



My name is Clarence Braun and I'm a lifetime member of this community we call home: Niverville. I've had a passion for most of my life for adding value to this community, and since 1995 we've seen a percentage of growth unlike any other town in Manitoba. In 1995, Niverville had around 1,450 residents, and in 2016 that number has increased to just under 5,000.

That doesn't happen by accident. Many people need to be thanked for their contributions along the way. Council creates the atmosphere, but it takes developers who are willing to invest—more so, it takes families, parents, grandparents, and business people who are willing to invest their money and time to create something that we call community.

Over the past fifteen years, we have seen significant investments made to our core infrastructure. Significant contributions have been made to ensure that there are homes for seniors to spend their retirement years. The Heritage Centre has provided a wonderful gathering place for seniors who are at different places in their sunset years.

Within this past year the Splash Park was added to bring a water feature for the benefit of the children in Niverville and surrounding area. In 2001 the decision was made to make a significant investment to our community with the beginning of Hespeler's Park. Yet the last significant building that was constructed for recreational enjoyment in our community occurred back in 1967 with the addition of the arena.

Today we stand in an exciting place. Our community has been recognized as the youngest community in Manitoba with an average age of around thirty years old. The schools are bursting at the seams and we are within a few years of having as many as two new schools constructed according to recent information from the Hanover School Division. We are beginning to see new life in retail offerings, and in the next few years I believe that trend will accelerate.

Being the youngest community means that we have many families with young children. So why not create a year-round indoor playground to accommodate these families? Why not create a space large enough to accommodate indoor sports year-round? Why not create a place for all generations to utilize indoor running and walking tracks? Why not create a space large enough to accommodate the annual Remembrance Day service? Why not create a facility large enough to host our annual high school graduation and faith community events?

The "why not" list could go on and on. The next question springs immediately to mind: can we afford this?

Our leaders on council have gone through their budget and confirmed the availability of \$5 million from sources that will not require any tax increase. Recently, an application was sent to the Province of Manitoba and Government of Canada seeking \$8 million in additional funding. As you look through the Niverville Multiplex folder, you'll see that feasibility studies have been carried out to confirm its operational capacity.

The young families of our community cannot do this alone. We will need the help of parents and grandparents who see the value of great recreational facilities for their children and grandchildren. We will need the business community to step in. National foundations and non-Niverville corporate businesses have already indicated a willingness to get involved. We are an agricultural-based community and we will need our many farmers, too, to provide significant help along the way.

Can we actually do this as a community? Together we can. I really believe that.

We began our fundraising campaign with a Community Pancake breakfast and a trailer donated for special use for community barbeques. We'll be beginning the second stage of our fundraising initiative in the next few weeks and you will be contacted for your financial support.

We'll need the \$20 contributions, and then we'll need the \$1,000,000 ones as well—and everything in between. Contributions can be made over any period of time.

On behalf of the Friends of the Plex, Clare Braun, John Funk, Libby Hanna, Clayton Smeltz and Chris Wiebe,

Clare Braun

Title of some kind?