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**BRANDON SUN**

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015  
**BRANDONSUN.COM**

Shawna Munro

**PARENTING POINTS**

Shawna Munro works at the Elspeth Reid Family Resource Centre, a facility of Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba that offers parenting information and support.  
 » 255 Ninth St., Brandon  
 » 726-6280

**Moving away from gender stereotypes**

Over the last several generations, we have made great progress in moving away from gender stereotypes. However, some ideas about male and female roles and traits are so ingrained in our culture that we may not even notice that we are passing them on to our children.

Ideally, every child should live and grow in an environment free of limits or expectations based solely on whether they were born a boy or girl.

In reality, however, our society starts putting labels on children from the time they are infants. Baby girls are often dressed in pink, and boys in blue. Until the baby is older, this is the easiest way for others to know his or her gender at a glance.

During the first few years of life, it is easy to fall into the trap of gender stereotyping. Try instead to pay attention to your child's personality and interests, without limiting his or her experiences to the traditional "gender-appropriate" variety.

There is no such thing as a 'boy' toy or a 'girl' toy. Give your child the opportunity to play with dolls and trucks, blocks and toy dishes, dress-up clothes and sandboxes.

Choose storybooks that have male and female characters, with story lines that are not based on gender stereotypes.

Ignore general statements like "boys learn to talk later than girls" or "girls are not as good at math as boys." The phrase "boys will be boys" tries to excuse rough or rude behaviour, while telling a girl to play nicely so she doesn't mess her hair or clothes sends a clear signal that appearance is more important than play.

Not only are gender-based statements such as these untrue, but they alter our expectations for our children.

If we assume our children will not be successful, we are not in a position to give them the full support they deserve. If we have a predetermined idea of what traits and tendencies they should have, we are not allowing them to find their own unique personalities.

A child should be encouraged to experience all, not just half, of what childhood has to offer.

We need to teach our children, regardless of sex, to be strong and independent, in addition to being kind and caring. When gender does not play a role in how we parent our children, we are able to help them grow to their full potential.

**SCHOOL DAYS**



**CROCUS HAULS IN THE HARDWARE AT SKILLS COMPETITION**

Congratulations to Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School students who participated in the Skills Manitoba Competition earlier this month, and brought home a bundle of medals, including three gold, three silver and five bronze. Gold medal winners were Kyle Hawkins for automotive service, Layne Campbell for welding and Justin Buhr for mechanical CAD (computer-aided design); silver winners included Jason Klimack for mechanical CAD, Nick (Thomas) Edmunds for auto CAD 2D and Ivan Robinson for electronics; the bronze winners were Rachael Beaudette, Chace Benson and Lucas Harvey for robotics, Kerri Nerbas for culinary arts baking and Kyle DeBeer for graphic design. The skills competition was held on April 9 at Red River College in Winnipeg. (Submitted)



**MASSEY WINGS WAY TO HAWAII WITH HELP FROM FORD**

A group of history students at Vincent Massey High School in Brandon couldn't drive to Hawaii — but they did get some help getting there from Kelleher Ford. On March 21, the local Ford dealer and Ford Motor Company of Canada held their innovative Drive 4 UR School program and raised \$2,960 for the Massey world history class trip to the Hawaiian Islands this past spring break. For every person who test-drove a Ford vehicle at the one-day event, Kelleher Ford and Ford of Canada donated \$20 in support of the school trip. (Submitted)

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# 40 staff, local bands pitch in for injured colleague



Clubbing Fraggles are known for their high energy live act that delivers their renditions of a great variety of memorable rock tunes from the '80s and '90s as well as a few surprises. They kick off the benefit evening for Ryan McKay by taking the stage Friday night at 10:45 p.m. (Submitted)



Veteran Brandon band FUGR will close out the evening's live entertainment. Their hard-edge classic rock sound is sure to keep the crowd going from 12:30 a.m. until closing time. (Submitted)

Brandon's music scene has come to the aid of many great causes over the years.

Whenever there is a need to help with something worthwhile in our community, live music is always a viable source of support.

We've run the gamut from charitable events to even helping out individuals who have fallen upon hard times — or in the case of Ryan McKay, been thrust into a situation none of us ever plan to find ourselves in.

Ryan was on his way to work his regular shift at The 40 when the unthinkable happened. He was involved in a head-on collision with a grain truck on Hwy. 10 just north of Forrest.

His co-workers quickly arrived at the decision to help get Ryan back on the road to recovery financially while he recovers physically. Heidi Howarth, general manager of The 40, says Ryan's is currently in rehab in Rivers.

"The staff mentioned they would like to get behind a fundraising event for him. His wife recently had knee surgery and would be off work, too," Howarth said. "Ryan just saved his money to purchase the vehicle involved and we know it will be a tough go in recouping and getting back to where things were before the accident."

The severity of his injuries will require a considerable amount of time in rehab.

"The doctors state he is very lucky person to have survived the accident," she said. "They thought he would lose one leg, but were able to rebuild the knee cap and leg with plates, rods and screws. His other leg had a broken ankle and broken ribs. No internal injuries, I was told."

Howarth says she is very pleased but not surprised to see her staff show their support.

"Ryan is an employee who is

Frank McGwire



## HAPPENINGS ON THE SCENE

Frank McGwire is a veteran of the local radio industry, a musician and booster of the music scene in Brandon and Westman. » [opinion@brandonsun.com](mailto:opinion@brandonsun.com)

well liked and always willing to help others. It is fantastic that the staff, management and the community are giving back to a person who has always contributed to others."

It's truly inspiring how the local music community can come together and support worthwhile causes time and time again. It never ceases to amaze.

This Friday's benefit for Ryan features two well-known local acts, Clubbing Fraggles and FUGR. Both bands love to play music and are always happy to support a worthy cause.

It's safe to say that the bar and the friends and family of Brandon's music community go hand-in-hand and Howarth says she's always happy to help out whenever possible.

"We host many events at The 40 that provide support for the local charities or benefits for persons in need," she said. "A big thank you to all the bands who continually contribute to these events."

Admission at the door is \$10. Monetary donations will also be accepted as well as items for the silent auction. All proceeds will go directly to Ryan McKay.

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