

DIGEST

DEATHS

BURDZ, John, husband of Sania.
CARTY, Sylvia, wife Brian.
CHARETTE, Soeur Yvette (M. St-Ovide), 90.
DOERKSEN, Frank, husband of Mary.
DRAFFIN, Helen, 88.
DUANE (nee JOHNSON), Sandra Laura Dorothy.
DUCHARME (nee LAVALLEE), Pearl Marie, widow of Louis.
FOWLER, John (Jack), 84, of Gimli, husband of Florence.
HARRIS, Henry, husband of Anne.
JACOBSON, Mildred, 74, wife of Jack.
KAWKA, Nicholas, 92.
KWIATKOWSKI, Michael, husband of Stella.
MALONE, Nellie, 91, of Lundar.
NOCITA, Domenico.
OAKLEY, Anne Elizabeth, 77.
PIERSON, Richard, husband of Shannon.
POPIEL, Josephine Marie, widow of

Edward.
RURAK, Joseph Paul, 81, of Portage la Prairie, widower of Jean.
SAINDON, Philippe Louis, husband of Stella.
SAWATZKY, Florence, 81, of Selkirk, widow of Abraham.
SHEARER, Willa Mae, 67.
WEBINGER, Peter, 48.
WINBERG, Joseph Victor, widower of Lillian.
ZACHARKO, Gertraud "Gertie" Martha, 81.
Classified Death Notices B10.

OUR MISTAKE

Young United Church is holding a Christmas service called God's Gift is for Everyone on Dec. 19. Incorrect information appeared in yesterday's *Winnipeg Neighbours*

LOTTERIES

PICK 3
 Winning number yesterday was 503.
LOTTO 6/49
 Winning numbers yesterday were: 1, 17, 32, 35, 38, 48. The bonus number was 26
THE EXTRA
 Winning number for the main prize of \$250,000 was 3513507.
WESTERN 6/49
 Winning numbers yesterday were: 6, 14, 15, 40, 48, 49. The bonus number was 17.

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Osborne House

Continued from page A1

Bertrand said the province was troubled with the results of the audit, but would not elaborate on what it found other than to say Osborne House was struggling to meet its budget and there had been staff and client complaints about the shelter.

"I'm surprised they resigned," she said. "I'd hoped they'd remain in place and we could work through these issues."

But Osborne House board members paint a different picture of what went wrong.

Board member Cathy Gaudry said the board welcomed the audit and was willing to work to improve the situation, but received no co-operation from government officials. She acknowledged the board struggled to maintain its budget, but said the government did not do its part to help.

Gaudry noted new contracts were negotiated in 2000 with two unions representing about 50 staff. The contracts called for salary increases ranging from two to 2.3 per cent per year to 2005.

The shelter's budget could not accommodate the raises, Gaudry said.

"The government negotiated those increases but we couldn't fund them and they refused to do so," she said.

As a result, the shelter has a salary deficit of about \$52,000.

Board members have been fundraising on their own — even bagging groceries at Safeway — and have raised \$90,000 this year. But Gaudry said that money should be used to pay

for improved services at the shelter, not to fund salary shortfalls.

Gaudry said the board was never notified of any staff or client complaints about services or programming.

In October, the board asked the province to enter into mediation to try to resolve the issues. The government declined the offer.

Most recently, Gaudry said, the province withheld the shelter's funding in December, leaving the board wondering if it was going to be able to meet payroll this month. The funding eventually arrived, but Gaudry said she believes the province used the tactic to threaten the board.

"We had staff members, at Christmas time, not knowing if they were going to get paid or not," she said.

"We felt bullied, abused and threatened by them."

Deputy Tory family services critic Myrna Driedger said the resignations add to the growing list of problems in the department.

The Family Services Department has been under scrutiny of late as a result of a number of scandals, including allegations of misspending of \$1.5 million at Hydra House, a social agency for disabled children and adults, and more than \$1 million in financial mismanagement at Aiyawin Corp., an aboriginal housing agency. "They're going from one crisis to another," she said. "They're not managing these situations well."

Gaudry said the Osborne House problem highlights the need for a public inquiry into the department.

Bertrand said the province will put a co-manager in place at Osborne House to get the facil-



KEN GIGLIOTTI / WINNIPEG FREE PRESS ARCHIVES

Bertrand: surprised by resignations

ity back on track. The remaining board members will begin a recruitment campaign to replenish their ranks.

Osborne House is the largest of 10 abuse shelters in Manitoba. This year, the facility will receive about \$1.2 million in provincial funding. It serves about 3,000 women and children each year through shelter or crisis support.

leah.janzen@freepress.mb.ca

Announcements



Mia Rabson has been appointed Legislature Bureau Chief for the *Winnipeg Free Press*. Rabson holds a masters of arts in journalism degree from the University of Western Ontario. She has covered the legislature since 2001. Prior to that, she worked as a general assignment reporter at the *Free Press*, and did a stint as a reporter in the Washington Bureau of *The*

Detroit News in 2000. Rabson can be reached at 947-0401, or mia.rabson@freepress.mb.ca.

Paul Egan has joined the full-time staff of the *Winnipeg Free Press* as a reporter. Egan holds a journalism degree from Carleton University and has worked at *The Detroit News*, the *Lansing State Journal*, *The Royal Gazette* in Bermuda and the *Sarnia Observer*. His first newspaper job was in Manitoba, at the former *Northern Times* in Thompson. Egan has won awards for investigative and beat reporting in Canada, the United States and Bermuda. Egan joins the newspaper's legislature bureau. He can be reached at 943-6575, or paul.egan@freepress.mb.ca.



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