

Youth tackle global poverty issues

By Cori Bezan

Middle school students from three local schools attended a youth conference in Morden last week to learn more about poverty in the world.

The conference, entitled "Generating Momentum for Our World: Goals for a Better World", reached out to 30 students from Cartwright School, Manitou's Nellie McClung Collegiate, and Winkler's Parkland School in order to educate them on poverty reduction through information sessions, games, and workshops.

"It's a conference that brings middle year students together to look at what they can do to create a better world," said Janice Hamilton, executive director of Manitoba Council for International Cooperation, which hosted the event.

The conference is held annually with a new theme each year, Hamilton explained.

"It's always based on a theme and this year it's goals for a better world," she said. "We provide them with information on the topic and then we also give them skills."

This year's theme was chosen in part because of the Millennium Development Goals, created by world leaders in the year 2000 to make substantial progress against eight major global

issues by the year 2015.

Hamilton said that while progress has been made in some areas, the world still has a long way to go.

The morning consisted of educational circuit sessions, where students learned about planning and promoting. In the afternoon, the students attended various creative workshops including video, silk screening, theatre, and digital photography—all creative means to get a message across to the masses.

"We're hoping that the students will learn that how if we work together we can accomplish great things and improve the livelihoods of everyone," Hamilton said.

"Hopefully they realize the role that they can play in the world," she added. "What they do here actually does affect people elsewhere, whether that's through our consumer choices, our environmental practices, or our awareness of other people and their issues."

Joyce Mcleod, a teacher at Cartwright School, was glad to bring her students to the conference, and hoped that it would make a difference.

"We feel that it's important for the younger students to learn about all the different problems in the world because they're the ones that are going to be helping to solve those prob-



PHOTO BY CORI BEZAN/VOICE

Youth from Winkler, Manitou, and Cartwright play a game to illustrate issues of global poverty at a conference hosted by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation in Morden last week.

lems."

"I think awareness is a big thing, just to be more aware . . . because a lot of these kids aren't."

Mcleod said she hopes the youth are inspired to get out there and start making a difference on both the small and large-scale.

"For them to participate in activities and maybe even spearhead some activities and to be more vocal about some of the things that they see happening that they don't think are fair in the world."

The kids already have a pretty good handle on some of the problems that plague societies around the globe.

"A lot of people in the world don't have homes or money and have to live in the streets. It's dangerous," said Jevon McDonald, a student from Cartwright School.

Fellow Cartwright student Colin McDonald added that it was important to talk about these issues, "so they don't have to have a bad life with nothing."

The conference will now travel to Virden, Winnipeg, Minnedosa, and Selkirk before the end of February, reaching out to more middle-school students with its message to end world poverty.

Residents speak out against developer's plans

By Cori Bezan

A rezoning and variation order was met with a lot of opposition at Morden city council on Monday night in regards to the property at 375 Thornhill Street.

The house, which once belonged to the Menzies family, was put up for sale and purchased by Glenberg Homes & Designs, who is now proposing to construct condominiums on the lot.

"There is a lot of work to be done," said Sam Berg of Glenberg Homes & Designs about the state of the house. Berg went on to outline the water damage, bulging stairways, and the need to rewire the entire building, among other repairs and upgrades.

Berg estimated the cost to renovate the home would be around \$150,000,

a price he felt was not worth putting in at its current location.

"Could there be a better use of this property?" he asked, adding that he plans to relocate the home rather than destroying it in order to build the condos.

Several citizens came out in opposition of the project.

Kaye Kube said that she didn't believe the condos belonged beside a busy highway and that she feared for the small-town feel of the community should the home be moved.

She added that there were no plans for additional resident and guest parking in the plans, and that it would bring additional traffic to an already busy street (referring to Nelson Street).

"It would change the heart of the city forever, and not for the better,"

Kube said. "Think about what you will be losing if you allow this to happen."

Amy Klassen also opposed the proposition, explaining that she had bought the house directly north of the affected property for its beauty and comfort in which to raise a family, but is now also concerned about the beauty and safety of her home.

City council noted it had no control

over the sale of the property, but understands the citizens' concerns.

"Lots of people are interested in the heritage and beauty of our home," said Councillor Heather Francis.

"People don't want to see this house gone," added Councillor Doug Frost.

The hearing was closed and will be revisited again in two weeks after council has had time to review the rezoning proposal.

> WATER RATES, FROM PG. 6

"That's really been the background reason why we're recommending a fairly substantial increase in water rates," Deputy Mayor Irvin Wiebe explained at the time.

"As much as council hates to see the water rates go up, we really had no

option and to some extent we're really just catching up to where water rates are already," he added, noting the increase brings Morden more in line with rates in other neighbouring communities.