



## The Point Community News



North & South Point Douglas ♦ Explore Life in The Point!

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### SISTARS - Sisters Initiating Steps Toward A Renewed Society

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#### Come celebrate with us! [The Grand Opening of Eagle Wing Child Care Centre](#)

Eagle Wing Early Education Centre: New building is now completed!

The [Grand Opening Celebration](#) will be held on June 21 at 4:00, with a tour, speakers, food and more. Check out wonderful, light and airy childcare space. (The Barber House opening will be a separate event.)

#### Other upcoming events

- Day of Caring with the Royal Bank of Canada volunteers will be held on June 15 from 10 to 4. Several volunteers from RBC and Wal-mart will be on hand to construct vegetable and flower gardens on the front lot the Barber House property.
- On June 16 from 3:30-8:00 volunteers from Point Douglas will be able to continue the Day of Caring by planting the gardens or whatever else is found for them to do on the Barber House/Eagle Wing property.

We will have it beautiful by the day of the Open House.

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You are Invited to  
Eagle Wing Early Education Centre  
Opening Celebration  
June 21, 2011  
4:00 p.m.  
99 Euclid

Greetings and Thanks, Building Tour, Snacks

Come Celebrate With Us

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\*\*\* Bulletin \*\*\*












Last updated: Feb 16, 2012

**46098**

Aug 10/10 - Construction is underway on our new daycare building and the Barber House seniors centre!

Our progress, in pictures:



<p>Barber House set ablaze by vandals in June 2010</p>	<p>A sorry sight</p>	<p>Not even a roof</p>
		
<p>The dream project - Barber House restored and a new daycare centre</p>	<p>Signing the contract to get the work underway</p>	<p>Breaking ground at the site</p>
		
<p>Foundation for Eagle Wing daycare building</p>	<p>The next step</p>	<p>Construction site</p>
		
<p>Before the cement</p>	<p>Cement going down</p>	<p>Walls going up!</p>
		<p>and the work continues ... stay tuned!</p>
<p>More walls to come</p>	<p>Angel in a hard hat</p>	

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**September 2010 Update -**



September 10 was a day for celebration as several supporters of the project came together for the official announcement proclaiming the million dollar grant from the Province of Manitoba.

SISTARS is so thankful to the many people who have supported this project over the years, beginning with Christine Melnyk. Christine Melnyk said "yes" to the community based ECE II training program, "yes" to a temporary daycare for the students' children, and "yes" to construct a new daycare to serve Point Douglas and beyond.

Many, many others have lent their invaluable support over the years and we are so very thankful that we have had two graduating classes from the ECE II program, and are now watching the construction of our new daycare with great excitement.

Barber House has always been part of the plan, and it hasn't been forgotten. Various groups fund different projects, so the daycare had to be the first priority. Funding applications are ongoing for the Barber House renovations.



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June 10/10:

**The Phoenix Rises! - Barber House will be Renewed** - I think the image of a phoenix rising from the ashes may be a bit overdone (possibly a semi roasted phoenix?)

We in the Point, and particularly the local group SISTARS are not unused to setbacks. The roof of Barber House is literally "toasted" and the second floor has been destroyed. However we already knew we had to replace most of the roof and planned to remove second floor. ([Read full article](#))

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## SISTARS Vision for Community Hub & Barber House



### SISTARS Eagle Wing Childcare Centre

This is a visual update on what is happening with SISTARS childcare facilities (Eagle Wing Early Education Centre). We are making slow but steady progress; we have really appreciated the support we have had from so many agencies, government departments and individuals.

SISTARS, working with Wins Bridgman Collaborative Architects and funded by many departments and agencies of government now has plans and drawings of how the new childcare at 99 Euclid Avenue will look.

The childcare centre is designed for 44 children; 12 infants and 32 preschool children. There will be one infant room and two preschool rooms. Those children now attending Eagle Wing Childcare in the basement of the Filipino Hall will be moving into this brand new "best practice" childcare building.

The daycare will have an attached "playtrium" which is a combination of a play area and an atrium. This area will also be used for

community room. It will be attached to a renovated Barber House. The playtrium follows the footstep of the old summer kitchen which used to be part of Barber House.

The hope is that Barber house exterior will be restored as closely as possible to its former glory and proudly takes its place as a gem, the oldest house in Manitoba, in our beautiful historic Point Douglas.

We are planning a very new approach to the playground. We researched a number of childcare playgrounds and found childcare responded most enthusiastically to natural playgrounds with trees and pathways, sand piles and planters. We also discovered these are very safe play areas for young children, leading to fewer falls, bruises and breaks. The natural play area brings children in touch with nature and stimulates more imaginative play.

A newly formed seniors group (North Point Douglas Seniors Association) has approached SISTARS for the privilege of becoming permanent tenants of Barber House. The interior of the old house will be a large open area, suitable for a senior drop-in centre also available for small meetings or receptions for the community.

The board has worked very hard for the last three months with meetings almost every week. It is just amazing the number of details needed to produce a "best practice" childcare. Lines of vision, counter and heights of toilets and sinks, square footage per child which varies according to age of the child; each week the board and our Childcare Director with our patient architects move walls and doors, windows and toilets, all to produce the best childcare centre possible. Stake holders who are members of government department and agencies also attended these meetings to make sure we got it right. The meetings were often long but rarely too long, thanks to excellent chairing.

We are all very excited as the new building with the attachment to Barber House is so close to the wishes and vision expressed our community during the public consultations several years ago. These hopes and dreams started with a small group of residents to whom we owe thanks. Many past members of SISTARS boards also worked hard to bring us to where we are now; we are proud to count two of the original Sisters of SISTARS still on our present board, Sandy Dzedzora and Angel Peterson.

It is so exciting to see how our dream will look after so many meetings, but the really exciting piece will be when we put the first spade in the ground; which truly should be this spring.

Thank you to all of you who have waited patiently while we worked through so many small difficulties.

Thank you also to the wonderful people at Wins Bridgman, especially Marcella who has helped us so very much.

Chris Burrows  
Secretary SISTARS

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**SISTARS - (Sisters Initiating Steps Toward A Renewed Society)** is a Community Economic Development Co-op that was founded by a group of inner city women mostly from Point Douglas, for the purpose of removing economic, social and bureaucratic barriers to women's self-empowerment. The women saw the need to bring some hope and a future to Point Douglas, which was suffering from urban decay and neglect.

SISTARS membership is open to males or females, but it has been mostly our women who felt that by creating a central "HUB" we could create a centre of energy, which would form a nucleus for the rebirth of Point Douglas.

As is the case with so many grass roots projects, the toll on the participants was enormous; but we honour the efforts of former board members, all volunteers who gave so freely of their time and energy.

SISTARS had a magnificent vision for their HUB. Wins Bridgman was hired to proceed with a visioning and consultation process which included the dreams and wishes of our local community, including the school children. All of this was documented and still exists.

Bringing the HUB to reality proved to be more of a nightmare than a dream. Unsophisticated inner-city women were pitted against the complexity of bureaucracy. The initial vision for the HUB included a daycare that would also double as a training place for women to start a future in child care work. The original plan included a community wellness room, a Laundromat, a coffee shop more. There was also a component of SISTARS that hoped to provide affordable housing for residents.

SISTARS, working with the Filipino Seniors Centre, has a daycare in the basement of the hall. In the daytime the main hall is a study and lecture hall for Red River students who are taking their early childhood education. Family Services and Housing (FSH) have provided support and helped the fledgling daycare grow in a less than perfect environment.

SISTARS faced a number of set-backs with staffing issues and board changes. SISTARS found the business of being landlords difficult and frustrating and they finally sold off their last property to a new home owner in Point Douglas.

After a long and difficult struggle SISTARS is once again working with Wins Bridgman, although currently our goals are far more modest. We are building an excellent daycare, with a small community-use room. We are also planning as a second stage to join the daycare to Barber House, for which we hope to obtain Heritage and Legacy grants to restore it to its former charm.

Barber House is the oldest remaining building in Winnipeg; it will be a brilliant tourist destination. The plan is during the day the children will use the area as a large-muscle activity area; in the evenings the historic old building will be available as a rental for small groups or receptions.

The struggles of Barber House have been an epic of survival. At one point the old home was almost restored due to the unflagging work of many local people. All the love and work that went into the restoration was destroyed by silly vandals who torched the building, but the grand old place was just too tough to burn down.

I think that SISTARS sees the recovery of Barber House as a metaphor for Point Douglas; as Barber House is restored to its old beauty so will our community rebuild itself. What an amazing juxtaposition; the oldest house in Manitoba nurturing the need of our youngest community members.

Chris Burrows  
Secretary SISTARS

**To find out how you can support or join SISTARS, contact any of the Board members:**

Angel Peterson - chair 942-1904  
 Sandy Dzedzora - co-chair 943-0815  
 Barb Matheson - treasurer 285-7101  
 Chris Burrows - secretary 956-4090  
 Ko'ona Cochrane - Red River College Liaison 586-7122 [top](#)

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### SISTARS STATUS report November 19<sup>th</sup>. 2009

The voting members of the board are: Angel Peterson- *chair*; Sandy Dzedzora-*co-chair*; Barb Matheson-*treasurer*; Chris Burrows-*secretary*; Ko'ona Cochrane-*Red River College student and rep.*

SISTARS board members despite ill health and/or challenging work schedules are staying the course. The new Eagle Wing Childcare Centre is planned to be part of a complex including the historic old Barber House as a Community Use room.

It was decided by the board to review the two firms that had been involved in designing the new daycare; BIOS, and Wins Bridgman Collaborative Architecture. The original community consultations and design were done by Wins Bridgman Collaborative Architecture. Michael Robertson had been the project manager; the remaining members of the earlier board could not understand what had transpired between Wins and Michael and why we were now involved with BIOS.

The board decided to ask each firm for an evening presentation. BIOS and Wins Bridgman Collaborative Architecture both gave thorough, impressive and professional presentations.

The five members of the board later convened to consider, evaluate and decide upon which architectural firm to hire. After some discussion, the general opinion was that the Wins Bridgman Collaborative Architecture design proposal was closer to the wishes of the community as expressed in the earlier consultations. We also thought that Wins Bridgman Collaborative Architecture had the most experience and an excellent reputation. Sandy and Angel who were the original board members felt strongly that we should try to stay true to the community's vision. Eventually we all agreed to come to a consensus and ask Wins Bridgman Collaborative Architecture to help us build our dream.

One of the pluses of the Wins Bridgman Collaborative Architecture team was that they offered us a brilliant and charming young woman, who would literally nursemaid SISTARS through all the bureaucratic difficulties we were about to face.

Without Marcella, I doubt we would have come a quarter of the way that we have come. We have had to work with various agencies of government at the Provincial level and the City level.

We now have an agreed upon design and have moved into the interior design drawings. All the funding for the core building is in place.

One of the exciting concepts that we are working on is linking Eagle Wing Childcare Centre with the Barber House through a concept called a "playtrium". This will be a play area for large muscle activities for the children, and a community use room.

All of the funders are enthusiastically supportive of the process to this stage. Time line plans indicate we will begin construction coming spring.

The board is focusing on ensuring that this wonderful childcare centre will be built in Point Douglas in the coming year.

We are building a "best practice" childcare centre. Fortunately for the first stage, which is the childcare centre, we have full funding in place, which was needed prior to the City handing the land over to us.

The SISTARS board is extremely grateful and encouraged by the tremendous amount of help and good will that has been extended to them by the many agencies of government involved. We particularly thank our daycare director Crystal Henderson-Thomas for the practical experience she shared with us all at design meetings.

Chris Burrows, (Secretary) SISTARS

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## Eagle Wing Early Education Centre Nursery, Pre-School and School-Age Day Care

### END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER!

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Holiday Feast was a GREAT SUCCESS because of all the hard work that our volunteers and staff put forth. No matter how large or how small your contribution was, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Please remember to ensure that your child has a coat, ski pants, boots, mitts and toque to wear outdoors. We participate in outdoor play and/or walks up to -24c. It is very important that children get fresh air at least once per day if weather permits. The Koats for Kids program phone number is 586-5628.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Our pre-school program has had the pleasure of play time and 'work' time with Breanna's daughter, Crissy, and Manjeet's daughter, Shubleen. Both girls are currently attending high school and require a certain number of volunteer hours throughout their schooling which must be completed prior to graduation in Grade 12. Our children (and staff!) are fortunate enough to have Crissy and Shubleen volunteer here when they are able. Crissy and Shubleen will be posting their own 'introduction' in the near future.

**SCHOOL-AGE:** Our school-age program will be exploring the wild and crazy adventures of The Arctic. you have anything to contribute, please do so!

**PRE-SCHOOL:** Our pre-school program will be enjoying adventures "Around the World", so watch activities each week in your January calendar.

**THANK YOU TO:**

- All of you who contributed toward our Holiday Feast
- All of you who brought in goodies, treats or toys for our children
- All of you who gifted staff with your kind words, Holiday Season greetings and/or gifts. We re appreciate your thoughtfulness - it means a lot to us!
- Elias and Sabrina's Mom for volunteering her time each and every morning
- Crissy (Brenda's daughter) for volunteering at the pre-school centre
- Shubleen (Manjeet's daughter) for volunteering at the pre-school centre
- FSGW (Ben and Adio et al) for always accommodating our centre's needs
- RRC Dale/Karen and students for their time and wisdom
- Martha/Tanya of The Family Centre for their invaluable H.U.G. Program
- Staff who consistently contribute some of their own supplies to assist in enhance programming for of our children
- CMC members who volunteer each and every month
- Sistars members who volunteer each and every month

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Thur Dec 31 New Year's Eve - Centre closed at 1 pm sharp  
 Fri Jan 1 CENTRE CLOSED  
 Mon Jan 4 Arctic Adventures @ school-age; The Ukraine @ pre-school  
 Tue Jan 5 Norquay Noon dismissal  
 Wed Jan 6 CMC Meeting - advise office asap for childcare, please!  
 Thur Jan 7 Kristos Rodyvsya - Ukrainian Christmas



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*Explore Life in The Point!*