

Homeless shelter set up

by Judy Peters

THERE will soon be a shelter in Steinbach to provide a place for homeless people to sleep while they search for

a permanent home.

A steering committee was formed late last year after an article in *The Carillon* brought attention to the issue of homeless people searching for a warm place to

sleep on cold winter nights.

Seeing the photograph of how two people had created a "home" at the garbage dump pulled at heartstrings, said Simone Penner, a member of the

steering committee.

The newspaper story included comments from people who frequently come into contact with the homeless. Each was adamant about the need for a shelter. There was strong agreement on that issue; however, the delay was that no one was willing to step forward and take on such a considerable project.

Penner and her family decided at Christmas time they would get the ball rolling to get a homeless shelter operating in the community.

The committee was officially formed in January and has established Today House Inc., a not-for-profit emergency shelter.

"This committee has been so incredible," exclaimed Penner. "An invigorating group, none of them hesitated to be part of the steering committee."

This shelter will provide emergency transitional housing for individuals who are homeless or involved in the street in Steinbach, said Penner. The shelter will also work closely with community partners to address issues that contribute to homelessness in Steinbach such as mental health, poverty and food security.

At this time, Today House is seeking grants and financial support to develop the program.

A suitable house has been found in Steinbach which will serve as a shelter and the committee is now in search of house parents.

"The couple would be responsible to clean the shelter and be there in the evening if there is someone there occupying the basement of the shelter," Penner explained. "They would be free to go to work during the day because the shelter is only going to be accessed in the evenings and overnights." The shelter will have up to four people occupying the basement at any given time.

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Culturama breaks attendance record

by Chris Gareau

STEINBACH'S annual Culturama keeps on getting more popular, with 1,459 visitors packing the 55-Plus Centre in the festival's fourth year.

That breaks last year's record attendance of about 1,200, so southeastern Manitoba can expect the cultural showcase to be back again for a fifth time.

"It seems to be growing every year and we still get really good par-

ticipation from all the various cultural groups to come and perform and cook us up some good food, so we'd like to keep it going," said Eastman Immigrant Services (EIS) executive director Linda Peters.

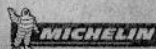
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CHRIS GAREAU • THE CARILLON

Latin Fever, a group of newcomers that have settled in the southeast region put on a colourful show for the record audience that attended this year's Culturama at Steinbach's 55 Plus Centre on Saturday.

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JUDY PETERS • THE CARILLON

Today House Inc. steering committee Joy Neufeld, Kyle Penner, Debbie Krahn, Allan Penner, Simone Penner, Moni Loewen, Bev Unger, Dr. Curtis Krahn, Irene Kroeker. (Missing from photo: Bill Richards, Bill Kehler). Some committee members participated in the Pick Up and Walk event last weekend and found a small piece of carpet with a blue pillow nestled among rocks in a field. They saw this as reassurance a homeless shelter is needed in Steinbach. The carpet and pillow were not seen as garbage to be removed, rather it was seen as someone's bed, and was left in place.

Homeless shelter now in city

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The committee is looking for help to furnish the building. Questions can be e-mailed to todayhouseinc@gmail.com.

In June the steering commit-

tee will be dismantled and a board of directors will take its place. The board will include Dr. Curtis Krahn, Bill Richards, Bev Unger, Irene Kroeker, Al-

lan Penner, Simone Penner and Moni Loewen.

The shelter is expected to be up and running this fall, prior to the onset of cold winter weather.

Carillon for Chr

THE Carillon has won a national award for its Christmas edition and also received a blue ribbon award emblematic of general excellence.

The newspaper Christmas edition, published in December last year, won second place in the national competition.

"This was a good overall edition with nice pictures and ads throughout. The Christmas writing contest was a nice idea. The winners' articles were unique, interesting, touching and personal. A lot of full color added to the overall impression of the edition," commented Renay Kowalczyk who judged the category.

First and third place, respectively, were won by the *Mountaineer* of Rocky Mountain House, AB and *The Lunenburg Country Progress Bulletin* of Lunenburg, NS.

The blue ribbon awarded in the general excellence category denotes newspapers who have achieved 80 percent of the top mark awarded. One other Manitoba newspaper, *The Dauphin Herald*, won third place in the best editorial page competition although it competes in a smaller newspaper class.

Awards were made at the annual convention of the Canadian Community Newspapers Association held last week in Toronto. The newspaper was represented by publisher Glenn Buffie.

Drugs used by all ages

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Constable T.J. Clarke has worked on special units with the RCMP, dealing quite a bit with illegal drugs. In his work, Clarke

are being done," said Clarke. "It's more than just boredom. They are looking to fuel an addiction or to find things to exchange for drugs."

If people know of something that is current, they should call 911 or 326-1234 so police can act on it while it's still fresh.

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