

Winnipeg Free Press - PRINT EDITION

Tickled pink by cancer charity

By: Maureen Scurfield / The Insider

Posted: 07/20/2011 1:00 AM | Comments: 0 (including replies)



[Enlarge Image](#)

Carmela Wade



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Sarah McQueston (left), Connie Chappel

Said Kostas Velegrinos as he looked out at the empty patio at Homer's restaurant on Ellice Monday afternoon -- temperature at 36 C: "It's like Saskatchewan. We know it's beside us, but nobody wants to go there." Bomber fans will appreciate that sentiment.

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IN THE PINK... Dare to wear a hot-pink hair extension? Today's the day! The Pink for Prescription charity, which helps women with prescriptions and other needs arising from cancer treatment, is fundraising today at 1181 Portage Ave., putting pink extensions (a 10-minute process) into anybody's hair -- men or women! They're also selling T-shirts.

"I find this organization absolutely wonderful. I honestly don't know what I'd have done without it," says Carol Wadin from Swan River.

"I started off paying \$200.97 per prescription every month before my (remission) medication became generic."

She says she was staggering under the bills and the gas expenses for doctors' appointments, driving to treatments many hours away and sometimes needing lodging for weeks at the height of her cancer fight.

"I found out about Pink For Prescription; they sent me the forms, calmed me down and let me know there was light at the end of the tunnel and answered all my questions and they are reimbursing me for my expenses."

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NIA'S KINDNESS: Winnipeg-based country singer Lisa Lester just got back from the Calgary Stampede (yee-haw!) on the same plane as Nia Vardalos, who was coming from L.A. to play a mom in the film *American Girl*, being lensed here in Winnipeg.

"A little girl was in tears, travelling by herself from Calgary onward," said Lester. "Nia offered to go back and see her and find out if she could get her anything she needed."

On landing, the star of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* met her family at the arrivals area in Winnipeg airport, then quickly left



[Enlarge Image](#)

Lisa Lester

the little girl with her family to wait for her luggage.

"Not wanting to interrupt Nia's own family hugs, I hung back but as she was making her escape, my son, Presley, ran to her and handed her my CD, which she accepted and chatted with him for a few minutes. I also was waiting for my luggage, and conversed with the little girl's mom. Her nephew was carrying the little one clutching her favourite bear. After hearing about my CD getting passed to Nia and my meeting with EMI next week, the nephews reached over and gave ME a big hug and congratulations! How nice is that?"

That's how sweet Winnipeegers can be, even in the heat.

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MANNEQUIN MANIA: A wild and surreal art and dance show, *The Mannequins of Puerto Vallarta*, is happening way up under the eaves at 290 McDermot Ave., in Outworks Art Gallery. Connie Chappel rented the space for a few weeks to do a combined dance-drama and photo-art exhibition with 15-minute shows running at the top of every hour all day, noon-6:30 p.m. Chappel, who lives three months a year in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, got sick of sitting on the beach and became enamoured of an old repainted mannequin in Puerto Vallarta's old town.

"They'd painted it to try to make her look modern," she said. It intrigued her. "Then I started seeing mannequins everywhere in

Puerto Vallarta."

She took hundreds of photos, named her favourite models and came back every week to photograph her favourite in her new outfit.

"Some shop owners shooed me away or gave me looks but others were quite accommodating and would fix their hair or adjust their clothing for me."

Home in Winnipeg, she developed a dance drama with Sarah McQueston. They're doing shows at the top of the hour among the paintings and flying banners on the third floor above Metamorphosis.

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BLACK SHEEP ART: At a funky little breakfast and lunch restaurant called Black Sheep, at 540 Ellice Ave. at Langside Street, there's something you better not eat on their menu. Artist Carmela Wade came up with an idea to provide grown-up customers the materials to make a little collage while waiting for their food with a program called *You Seem To Have Forgotten*. She talked to the restaurant. "And they loved the idea!"

This week, people who may think it's kind of crazy, at first, have started to do it and post their art on a big bulletin board.

For some, it's the first time in decades they have done any art. You pick up a kit by the billboard and sort through a bunch of magazine photos until you find a few images and words you like and then make a simple collage. You can display it on the board for other customers to enjoy or take it home.

"It's a random act of art," says Wade, who teaches integrated art in the St. James School Division and is doing it for the fun of bringing art back to adults. Not a moneymaker, just a fun maker.

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