

Big-octane octogenarian

'Pegger aces swim events in Golden Age Olympics

By LAURIE MUSTARD, WINNIPEG SUN

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If you're lucky enough to live that long, ever wondered what your life might be like in your 80s? I'm going to make your day, and mine, by presenting living proof that it can be fabulous!

Check the following e-mail, sent to me by proud daughter Deb Naaykens:

"Hi Laurie. My mom Eilleen Baylis will be turning 85 this week. She spends her winters in Texas near McAllen. In keeping with the Olympic spirit, approximately 18 RV parks got together and held a Golden Age Olympics. Mom entered the swimming events and placed first in all five, winning herself a gold medal.

"She was entered in the 80-plus category, but her time for the front crawl beat out all times with the exception of one, for women 60-plus. Until her retirement, she was a swimming instructor with the City of Winnipeg.

"Mom has always been young at heart. We hold annual family reunions and have pictures of her driving a go-cart at Thunder Rapids, jumping on a trampoline with her grand and great grandchildren, and tubing at the cottage, all while in her 80s!

"Mom is the life force of our family and sets an example for living that we could all do well with. We love her dearly and wish her many more years of good health and happiness. Thanks, Deb."

Looks like a bit of a wild woman to me Deb. Wouldn't surprise me to see her "hook up with a Harley, and conquer the world!" And why not? Happy Birthday Eilleen. You are truly an inspiration!

ANIMAL LOVERS

Time to put our money where our hearts are, and support this fundraiser. Doesn't cost much, is a ton of fun, and look what your dollars do: "All proceeds from the event (which I'll tell you about shortly) help Friends Fundraising for Animal Shelters support more than 12 No-Kill Animal Shelters in Manitoba by assisting with medical expenses, including — D'Arcy's A.R.C., Hull's Haven Border Collie Rescue, Craig Street Cats, Hi-Speed Hounds, Winnipeg Pet Rescue, Loving the Feral Soul, and Winnipeg Boxer Rescue."

To help all this essential care happen, simply take in this Friday's The Cat and The King concert, a tribute to the music of Tom Jones and Elvis, starring Daylin James, and hosted by the Sun's Ian Shanley — one very funny guy, sometimes even on purpose. Show time 8 p.m., Garden City Inn, 2100 McPhillips.

Your \$25 admission gets you the show, silent auction, and even a late night snack buffet! Discount for eight or more! Tickets and further info available by contacting Donna at 339-6025, donna@ffas.com, or visit the website at www.ffas.com Pack the place, and feel free to pat Ian all night long.

PARTY TIME

"Culture Days" you should know, is the name of a newly created free annual event designed to invite the public to celebrate arts and culture in every province and territory in Canada. Manitoba's dates for the big event, as announced at the big launch Tuesday at The Winnipeg Art Gallery, are Sept. 24 to 26.

Designed by whom? The arts and cultural community of Canada. Should be a heck of a party. See you there.

THE LAST LAUGH

An American tourist asks a Newfoundlander: "Why do scuba divers always fall backwards off their boats?" The Newfie replies: "Jaysus bye, if they fell forwards they'd still be in the fricken boat!"