

... and now
for some

GOOD NEWS

From learning to earning

Asper & Harvest team up to launch new training centre

TYLER ESQUIVEL
Winnipeg Sun

The Asper Foundation has joined forces with Winnipeg Harvest to help teach people the tricks of the trades.

On Wednesday, Harvest unveiled a new training centre — The Asper Learning & Friendship Village — giving at-risk youth, immigrants and low-income individuals the skills to be effective in the workplace.

The Foundation approached Harvest with the idea of improving the existing courses, and offered \$100,000 in capital to support the programs and an additional \$25,000 over the next three years.

The centre will provide courses in food handling, American Sign Language, forklift training and advocacy workshops. David Northcott, executive director of Winnipeg Harvest, envisions the long-term economic impact these courses will have.

"Given the chance, if we

can get them into the job market, everybody's winning in that. But you just don't throw them into the job market — it's a journey, and we've got to walk the journey step by step," he said.

David Asper, chairman of the Asper Foundation, said he wants the centre to offer more than job skills.

"I think it's very important that one of the objectives of this centre will be to allow people to have fun and to relax," he said.

Becky Froese has volunteered at Harvest since 2004 and landed a job at Bistro 7 1/4 in Osborne Village. Froese has Asperger's syndrome and thinks others like her can have similar success.

"I hope people who also have Autism or Asperger's see it as, well there's a chance that the right people will find you and will give you the opportunity to get what you deserve," she said.

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CHRIS PROCAYLO/WINNIPEG SUN

David Asper (left) & David Northcott unveiled the Asper Learning & Friendship Village at Winnipeg Harvest on Wednesday.

Hope in fashion

Ronald McDonald House of Manitoba is hosting its 27th annual Hope Couture Fashion Gala fundraiser at Delta Winnipeg on Thursday night.

"This event truly embodies the philanthropic spirit of Winnipeg by offering guests the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of families we keep together every day," said Allison

Kesler, executive director of Ronald McDonald House of Manitoba.

Fashion models, including children who have called Ronald McDonald House home, will be donning fashions from Polo Park Shopping Centre.

Tickets are \$150 and are available by calling 204-774-4777. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the show starts around 8 p.m.

Russian studies

More than 1,500 students from around the world arrived at the G20 Youth Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia on Wednesday, including 10 professors and students from the University of Manitoba.

Canadian institutes sent 30 people across the pond to attend the largest civil society event of the year. Students and professors will discuss worldly

issues over the three-day summit.

The students selected to represent the University of Manitoba at the summit had to write a short essay outlining why they would make a good candidate.

Other Canadian institutes represented at the summit include the University of Guelph, Queen's University, Memorial University, University of Saskatchewan and Ryerson University.

A natural win

The Assiniboine Park Conservancy wants teens to become one with nature.

The Conservancy is hosting the 14th annual Get to Know Contest where it encourages teens to 'get to know' the natural world that surrounds them. The contest is meant to inspire creativity through writing, video, music and photography.

The contest kicked off on Wednesday when grade seven and eight students explored the park and zoo. The Parks Programming team will work with more than 200 students during the contest.

The contest runs until August 1. Winners are eligible for a variety of prizes, such as having their work published in the 2014 Get to Know calendar.

Esprit de Corps

The Army Cadet Corps will be celebrating its 100th anniversary this Saturday, as cadets and others parade down the streets of Winnipeg.

Beginning at 1 p.m., cadets joined by The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada and veterans of the Regiment, will start at the Scots Monument at the intersection of

Waterfront Drive and James Avenue. Lead by pipes and drums, they will march to City Hall.

Following the morning's ceremonies, there will be a dinner Saturday evening for the Army Cadet Corps and its supporters with the Lt.-Gov. Philip Lee and by Brigadier-General Martin Galvin, Commander of 2 Canadian Air Division.