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JOINING FORCES

High school rivals come together for national champs

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Photo by Arielle Godbout

Melanie Burt stands next to Apakway Pond — formerly Pond 1 — along the Bishop Grandin Greenway. Burt suggested the name Apakway, which means cattail in Ojibwa, to remind people of the area's history as well as the cattails that grow along the pond.

Local trio knows what's in a name

Winners of pond-naming contest inspired by nature and local history

St. Vital

BY ARIELLE GODBOUT

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When it comes to the name game, they're the champs. Three St. Vital residents are the winners of

the Bishop Grandin Greenway Inc.'s Name the Greenway Ponds contest.

The three man-made lakes, which are situated along the Bishop Grandin Greenway and serve as retention ponds for stormwater, have been known until now as Ponds 1, 2 and 3.

Now, Pond 1 — located near River Road — is called Apakway Pond, thanks to resident Melanie Burt, a student at the University of Manitoba.

Pond 2 — located close to St. Mary's Road — is now Eagles Pond, a name courtesy of Guent Salzman, a retiree who lives in the area with his wife.

And finally, Pond 3 — located just west of St. Anne's Road near Home Depot — has the new moniker of Nature's Haven, suggested by Grade 8 student Nicole Hallett.

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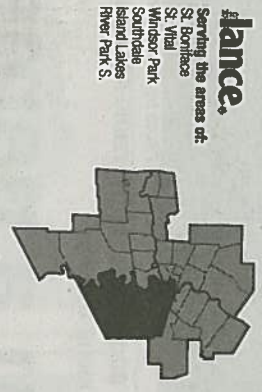
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New pond names reflective of area's history, group say
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Burt explained that Apakway is the Ojibwa word for cattails, which encircle the pond. She felt the name would also remind people about the greenway's past.

"Since the area was originally inhabited by aboriginal people, namely Ojibwa, I thought it was appropriate," she explained.

Burt, who lives about 10 minutes from Apakway Pond, said she often uses the greenway for jogging or walking.

She said she thought the contest was a good way to engage the community.

"It brings more ownership towards (the ponds)," she said. "Naming them makes people more proud of the place."

Salzman chose the name Eagles Pond because it blends history with the natural elements of the greenway as well.

While he says he's seen a number of bald eagles in the area lately, his real inspiration for the name was the Eagles Athletics Club in the 1920s.

The club is one of Salzman's earliest



EAST POLICE DISTRICT

CRIME TYPE	MAY 22-28, 2011	MAY 22-28, 2010
Break & enter - commercial	7	7
Break & enter - other	3	20
Break & enter - residential	12	18
Homicide	0	0
Robbery - commercial/financial	1	6
Robbery - non-commercial/financial	2	5
Sexual assault	0	1
Shooting	1	0
Theft motor vehicle - actual	1	0
Theft motor vehicle - attempt only	7	13
	0	10

memories of St. Vital from when he first moved to the area as a 12-year-old.

"Several neighbourhood kids were allowed into the clubhouse to just sit and watch," he recalled, adding he has fond memories of watching boxers practice in the club during the long winters.

"It was a place to go and be warm."

Salzman added he was glad the ponds were named by residents, instead of by politicians who may have chosen names that don't mean much to the community.

Hallett, a Grade 8 student at Victor H. L. Wyatt School, suggested the name Nature's Haven for the last pond after encountering the word 'haven' in a book.

"I just kind of thought it went well with the pond, because it's almost like a paradise," said Hallett, who often takes bike rides along the greenway.

Hallett added she was very proud that her name suggestion was chosen among all the other entries — including some from her classmates.

"My best friend was saying it's cool because now I'm part of history," she said.

Michelle Meade of Bishop Grand Greenway Inc. added there were many wonderful suggestions among the 10 entries for the contest.

The judges liked some of the names much they decided to incorporate more into the pond namings.

A section of the trail near Apakway Pond will be identified as Bittersweet for the bittersweet vines that grew in the area during the 1930s and '40s.

One of the bays of Eagles Pond will be named Beetles Bistro Bay, in reference to the damselflies, snails, toads and tadpoles that live in and around the water.

Finally, one of the bays of Nature's Pond will be called Flutterby Bay, to recognize Monarch butterfly waystation established by area students in the area.

Meade added the new names will be celebrated during International Trail Day, Sat., June 4.

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TABS FOR WHEELCHAIRS

Tabs for wheelchairs, a fundraising program started by Holy Cross School, presented its 10th wheelchair to Tarok on Wed., May 25. Tarok, 9, attends Carman Elementary School. He received a specialized Krypto Pediatric wheelchair.

Holy Cross School collects pop can tabs from schools, companies, organizations and hundreds of individuals across the province, then sells the tabs to raise money that goes towards purchasing wheelchairs for kids.

Photo prov.