Matilda the Musical

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*MCI students hanging out at Red
Rock Retreat*

Managing Editor:
Kayla Giesbrecht

“

“Pursue righteousness and a godly life,
along with faith, love, perseverance,
and gentleness.”

1 Timothy 6:12

”



*Doodle Art by Jennifer Klippenstein
MCI Teaching Principal*

Taken from MCI's publication,
Hope & Lament.

*More pieces can be found in MCI's recent publication, **Hope & Lament.**
This 50 page book is filled with visual and written entries from MCI
students and Alumni! To order your own copy, visit www.mciblues.net.*



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MCI students creating Suminigashi/paper marbling in Art class

FROM THE TEACHING PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Greetings from the desk of the Teaching Principal. It is a privilege to share a bit of who I am and what I hope for MCI. I have been an educator for over 20 years in various subject areas and grade levels. I have also been a parent volunteer for many years as my children attended MCI ('19 & '21). Answering God's call to come to MCI two years ago has been a step of faith and obedience in my walk with Christ.

Watching God at work in MCI brings me great joy. A unique feature of MCI is the community that is created and the opportunities students have to serve others. My hope is that through these experiences, and in sharing God's love with each student that walks through our doors, they are encouraged to embrace and live out the words of Jesus in Matthew 22:37, 39; "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind", "and love your neighbour as yourself". God loves them and desires a relationship with them. As students come to MCI, I pray they discover that they are created in HIS image (Genesis 1:27), they belong (Romans 8:14-17), they are chosen as God's special possession (1 Peter 2:9), they are a masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10) and they are his child (Galatians 4:5-7). Thank you for your prayers and support! May God bless MCI this year and in the years to come.



*Jennifer Klippenstein,
MCI Teaching Principal*

Jennifer Klippenstien began serving as Teaching Principal in August. We are pleased to call someone who is already familiar with our school and deeply committed to its mission. She has proven herself to be an effective educator and communicator. She is eager to lead our teaching staff and help MCI be the best school possible.



FIVE STORY CATCH UP

With the lifting of restrictions, many in-person events returned to MCI. Here are a few highlights!

1



SAENGERFEST

Gathering in Buhler Hall for Saengerfest felt extra special this year, as it was the first one since 2019. Alum, Judith Friesen-Epp ('87), gave an inspiring message in the morning service. Elma & the kitchen crew served a delicious lunch before the afternoon concert, that featured MCI's choirs, ensembles and band. A highlight of the afternoon was a mass choir featuring our "pandemic grads," especially as they sang the moving piece 'North'. Thank you to our students for sharing their incredible gifts with us, to our guests for their support and for coming to worship and fellowship with us. It was a day we won't soon forget, one that reminds us of just how special a place MCI is.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

On a beautiful Saturday in June, 86 golfers hit the course for MCI's 8th Annual Golf Classic, presented by Access Credit Union. It was a wonderful day to golf at the beautiful Minnewasta Golf & Country Club, enjoying the friendly competition and delicious Santa Lucia Pizza. Congrats to our winning team of Craig Neufeld ('10), Reed Peters, Delwyn Doerksen & Cole Kehler for finishing their round at 17 under! Thank you to all the golfers who came out to support MCI – you helped us raise \$25,600!



3

TRACK & FIELD PROVINCIALS

MCI's track and field program drew in many students this spring, even some who hadn't been involved in sports yet during the year! The team had a successful day at zones, with many of our track athletes qualifying for provincials, in both individual and team events. Provincials were at the University of Manitoba on June 9-11, where our athletes had mostly top 10 finishes and personal best times. Way to go, Blues!



GRAD 2022

For the first time in 2 years, we were able to have a public grad ceremony to celebrate the class of 2022! It was a thrill to gather at Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church, with proud family and friends, as our 22 grads received their diplomas. Back in Buhler Hall, grads and their families enjoyed a delicious banquet with touching tributes from graduates, parents and staff. These grads and their athletic and artistic talents will be missed in our community. Congrats, class of 2022!



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SOCCER

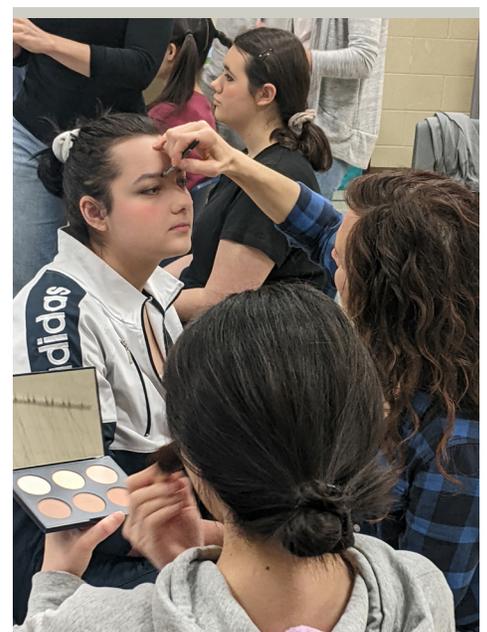
The kick-off to Blues Athletics for the 2022-2023 school year started on the soccer pitch, with our mixed soccer team, coached by Wes Hamm and MCI Athletic Director, Kevin Giesbrecht. The defending champs of last year's Zone IV championship title, faced tough competition all season, but played with grit and determination. Though their season ended earlier than they'd hoped, the team showed a lot of growth and improvement and represented MCI well, on and off the field.



MCI MUSICAL REFLECTIONS

After a two-year hiatus, the doors of Buhler Hall were finally opened to the public, and what would be a more fitting way to do so than an MCI Musical? Matilda provided an abundance of opportunities for the surplus of talent amongst the students, particularly the graduating class of 2022. The pandemic had strained the cross-grade relationships that MCI is known for, but the musical was a perfect way to restore the sense of community in the building. Students worked tirelessly to provide a show of equal caliber to previous years, despite losing out on so many experiences and learning opportunities in the two years prior. The amazing character of our students was also showcased as we observed them helping and encouraging each other consistently throughout the rehearsal process. This is, of course, juxtaposed by the “Revolting Children” they were trying to portray. All this led to four successful shows that not even a flood in Buhler Hall could stop!

Jody Friesen
MCI Choral Director



RETIREMENT

Elma Loeppky retired from her Head Cook position at MCI in June of 2022. This was a position she held for the past 35 years!

We appreciated all of her delicious meals (like MOAF!) and no one will forget the Spicy Franks.

In a moving tribute, grade 12 student, Nic Wiens, noted the following Fun Facts:

- During Elma's time at MCI, she served over 5,827 students
- Prepared over 18,900 meals
- Prepared 35 graduation dinners
- Favourite meals: MOAF (clearly we all love it!), endless bacon, grilled cheese and tomato soup, desserts, burgers and fries



Elma loved her job and cared for all the students and staff she served. We will miss you Elma, but we wish you all the best in retirement! You will always be a Stookie in our hearts.



CURRENT STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Hi! My name is Nelia Fehr. I am 15 years old and I play AAA softball. Recently, I made a team out of Saskatoon called 222's. This team and program help athletes get recruited so that they can play a higher level of softball in college. In October, I will be travelling to Nashville to compete in two tournaments and play in front of scouts. In one of these tournaments, our team will be coached by a couple of college coaches, which will introduce us to how teams are coached at the college level. In December, I will also be going to San Diego for 2 weeks to play in a couple of tournaments there. Overall, this is a great program, with amazing coaches, and I have learned so much. I can't wait to see what the rest of the year has in store.



MCI ALUMNI

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

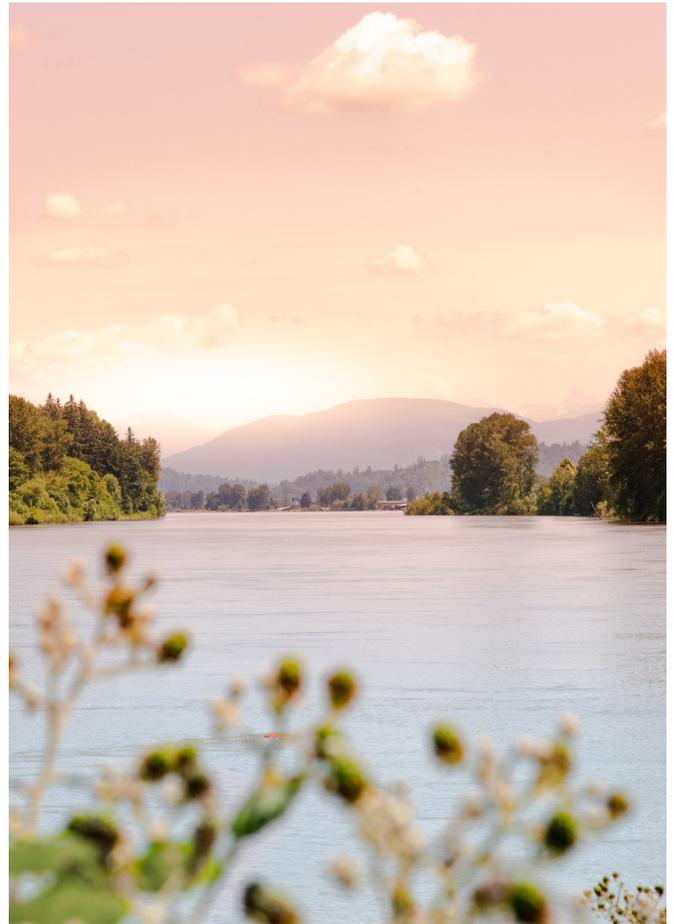
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GWENDOLYN FRIESEN ('19)

This summer I had the amazing opportunity of working for Parks Canada as a photographer in the Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island. After graduating from MCI in 2019, I followed my plan to pursue studies in the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo. Around the same time I entered university, I began to use my camera more; it quickly became a hobby and an outlet I fell in love with. During COVID, I changed my focus and faculty, and I am now pursuing a BA in History and running my photography business on the side.

In spring, I decided I wanted to spend my summer outdoors doing something I loved and applied to a variety of Parks positions across the country. I wound up in Vancouver, based out of Fort Langley National Historic Site, as one of two photographers for the BC coastal Field Unit! I spent the next few months shooting events, historic sites, promotional materials, headshots, educational outreach events, and so much more. Among my many highlights, the one that sticks out to me the most, is the week I spent in Ucluelet and Tofino, shooting at Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. It was there that I had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful Parks staff and capture some of the most beautiful places and scenes I have ever experienced.

While it was hard to make the cross-country move back to Ontario after such an incredible summer, I am excited to be in my final year of my undergrad and wait to see where the future takes me. If you have the opportunity to check out a Parks Canada site, I cannot recommend it enough!



ANDREW HIEBERT ('86)

NEVERTHELESS PEACE



NEVERTHELESS PEACE is a solo exhibition of Andrew Hiebert's latest work. The exhibition was held this September at Fleet Galleries in the heart of the Exchange District in Winnipeg. The exhibition resonates with the pacifism he learned at MCI many years ago.

While at MCI, Andrew was the school's newspaper cartoonist, and yearbook editor. He dreamed of becoming a cartoonist like Bill Watterson, of Calvin & Hobbes fame. Those dreams were redirected, as his strong stand in corporate marketing derailed his Red River Community College interview for their Advertising Art program. His dream then shifted to teaching and he saw himself as an educational designer, curating learning experiences for his students. During the early years of his teaching career, he had no time to draw or paint. Later in his 40's, when hit by a health crisis and the stresses of midlife, he started to paint on the side as a cathartic and therapeutic release. A self-trained artist, he has worked at developing his art through visiting countless art galleries and museums throughout his travels. They have seen him hitch hike alone across Canada, from the Yukon to Newfoundland, backpack through the Middle East with Conrad Zacharias ('86), visit Poland and Lithuania, and live in China for a year teaching English. Not to mention travelling throughout North America, and driving down to Texas from Winnipeg on his motorcycle; all the while looking for sources of inspiration.

In recent years, his artistic endeavours have grown into a disciplined professional practice, in which he seeks to use his God given talent to help ignite the imagination of others, providing a visual nudge that moves them one more millimeter toward God. He does all this while

simultaneously teaching full time at Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute (MBCI) in Winnipeg, where he is the senior physics and chemistry teacher.

NEVERTHELESS PEACE is a visual exploration of questions that appear obvious"

- Can a plant grow beautiful flowers without water or soil?

- Can a person have peace without personal or financial stability?

The answers to both these questions seem to be a resounding 'NO!' and yet he explores surprising possibilities.

For Andrew, peace, like art, works from the inside out. His Christian faith allows it to exist amid the most contrary circumstances. He believes inner peace needs to be deliberately fostered in our hearts, grown through gratitude, appreciation & contemplation. Once grown, the peace within pays emotional and relational dividends in and out of season.

The art in this show is designed for people in the midst of personal and or financial upheaval, who, nevertheless, seek to foster their inner peace.

NEVERTHELESS PEACE is Andrew's 4th solo show. He is a member of numerous artist societies including the Canadian Federation of Artists, and has his work displayed in numerous group shows locally and in the USA. This spring, one of his large abstract works was recognized with an honourable mention in the San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center's exhibition.

Let there be peace on Earth and good will to all.



Scan the QR code to see interview with CHVN

Find Andrew at Manitoba's ART EXPO on October 21-23, 2022.



RED ROCK RETREAT

The last time MCI students were able to go to Red Rock was in the fall of 2019. This meant that the Christian Life Retreat was a new experience for almost the entire student body. Only 4 of our students had been to Red Rock Bible Camp before!



Red Rock was such a great experience. I got to spend more time with friends - growing closer together in our friendship and faith. I enjoyed the cabins and getting to know other girls that I didn't know all that well. It made me feel closer to the community around me at MCI.

One of the main highlights from Red Rock was the Friendship Walk. I loved getting to know so many new people. There was so much positive energy, and everyone was in a good mood and open to share. I got to walk with a lot of newer students, hear about why they chose to come to MCI, and what their first two weeks of school were like.



Another highlight for me was star gazing. I got to do this with a good group of friends, whom I felt I bonded with more. Getting to star gaze and talk about our faith and just become closer was awesome.

One thing that surprised me about Red Rock was how it was different than other camps I've been to. I especially enjoyed the delicious food!

If I had one recommendation for new students at Red Rock, it would be to go into it with an open mind. It's a great time getting to know people better and growing in your faith with those around you. It's something special that is worth being open to.

Larissa Krahn, MCI Student Body President

FINANCIAL UPDATE CORNER



Singing time at Red Rock Bible Camp for the Christian Life Retreat

“...But I Know Who Holds The Future.”

MCI has always relied heavily on the generous support of many donors. Each year approximately 33% of our revenue comes from donations. Tuition, student fees and government grants simply are not enough to keep MCI operating.

As we enter 2022-2023 school year, the need is urgent. Enrolment failed to materialize as anticipated. We currently have less than 60 students. Inflation has added to the cost of nearly everything. We need a sizable increase in donations to cover expenses and avoid a deficit.

We remain grateful for the profound effect MCI has in the lives of young people. Again and again, we hear words of appreciation for what happens on our campus. Our graduates leave this campus equipped for lives of service & leadership; having encountered the living Christ within this community of faith & learning.

Recent years have been difficult. Still, MCI has been able to post modest financial surpluses. However, the year ahead will be especially challenging. This is the time for

all those who believe in the Vision & Mission of MCI to step forward.

A wise old man once told me “I do not know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future.” As we place our trust in God, who holds the future, let us also actively support what God is doing through MCI. In order for us to continue our unique mission, we will call once again for your strong monetary assistance.

Please consider making a financial gift to MCI before the end of 2022.

DONATIONS MAY BE MADE BY:

Giving Online: www.mciblues.net/donate-now

By Mail: Cheques may be sent to MCI, Box 250 Gretna MB, ROG 0V0

By Credit Card: Call the office at (204) 327-5891

For more information on fundraising projects or other ways you might support MCI, please contact Harold Schlegel, Executive Director. haroldschlegel@mciblues.net



UPCOMING EVENTS

All events are subject to change due to Public Health Guidelines.

NOVEMBER

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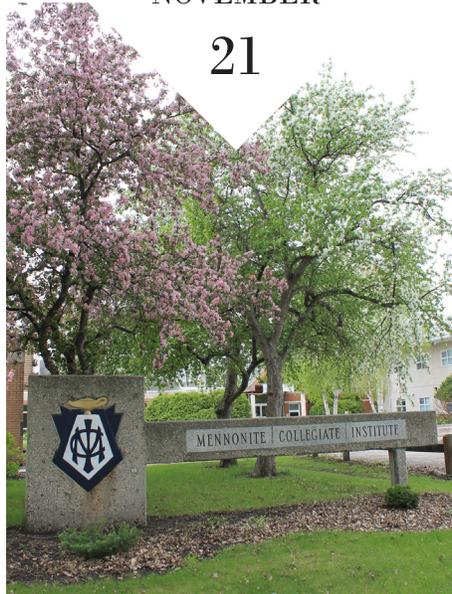


SOUP & PIE and FALL CONCERT

We are excited to have our annual Soup & Pie Fundraiser in person again! Join us from 5-7pm for soup and pie, followed by the Fall Concert at 7:30pm.

NOVEMBER

21

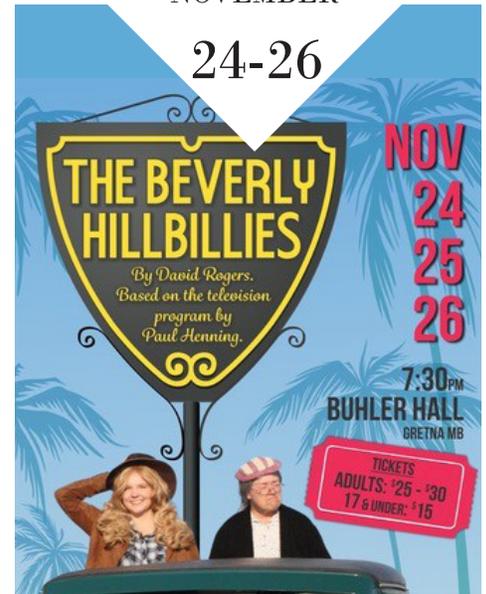


MCI AGM

All are invited to MCI at 7pm, on November 21st, for a time to reflect on the mission of MCI and to help discern the future.

NOVEMBER

24-26



COTTONWOOD COMMUNITY DRAMA

CCD presents Beverly Hillbillies at 7:30pm all nights. Tickets available at www.mciblues.net or by calling (204)327-5891.

DECEMBER

1-3



VARSITY 'A' GIRLS VOLLEYBALL PROVINCIALS

MCI is hosting the Varsity 'A' Girls Provincial Volleyball Tournament. Come watch some of the action December 1st-3rd.

DECEMBER

21



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Join us in Buhler Hall at 7:30pm for our annual Christmas Concert.

MARCH

9-11



MCI MUSICAL

MCI presents their 2023 production of Little Women! Tickets will be available in the New Year at www.mciblues.net or by calling (204)327-5891.

ALUMNI NEWS & UPDATES

Do you have news to share? Email alumni@mciblues.net to be featured!



CLASS OF 1972 REUNION

The class of 1972 met on the MCI campus on September 25th for their 50 year reunion and a meaningful afternoon of connecting and reminiscing. One alumna reflected on what it was like to have her older brother serving as interim principal! Others told stories of spending so much time in the principal's office that he suggested he would need to charge rent if they returned. The class was delighted to see their Zone IV Hockey banner still hangs in MCI's gym. Choir Director, Ben Pauls, joined the reunion and led the group in a song from their Grade 12 year. The group gave heart warming applause to Susie Friesen for her devoted service to MCI.



CLASS OF 2012 REUNION

The class of 2012 met on September 17th at Miss Millie's Flower Farm for their 10 year reunion. Organizer, Victoria (Tubrett) Friesen, said it was a wonderful evening with a great turnout.



LAUREN FEHR ('18)

I am currently in my fourth and final year of a Music-Education degree at the University of Manitoba. After this, I plan to get an education degree and hopefully find a position as a high school choir director. This year, I was fortunate enough to win the David G.H. Waters Hymn Sing Memorial Award, which is annually awarded to a student who is pursuing studies leading to a music degree with a major in voice. My time at MCI had a substantial impact on what I have

decided to study in post-secondary education. While I was in high school, I never quite knew what I wanted to do for post-secondary schooling, only that I wanted it to include music in some way. My choral experience at MCI, along with being part of CMYC and the MCI musicals, has been influential in my decision to work towards a future career in music education.



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ALUMNI NEWS CONTINUED...



Kirsten Hamm-Epp ('07) and husband Ian Epp are happy to announce the arrival of their second son, **Carter Ian Epp**, born on February 8th, 2022. Big brother Peter is a big fan!



Colin and Joelle (Zacharias, '10) Waldner of Manitou, are happy to announce the arrival of their little girl **Lyla Blake**. She was born March 14, 2022, at Boundary Trails Health Centre, weighing 8 pounds, 13 ounces and measuring 21 inches. Proud grandparents are Bob & Josie Waldner from Altona and Wayne & Pauline ('76) Zacharias from Crystal City.



Jeff and Kelsey (Zacharias, '07) Reimer of Crystal City, along with their son Bentley, are happy to announce the arrival of their little boy **Axton Carter**. Born April 3, 2022, at Boundary Trails Health Centre, weighing 9 pounds, 2 ounces and measuring 22 inches. Proud grandparents are Wayne & Pauline ('76) Zacharias and Menno ('74) Reimer & Darlene Hudson from Crystal City.



Ira Ezekiel Derksen was born on July 27th, 2022 at 7lbs 5oz, to Kimberly (Ginter, '15) and Mark Derksen.



Hannon Matthew Siemens was born on June 10th, 2022, at 9lbs 11oz, to Jay ('10) and Samantha Siemens.

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Attention Classes of 2013, 2003, 1993,
1983, 1973, 1963, 1953: **This is a BIG
reunion year for you!**

Contact MCI to assist in planning your
reunion gathering.

Give us a call at 204-
327-5891 or email
alumni@mciblues.net





**Jessica Susanne Dyck
(nee Wiebe)**

February 12, 1985 - April 21, 2022

It is with deep sorrow and much love, that we mourn the passing of Jessica Dyck on April 21, 2022 at the age of 37. She was surrounded by many family members keeping vigil during her final days at Riverview Health Centre in Winnipeg, MB.

Jess will be remembered by her husband of 12 years, Ryan Dyck, her father Bruce Wiebe, her mother Susan Wiebe, her brother Matthew, sister-in-law Christine and nephew Nico, her brother Thomas, sister-in-law Loretta and nephews and nieces Paxton, Zander, Myelle, and Tasha, her parents-in-law George and Dorothy Dyck, her brother-in-law Paul (Alecia) and their children Aysia, Cali and Cade, her brother-in-law Shawn (Rachel) and their child Dominic, and her sister-in-law Christel (Tony) and their children Hunter, Nash, Makenzie, and Grace. She will also be dearly missed by countless extended family members and friends.

Jess was born on February 12, 1985, in Winkler, Manitoba. She grew up on an acreage south of town, where she enjoyed the company of many animals. She loved camping and fishing with her family, playing board games, and expressing herself creatively while playing piano. Her love for helping others drew her to a career in nursing, which she pursued after first attending CMU for several years. She graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing degree from the University of Manitoba in 2008 and worked on an Internal Medicine ward at St. Boniface hospital for 5 years. During this time she met Ryan, and they were married in 2009, after he proposed to her aboard a small airplane while sightseeing around southern Manitoba. They continued to travel and explore new places together throughout their marriage. She started working in the ER at the Victoria General Hospital in 2013. Jess was an extremely competent and compassionate nurse, who treated her patients with love and empathy. In 2009, before she was engaged to Ryan, Jess started experiencing some concerning health symptoms and began undergoing tests. These tests would continue for five years without an accurate diagnosis. After she was diagnosed with Stage 4 Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 2014, it was revealed that several errors had been made by the health care system in the testing process. Because of these devastating mistakes, Jess suffered many setbacks in her treatments and was robbed of many life experiences, including having children of her own. After three years of cancer treatments, she returned to work. From 2017-2020, she juggled working in Oncology at Victoria Hospital Cancer Care in Winnipeg, while flying to Toronto for her own experimental cancer treatments. During this time she also continued volunteering at church. Despite all the trials and heartbreaks, Jess refused

to become bitter or resentful and was determined that cancer would never define who she was. Jess had an extremely strong faith in God, which allowed her to live bravely, choosing hope and an outward focus for those she loved. As Ryan cared for her, and they faced many challenges together, their bond continued to grow. It was obvious that their relationship was rooted in deep love and commitment, infused with inside understandings and humour.

Jess was always keenly interested in what life looked like for others, asking engaged questions about their experiences, and finding the goodness in them. She reveled in pictures of places yet to be visited, the joys of life as seen through the eyes of children, art creations and silly pets. Even when she was feeling low, her desire to squeeze every last drop of goodness out of life, meant visualizing visits postponed for better future days. Jess was also super tough. She took intense medical interventions in stride, texting about a day at the hospital "getting topped up for the weekend." And yet, the fragile and tender Jess was right there alongside that tough and stubborn Jess - and unwavering through the tough and tender times, Jess' confidence in God's promises shone bright. Jess' legacy of bright hope in the face of deep, real struggle, will remain in many of our hearts and minds. We are grateful to have known and will always love this bright wonder of Creation - Jessica.

Memorial donations for Hodgkin's Lymphoma Research may be made in Jessica Dyck's name at www.bloodcancers.ca.


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SOUP & PIE AND FALL CONCERT

NOVEMBER 4TH

SOUP & PIE

5:00-7:00pm

CONCERT

7:30pm



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