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Inside this week



Pages 9-10: Wind Turbine Open House

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**A small hike for some big plans**

Neepawa Town Council reveals its' 2026 budget

By Eoin Devereux  
 Neepawa Banner & Press

A municipal property tax increase just a little bit bigger than the current rate of inflation has been proposed in Neepawa's new budget. On Monday, Apr. 20, Town Council reviewed the details for its 2026 financial plan. Year-over-year, our community's mill rate will increase by 2.59 per cent.

2025 mill rate - 22.86  
 2026 mill rate - 23.456

A mill rate is the amount of tax payable per dollar of the assessed value of a property, representing one-thousandth of a dollar (\$1 for every \$1,000 of assessed value). Municipalities set this rate to generate revenue for services, calculated by dividing budgetary requirements by the total assessed property base.

What that actually means for the average homeowner, is that we will pay an additional \$57.03 in taxes per \$200,000 of our assessed property value.

Commercial properties will see a bigger bump, as they will increase by \$648.07 per \$500,000 of assessed value.

Continued on Page 7

**2025 a 'very busy, sometimes challenging year'**

Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op annual meeting report

By Casper Wehrhahn  
 Neepawa Banner & Press

The year 2025 was a complicated one for the Federated Co-op (FCL), both on a local and national scale. This reality was reflected in both the board of directors' report by Jason Sumner, and the general manager's report by Brian Hedley at the Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op's annual general meeting on Apr. 15.

Each department of the Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op had good sales, while margins and expenses varied.

"When you do business in a global economy, factors around the world affect us right here at home," said Hedley.

These factors have included "significant political and economic concerns", trade tariffs, cybersecurity attacks, fuel shortages, and more.

These challenges have also had an impact on the new Gladstone store. Hedley explained that FCL was work-



PHOTO BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

The Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op reviewed the region's 2025-2026 season recently. The retrospective included all sectors of the Co-op, from grocery and fuel to HR work.

ing on a second version of the plans, which was a smaller model for the food/gas bar that measured 12,000 sq ft.

"[The cost] came in at \$13 million, which was more than the Co-op can afford and

would not pass the feasibility," said Hedley. "For reference, the 22,000 sq ft Food Store in Neepawa was completed for a cost of \$6 million."


A third version of the new Gladstone store is in the works,

measuring at 7,000 sq ft, which will be added to the existing Gladstone Gas Bar. The projected cost is \$6.18 million, and an additional \$2 million to renovate the Gas Bar.

Continued on Page 8

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 CREDIT UNION

# 'We're all very proud of her'

## Gladstone youth recognized for 2025 Remembrance Day essay

By Casper Wehrhahn  
Neepawa Banner & Press

An area local has recently received honours from the Royal Canadian Legion. Peyton Morrow, a Gladstone youth formerly from Brandon, has been named the 2025 Remembrance Day Junior Essay Contest Winner at the Zone, District, and, most recently, the Provincial level.

A copy of Peyton's essay, 'Women in War', is reportedly to be displayed by Gladstone Legion Branch 110. It was also forwarded to National Command for consideration at the national level.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured: Peyton Morrow of Gladstone, formerly of Brandon, who has received provincial honours for her entry into the Legion's 2025 essay contest.

### An unexpected honour

"It felt really good to have my essay considered for the national competition. It makes me so proud of my writing," said Peyton. "I never thought my writing could be good enough that it would go to nationals."

Peyton, who moved to Gladstone with her family in 2022, noted that partaking in essay contests is something new for her that she and fellow students have done through school in Gladstone.

"We didn't do it in Brandon, and I thought it was

really cool," said Peyton.

When asked of her inspiration to write about women's efforts during the war, the youth stated, "My teacher had a bunch of pamphlets about women in war. Not many people recognize what women do in the war, it's always about the men."

Karmelle Morrow, Peyton's mom, shared that Peyton was also featured at an event with the Brandon Armoury.

"She read her essay out on Saturday, Apr. 18 at

the Brandon Armoury, 26th Field Regiment, for the 45th annual Vimy and Beyond fundraiser about women, war and change," said Karmelle.

Providing a final comment on Peyton's efforts and the recognition received, Karmelle stated, "We're all very proud of her and her accomplishment. She's a very intelligent little girl."

# NAISS and HyLife celebrate long-standing partnership



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEPAWA AND AREA IMMIGRANT SETTLEMENT SERVICES


Neepawa & Area Immigrant Settlement Services Inc. (NAISS) was recently visited by two staff from HyLife to celebrate a long standing working relationship

between NAISS and the local hog processing plant. Both NAISS and HyLife have been working for many years supporting newcomers and Temporary Foreign Workers in the Neepawa region.

Pictured are Ilce Pineda (executive director of NAISS), Darian Major (president of finance for HyLife), Kathleen Guillas (NAISS board member), and Jayvee Buhawe (NAISS settlement worker).

**25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ARDEN CROCUS FESTIVAL**  
 May 2, 2026 at the Arden Community Hall  
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## 1976: Chimo Building Centre marks grand opening

By Casper Wehrhahn  
Neepawa Banner & Press

**125 years ago,  
Tuesday,  
April 23, 1901**

Two new settlers have taken up their abode in Eden. H. Thompson, from Listowel, has rented John Smith's farm and John Fahner, from Guelph, is still looking for a place.

Miss Leach has been confined to the house with an attack of scarletina during the past week. Her place as teacher in the public school has been supplied by Miss Laura Hamilton.

There moved out from Neepawa on Saturday a caboose, hauled by a four horse team destined for Dan. Hamilton's Basswood ranch. It is Mr. Hamilton's purpose to pasture his herd up there for some time and the caboose will be the

herders' abode.

A large sand hill crane was shot by Jno. Pool near his place, south of town on Friday last. Mr. Poole sold it to G. A. McKenzie on Saturday, who shipped it to T. E. Harrison in Franklin to have it mounted. The bird measured 7 feet and 10 inches from tip to tip.

Geo. Harper, jr., of Oakdale has purchased the latest up-to-date bike in the Dominion from D. McRae, of Arden. While travelling the distance of 12 miles to town he only requires to pedal about eight, during the other part of the journey the pedals stand still. This is solid comfort to the traveller.

**100 years ago,  
Tuesday,  
April 20, 1926**

Arden: Arden has purchased from the Brandon fire engine company an

Everready high pressure fire engine. This will give the citizens greater security and should reduce insurance. Mr. Alex McRae has been elected fire chief. O. McConnell, first lieutenant and J. G. McCamis second lieutenant. We now have a good fire engine and fire brigade.

Glencairn: Glencairn is getting more like Winnipeg every day. We now have electric light on Railway Avenue. No trouble to find the post office now.

Arden: The Arden Bakery is installing a new oven this week.

Stony Creek dramatic society are looking for generous support from the Neepawa public at the performance of "Dolly Travers' Inheritance" in the opera house tonight.

That the motor truck is taking business away from the railways for short hauls is evidenced in the number of trucks delivering goods to outside points from Neepawa warehouses. But there was further demonstration last week when Mr. Morrish moved his household goods from Brandon to Neepawa via motor truck... With a complete system of highways the motor truck business for short distances and much cross-country traffic within a 100 mile radius can be accomplished economically.

**75 years ago,  
Thursday,  
April 26, 1951**

John Petrynka, an employee of the Neepawa Salt Company, sustained painful injuries when he slipped and fell off the side of a box car in the yards of the company Tuesday morning about 10 a.m...

The accident terminated a record of 1,681 accident-free days set by the workers



NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

The Chimo Building Centre on Main Street west in Neepawa had a unique grand opening ceremony. Rather than a ribbon cutting, the business held a celebratory log sawing. Partaking in the log sawing were: Deputy reeve Harry Smithson of the RM of Rosedale, Mayor Lawrence Hurrell, chimo proprietor John Anotnik, reeve Lloys Briese of the RM of Langford, Louise Rey, president of Neepawa and District Chamber of Commerce and Clayton Swanson, a director of Chimo Charlie Canada Ltd., who was master of ceremonies for the opening.

at the salt plant. The last accident was on Sept. 14, 1946.

**50 years ago,  
Thursday,  
April 22, 1976**

*Note: The following Plumas entry shares further details on the fire incident that was photographed in last week's Looking Back.*

Plumas: Fire completely levelled the workshop of Buchau Laminated Structures at Plumas early Saturday morning. The loss was estimated at \$200,000 and, according to a member of the Buschau family, the building was not insured.

The fire was first noticed about 3:30 a.m. by Mel Fischer of Plumas who aroused the Buschau family. They attempted to quell the flames but were unsuccessful. Volunteer fire fighters from Plumas, Neepawa and Gladstone were at the scene but nothing could be done to save the building...

The firm, which made laminated wooden beams and rafters at the plant, has been in operation for 22 years, and employed eight persons. Proprietor Harold Buschau told The Press Tuesday that he plans to rebuild the plant as soon as possible.

Wellwood: Plunging enrolment combined with the subsequent loss of teacher grants led Tuesday night to a decision by the Beautiful Plains School Division Board to close Wellwood school.

**20 years ago,  
Monday,  
April 24, 2006**

One of the three people

accused of burning down the Minnedosa United church two months ago has pleaded guilty to arson.

Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette MP Inky Mark is pressing his party to make good on a campaign promise, and eliminate the gun registry.

*Disclaimer: The information gathered and used each week in the Looking Back feature is directly taken from the original print copy of the Neepawa Press and Neepawa Banner newspapers. Any errors or omissions from stories (Factually or otherwise) are the result of the original print and not the responsibility of the archivist for the current version of the Neepawa Banner & Press.*



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NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

This advertisement for Charolais bulls, featuring a few operations from the present Neepawa Banner & Press coverage area, was found in the Apr. 22, 1976 edition of The Neepawa Press.

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1 Corinthians 15:1, 3-4 (New International Version)

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**Highlights of the week**

**Filipino Heritage Sports Opening**  
Apr. 27 at 8pm | Apr. 30 at 1pm | May 2 at 10:30 am

**Author Interview: John Warm's**  
Apr. 28 at 6:30 pm | Apr. 30 at 8pm | May 3 at 2pm

**Fleury Winds Project Open House**  
Apr. 28 at 2pm | Apr. 30 at 2:15 pm | May 2 at 7pm

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# Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



## Level of discourse reaching new lows

When it comes to debates, and especially to question period in the Manitoba legislature, the word toxic keeps coming to the forefront. Other descriptions could also include infantile, childish, stupid, dumb and ridiculous.

In the Manitoba Legislature and the federal parliament, there's a reason they call the opening portion of the daily proceedings Question Period, as it certainly can't be called Answer Period.

For decades now, the QP has come under fire but it has become much worse in recent years and months. That is because there is a near complete lack of restraint and respect in QP with most questions falling into the "gotcha" category and very few of them actually accomplishing a level of civil discourse.

By watching question period, I understand why very few people are willing to step into the political ring.

Politics is a goal that I once sought. From the time I was a young child, and after meeting then Manitoba Premier D. L. Campbell in the 1950s, I was always edging toward being a politician. Throughout my 4-H career and on into University, I developed some skills at public speaking and debating. However debates were never meant to be nasty. Witty, yes and challenging or enlightening but not nasty.

That has all changed so even if I was much younger, which obviously, I am not, I wouldn't want to be in



the legislature.

It pains me to put those words to paper as the legislature and parliament are supposed to be the place where the best minds gather to produce the highest goals for the overall good of all citizens that supposedly then coalesce into a well run province. We are far from that with all the juvenile nastiness that exudes from QP and the legislature in general creates a large enough stench that few sane people will take on the role.

I happen to believe that PC Glen Cummings was one of the best politicians, as is PC Kelvin Goertzen. NDP Steve Ashton always behaved well in any dealings I had with him, as did Liberal Jon Gerrard.

The problem is that many of today's politicians don't know how to debate or how to make good speeches. They are more like street fighters and their verbal discourse, daresay verbal abuse, in the house is more like Seinfeld or Big Bang Theory on steroids-nothing but cheap shots and let the truth be damned.

The Manitoba Legislative Build-

ing is a fine place, lovely to behold and largely built of Manitoba stone-works. Thousands of Manitobans visit every year, hundreds of people work there. The Leg as it is called has seen 110 plus years of history pass under the Golden Boy topped dome.

Every sitting day, there are visiting delegations and groups of school children in attendance. They should be shown good manners, proper discussions, lively debates and good manners. They should not be subjected to the nastiness and untruths that flow out of that building on a near daily basis.

These attributes are being shown more and more and it makes me ashamed and upset.

I know most of our politicians are capable of better behaviour but it seems to be out of the grasp of many MLAs and the leaders to reign in this despicable behaviour.

*Disclaimer: The views expressed in this column are the writer's personal views and are not to be taken as being the view of the Banner & Press staff.*

### Homebodies

RITA FRIESEN



## The nook off the parlor...

The reference comes from one of the Anne of Green Gable series - I think Anne of the Island - and the image took me straight to my paternal grandparents farm home. To my memory, and I admit it may be faulty, there was an alcove of the parlor. And I hardly think the room would have been called a parlor, though folks did sit and visit there.

It was a little nook, with a day bed and possibly a chair, and a heavy curtain that enclosed it. Would it have been the bedroom for the farm retainer- though we wouldn't have called him that either - simply Abe, who spoke with a slight speech impediment and was handy at most tasks.

Or did grandpa stretch out for forty winks after lunch in this secluded space? It doesn't matter, for the memory floodgates were opened.

Grandpa had a hired hand, and grandma had a housemaid. The one whose name I recall, Nettie, was a sparse woman, hardworking, diligent and, again to my memory, rather humourless. My thinking was that with someone doing the housework and meal prep and clean up, no wonder grandma had time to grow gloxinias. And they were magnificent. The flower garden was impressive every summer. Hollyhocks stood tall and proud, bright colours against the white picket fence. We cousins spent hours playing in the yard and garden, and those faded hollyhock flowers, well, the really wrinkled ones were patients and the freshly fallen were the nursing staff. We carefully laid hospital beds in the shadiest part of the flower beds. Among my albums is a photo of several of the cousins carefully posed in front of these particular flowers.

In the basement, tucked under the stairs, was a battery of batteries. In the centre of the yard was a wind turbine, a small wind mill, and the power generated was stored here for the lights and small appliances that were really quite advanced for the time. The basement also contained the cistern, a cold storage space for the root vegetables and a pantry for all the canned produce. The home itself was comfortable and, compared to the home in which we lived - on the same yard at the time - well designed and opulent. Grandpa loved reading and had shelves of books, and grandma was simply there. I don't recall her reading, or knitting or sewing though I imagine she was proficient at all handwork. The reading and writing had been set aside for as the oldest of thirteen, she was needed as a helper at home rather than attending school. It happened to too many, and that may have been one of the reasons her children were encouraged to strive for education and develop their musical abilities. Her children did indeed rise up and call her blessed...

The farmyard was well maintained as well. The red hip roofed barn filled with cattle, hogs and chickens and the loft filled with hay - a perfect playground for youngsters! The granary was a drive through model, huge doors at each end.

It always amazes me how a phrase can trigger such a barrage of memories. 'There was a nook off the parlor'.

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423 Mountain Avenue, Box 699, Neepawa, Manitoba R0J 1H0  
Telephone: (204) 476-3401  
Toll-free: 1-888-436-4242 (within Manitoba) www.neepawabanner.com

Customer Account 558680-99-Postage paid at Neepawa, Manitoba

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

AD DEADLINE: TUESDAY NOON PRIOR TO ISSUE DATE

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Circulation as of May 2024: 7,275

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## Letters to the editor

### Misconduct, ethics and sexual abuse

My letter relates to a recent article by Jeff Hamilton in The Free Press [Saturday, April 18, 2026] about Greg Nesbitt, the Conservative MLA for Riding Mountain. The title of the article is "Tory MLA under fire for bail pledge". The article indicates that Mr. Nesbitt "said in a sworn statement that he was willing to pay whatever the court deemed appropriate for bail after [his niece], a former high school teacher convicted of sexual interference and sexual assault of a then 15-year-old student, was sentenced to five years in prison in 2024." He went on to pay a sum.

According to the article, both Mr. Nesbitt and Mr. Obby Khan, leader of the Manitoba Progressive Conservative party, defended his actions as a private matter between uncle and niece.

However, the article goes on to state that an ethics professional disagrees with this perspective and "argue(s) that an elected official cannot neatly sever their public influence from their private life." Mr. Nesbitt has attached his name to the court proceedings for a convicted abuser and disclosed his financial situation.

I too have ethical and moral concerns about Mr. Nesbitt's actions and question his commitment to bringing sexual predators within society, and especially within the education system, to justice. Young people face many challenges – we need politicians to advocate against any form of sexual abuse and certainly sexual violence against minors.

Of course, I also question the ethics of any teacher who betrays a position of trust and authority, harms students and is a sexual predator.

The article goes on to question the roles played by the two school divisions where the convicted abuser was employed – Seine River and Rolling River - and the provincial Department of Education that manages teaching certificates. The teacher was arrested in December 2021, convicted in 2023, sentenced in 2024, and subsequently resigned from Rolling River School Division in 2024, but her teaching certificate was not canceled until July 2025, according to the article.

What kind of messages are we sending to young people about the support they can expect to receive from people in power when youth are experiencing sexual abuse – either from adults or fellow students?

The Commissioner of Teacher Professional Conduct is responsible for the complaint management process once a complaint or employer report has been made about a certified Manitoba teacher's professional misconduct or incompetence. We heard in the media last week that the province's first teacher misconduct commissioner was either fired or resigned.

Who amongst this array of adults – elected officials, school administrators, teachers, commissioner - can we depend on to support the young people facing sexual abuse within the school system? Who is going to be proactive in promoting accountability and staunchly working to improve the well-being and safety of students?

**Dinah Ceplis**  
Minnedosa, MB

## Thumbs up, thumbs down

A thumbs up and many thanks to the Neepawa Banner & Press staff for helping to make my event at the Neepawa Library a success. Casper Wehrhahn's excellent article brought some people from afar. A stellar day.

As well, huge gratitude to the Neepawa Library, who welcomed and hosted me and my displays for a whole day. Caitlin helped with unloading and setup. The staff did everything they could to promote the event and the books, and allowed me to dominate their space.

And finally, thank you to each of the people who came to my event at the Neepawa Library. Thank you for your interest in the topic, the experiences you shared, your support for whatever reason. A most memorable day.

**John Warmis**



## HELEN DRYSDALE

### OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

# Drop-in Centre

In the early 1980s, the local seniors discussed ways to keep the seniors off the streets. They concluded that a drop-in center was the answer. Many seniors came through with donations. A board was formed and a location was decided on. Sod turning took place in 1985 and the Drop-in Centre was officially opened in 1987. Various fundraising activities included duck derbies, teas, bake sales, quilt sales and a cookbook. By March of 1989 they were debt free. That was quite an amazing feat! The Drop-in Centre provides a gathering place for seniors to meet and socialize with their peers, play games, have coffee and fun. If you pass through the Drop-in center when it's busy the first thing you hear is the laughter. The saying that "laughter is the best medicine" is so true. So, if you are a senior looking for a laugh and a few hours of enjoyment visit the Drop-In Centre.

I am sharing some of the recipes from the cookbook they put out in 1985. Some of the businesses advertising in the cookbook are long gone. Does anyone remember Flaming's Harness and Shoe Repair or Dorien's where Dorien Anderson made wedding gowns, formal wear and custom designs or The Silver Thimble with its fabric, yarns and notions? The Neepawa Creamery was still in business with its famous Velvet Ice-cream and Art Harris was the Pharmacist at Harris Pharmacy with the same phone number they have now. Mike Stinchcombe was open to sell you a new or used Ford vehicle at Neepawa Ford and one street over Hans Wieland Chev Olds could give you the keys to a GM car or truck. If your vehicle had a problem M&W Auto Supply Ltd. could sell you the parts to get it running again. The M stood for Walter Mauthe and the W stood for Tom Wilson.

#### Fish and vegetables a la orange

This is a recipe for one. Great for the person living alone

1/4 tsp. grated orange rind	1 tsp. butter
1/4 cup orange juice	1 portion frozen fish, thawed
2 tsp. soya sauce	1/4 cup sliced zucchini
1/4 tsp. grated ginger root	1 Tbsp. water
1 medium carrot, sliced	1/2 tsp. corn starch

In a small skillet, combine orange peel, orange juice, soy sauce and ginger. Add the carrots. Simmer for five minutes. Push carrots around the outside of the pan. Add the butter to the middle of the pan. Place fish in the center. Arrange zucchini around fish. Simmer for five minutes. Turn the fish and simmer for a few more minutes. With a slotted spoon remove fish and vegetables to a serving tray. Keep warm. Add the cornstarch and water together and add to the juice in the pan. Cook until thick and bubbly. Pour over fish and vegetables.

#### Buttered soy chicken

3 lb. chicken, cut up	1/2 tsp. salt	1/2 cup butter
1/3 cup water	1/8 tsp. pepper	1 tsp. crushed dried chili
3 Tbsp. soy sauce	1 1/2 Tbsp. lemon juice	peppersn- optional

Preheat oven to 400°F. Place chicken in a baking dish in a single layer. Combine remaining ingredients in a pot. Bring to a boil. Pour over chicken. Bake for about 45 minutes or until chicken is tender. Turn chicken pieces once halfway through baking and baste. Serve with rice.

#### Jumbo raisin cookies

1 cup water	3 eggs	2 tsp. cinnamon
2 cups raisins	1 tsp. vanilla	1/2 tsp. allspice
1 cup shortening or margarine	4 cups flour	1/4 tsp. nutmeg
2 cups sugar	1 tsp. baking powder	Pinch of salt
	1 tsp. baking soda	

Boil water and raisins for five minutes. Allow to cool. Cream shortening and add sugar and eggs. Add cooled raisins with any left-over water, and vanilla. Mix well. Add sifted dry ingredients. Mix well. Drop by spoonfuls on a greased cookie sheet. Bake at 375°F for 12-15 minutes.

#### Fresh strawberry pie

3 cups fresh strawberries, washed	1 cup white sugar
1 cooked 9 inch pie shell	2 Tbsp. corn starch
<i>Glaze:</i>	1 small pack strawberry Jello
1 cup water	

Place the fruit into the shell. Mix all the glaze ingredients and boil slowly until thickened. Pour over fruit. Put in the refrigerator. Top with Dream Whip.

# Carberry WWI flying ace to be recognized



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured: Wilfred 'Wop' May, a World War I flying ace from Carberry.

## Submitted

Carberry Plains Museum

A memorial plaque honouring Wilfred Reid (Wop) May will be placed at his childhood home, 43 Simcoe Street in Carberry on June 7, 2026. May was a bush pilot and decorated war hero, who received the Inter-Allied Victory Medal, the Great War Medal, American Medal of Freedom, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Order of the British Empire for his service during World War I. He was inducted into the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame for his contribution to Canadian Aviation and was widely known as "Wop" May. He acquired his lifelong nickname from a small cousin who mispronounced his name as "Woppie." This was shortened to "Wop" and the name stuck.

May was born in Carberry, Manitoba on March 20, 1896. He was the youngest son of Alexander (Alex) May, a carriage and implement merchant in Carberry and his wife Elizabeth (nee Reid). In 1899 Alex was elected to Carberry Town Council and later became Mayor of Carberry in 1901. The family home became a meeting place for business and political friends. In 1903, the family moved to Edmonton, Alberta where Wop grew up.

In 1916, Wop joined the Canadian Army as a machine gun instructor and went to England that same year before applying to be transferred to the Royal Flying Corps. He qualified and was deployed to France on April 9, 1918, as a fighter pilot. May's 13 aircraft "kills" and his close encounter with the Red Baron, Manfred

Von Richthofen, quickly established him as an ace in the Royal Air Force.

Upon returning to Edmonton, Wop and his brother Elgin (Court) May formed Canada's first registered aircraft company, May Airlines. Wop became a renowned stunt pilot, bush pilot, flying instructor, and conceived the idea of training a squad for parachute rescue service for airmen lost in the bush country.

In 1951, Canadian Pacific Airlines hired him as manager of the repair depot. The following year, while on a hiking trip with his son Denny in Provo, Utah, he passed away.

The event will be held at 43 Simcoe Street, on Sunday, June 7, 2026, at 2:00pm. There will be several guest speakers, and a plaque will be placed in front of his childhood home.

Please bring your own lawn chairs.

More information about Wop May can be found at the Carberry Plains Museum, 520 Fourth Avenue, phone# 204-834-6609. Open in the summer, 12-5pm Sunday-Sunday and by appointment in the winter. Also, at the Carberry Plains Archives, 122 Main Street, phone# 204-834-6614. Open 11:30-5:00pm Tuesday-Thursday, email cparchives@townofcarberry-c\_a\_.

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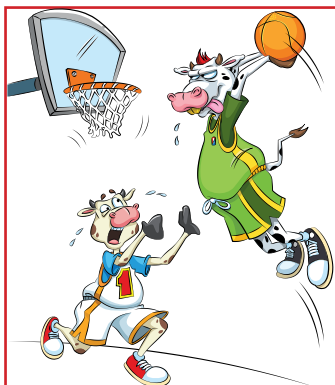
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# Bless the fields



PHOTOS BY LESLIE MCINTEE

Above: An energetic group of young people laid claim to their version of the "Kids' table" at the Bless the Fields Breakfast at Rapid City.

Bottom left: Bless the Fields guest speaker Terry Baker, of Newdale

## Submitted

Neepawa Banner & Press

The Rapid City Community Church gathered friends and neighbours together for a free breakfast under the title "Bless the Fields". On Apr. 18, over 65 people had a tremendous buffet breakfast and an inspirational talk from Terry Baker of Newdale. Baker is the President of the Canadian Christian

Cowboys Association. All that was followed up by a solid two hours of visiting. One of the leaders at Rapid City Community Church, Denis Rondeau said, "This was the first year for a Bless the Fields event. One of our congregation members came up with the idea and we went with it." The group was hosted at the Vanderveen farm west of Rapid City. The banquet hall was a farm shop with hundreds

of tools and shop supplies for decor. The setting and the people made for a welcoming atmosphere where Baker presented a good explanation of how God sees farmers through difficult times even when they are struggling with calf that won't suck. He lead in a prayer for not only the fields but the crops, rainfall and all the farmers, ranchers and their families.

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# Neepawa to host regional Rotary Conference in May

By Eoin Devereux  
Neepawa Banner & Press

Neepawa is taking centre stage this spring as it will welcome Rotarians from across the Prairies and Northern Ontario for a major regional gathering. The 2026 Rotary District 5550 Conference, themed "We Are All Canadian," is set for May 8 and 9. The two-day event will feature keynote speakers, community-focused programming, and opportunities for fellowship among Rotary members.

Neepawa Rotary Club President Rrain Prior said the conference also marks a significant milestone for the local chapter.

"I believe it's actually the first time we've ever had the district conference in Neepawa in the history of the club," said Prior. "The district conference is held wherever the district governor's home club is, and this is the first time we've ever produced district governor."

As well, Prior noted that this year's event also marks a return to a fully in-person format.

"It's the one chance a year for everyone to get together," Prior explained. "Over the last few years, they have been virtual conferences. This is actually the first year where it's been fully in person again since COVID."

Prior emphasized the value of these face-to-face interaction for Rotary members, particularly when it comes to collaboration and idea-sharing.

"For our district, I think it's really important for people to kind of get together in person, share ideas, share funding ideas for a club, share projects, and just—there's a lot of social aspects to it," she said.

This opportunity for Neepawa has been in the making for quite some time and began with Wayne

Jacobsen, Neepawa's past President and a current District Governor. Jacobsen said the conference will not only showcase Rotary's impact across the region, but also highlight Neepawa's strong sense of community and hospitality.

"There is an investment by our club in the amount of work it takes to organize and deliver the district conference," noted Jacobsen. "[Our local] Rotarians started planning more than a year ago. [And] yes, it's a lot of work for our Rotarians, but there's no way we could do it without the level of volunteerism we're getting from the community. That's a real testament to our community. The generosity, the caring, and the pride we all have for our community."

Following the opening ceremonies, the first afternoon session of the Conference will feature keynote presentations and highlights of Rotary-led initiatives. Paul Samyn, editor of the Winnipeg Free Press, will then deliver the opening keynote address. The program will also include club project videos and a presentation on the "Neepawa Newcomers Coat Room" initiative. Later in the afternoon, Mark Chipman, chairman of the Winnipeg Jets, will address attendees via Zoom. A Saturday afternoon show at the Roxy Theatre, with a mosaic of regional performers, is also being prepared.

# Almost \$12,000 in additional grants to be distributed as part of new budget

*Continued from Page 1*

The general operating expenditures for the 2026 financial plan are estimated to be \$11,543,528, while the utility operating funds are set for \$4,950,682.

As for capital purchases in 2026, the largest project planned will be related to Public Work, and \$2,010,000 set aside for a variety of drainage and roadwork. This will include improvements being planned for Adelaide Crescent, Second Avenue, Hamilton Street East, the Co-op service road and roads related to the Project 320.

There is also \$503,000 proposed for new road construction. As well, plans are in place to complete the paving of the Fire Department's parking lot (Estimated cost: \$75,000), the Cemetery Project (\$10,000) and the purchase of a new mower (\$30,000).

## 2026 grant distribution

For this year, \$155,229.25 has been set aside in grant requests which will be divided between nine local organizations. That's an increase of \$11,672.50 in total grant money being distributed compared to last year.

As for where the money is going, the largest individual grant this year will be \$105,000 for the Yellowhead Centre. That amount is \$2,000 more than the volunteer operated facility had received last year. As for the eight other organizations receiving support this year, they include:

- \$16,000 - ArtsForward (in the form of 12 pre-paid rentals for Town/rec events);
- \$11,370 - Beautiful Plains Doctor Recruitment;
- \$10,233 - Neepawa & District Disabled Persons Association;

- \$5,500 - Neepawa Baseball & Softball;
- \$3,126\* - HAND Senior Services;
- \$1,500 - Citizens on Patrol;
- \$1,500 - Neepawa in Bloom & Horticultural Society; and
- \$1,000 - Neepawa Rotary Club.

\* - Grant support amounts rounded down to the nearest dollar

New to the grant list for 2026 are the Neepawa & District Disabled Persons Association and the Neepawa Rotary Club, while 2025 grant recipients NACTV, Margaret Laurence Home and Filcan (Filipino Heritage Day celebrations) did not receive funding this year.

Councillor Darryl Gerrard, who also serves as the head of the Financial Committee, noted that this year spending is increasing by 5.37 per cent. He also clarified that while actual mill rate increases are 2.59 per cent, due to of the growth in Neepawa, it minimizes the tax impact on citizens.

The first reading of the 2026 budget was given and approved on Monday, Apr. 20. Second and third reading will likely occur at the next council meeting, on Tuesday, May. 5. Payment of taxes without penalty are due by the last business day in September.

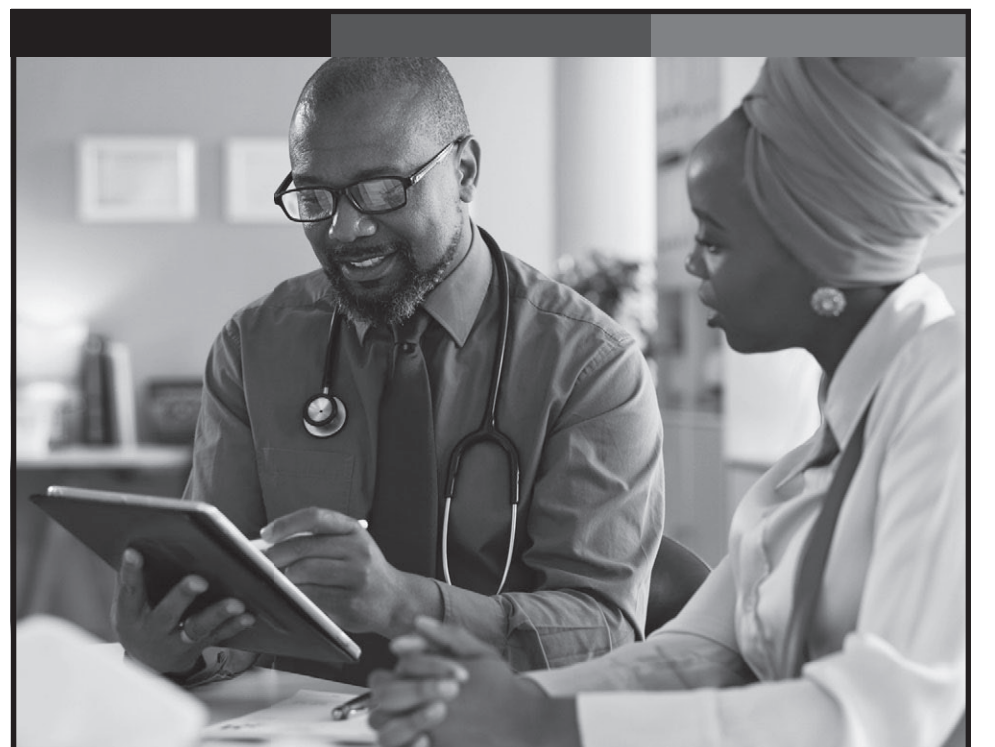


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# 'Dedicated to adapting' -Ilce Pineda

## Federal eligibility update, new provincial funding bring NAISS program changes

**Banner Staff**  
Neepawa Banner & Press

Recent changes at the federal level are having an impact on services right here in Neepawa. Neepawa and Area Immigrant Settlement Services (NAISS) Inc. has recently reported via media release that adjustments to federal funding through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) have resulted in changes to some of NAISS services.

Specifically, the NAISS noted that it is "no longer able to provide English language instructions for Levels 5 to 8". Certain services, under IRCC's current eligibility guidelines, are now limited for clients who have been in Canada for more than six years "under specific immigration categories".

"These changes are part of broader federal policy adjustments and are not a reflection of the needs within our community," said Ilce Pineda,

executive director of NAISS. "We recognize that these updates may impact some individuals, and we are committed to ensuring that support remains accessible through other available programs."

The NAISS is encouraging any individuals to contact the NAISS directly if they are unsure if these changes will affect them.

Services such as providing information, orientation, community and government resource referrals, community connection activities, and social and economic integration programs remain available.

On the flip side, NAISS has stated that the delivery of essential services continues through new provincial funding provided by Manitoba Labour and Immigration, under what is known as the Manitoba Settlement Support Services (MSSS) program.

The NAISS explained that, through this program, it is "able to serve indi-

viduals regardless of their immigration status, including temporary foreign workers, international students, permanent residents, and Canadian citizens".

Of the change, Pineda stated, "The MSSS funding allows us to remain inclusive and responsive to the needs of our entire community. At NAISS, everyone is welcome. Our goal is to ensure that individuals and families feel supported as they build their lives in Neepawa."

Providing a final comment, Pineda extended a word of gratitude to NAISS's community partners, and reaffirmed NAISS's commitment.

"These collaborations are essential to the success of our programs and allow us to better support the individuals and families we serve. Our team is dedicated to adapting to these changes while continuing to provide meaningful support to those who need it," said Pineda.

# 'Great results' for Co-op amidst 2025's challenges

**Continued from Page 1**

Regarding the planning, and adjustments to the planning, for the future Gladstone Co-op facility, Hedley stated, "This has been extremely complicated due to the challenges with the ongoing tariff trade wars. We will continue to update the community as more information becomes available to us."

**Breaking down the financials**

Sumner noted that FCL as a whole reported a better year compared to 2024. While sales were down, the FCL still saw an income increase for 2025.

On the local scale, 2025 was "a tougher year". Sales reached \$123 million, but the loss to the Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op's local savings also rose to \$2.3 million. In 2024, sales had been \$112 million, and the loss recorded in the Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op's local savings was \$1.9 million.

"This was due to competitive pressure on the Agro's and Bulk petroleum margins, and the Co-op continuing to work down

depreciation from several large projects that have been completed," Sumner explained.

Sumner also reported that FCL's patronage and loyalty program brought the Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op's net savings to \$1.09 million, which is a decrease from the \$1.49 million net savings experienced in 2024. It also experienced fewer membership sales— 416 were sold in 2025, compared to 423 in 2024.

Patronage refunds for members totalled \$587,000 in 2025, which included general repayments and equity pay to any members who moved from the area or who have been absent for one year.

"Over the year, the Co-op continued to support the local 4-H groups within our trading area. Donations to youth groups, youth sports, and many projects continued as well," said Sumner.

Reflecting on the year as a whole, Hedley stated, "It was a very busy, sometimes challenging year for all staff, but great results were achieved."

# Stride hosts Member Appreciation Day



PHOTO BY KEN WADDELL

All branches of the Stride Credit Union hosted a 'Member Appreciation Day' on Friday, Apr. 17. Customers were invited to come in and get their "piece of the pie". Seen here at the Neepawa branch receiving a slice of homemade pie is Christine Waddell (middle) with Stride representatives Brandi Falk and Michelle Gilmore. The day also included giveaways and other refreshments.



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**Sunday** - Pancake breakfast, Geocaching, Scavenger Hunt, face painting. Beading workshop, Carriage Rides, Maple Syrup Contest, Old Time Dance & Maeghan Bramley Memorial Steppers.



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# Farmers' Advocate



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By Eoin Devereux  
 Farmers' Advocate

A proposed \$500-million wind energy development north of Neepawa is generating both interest and concern from property owners across the region.

More than 100 people gathered at Polonia Community Hall on Wednesday, Apr. 15 for a public open house on the proposed Fleury Winds project. Representatives from the Red River Métis Power Corporation, the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) and Renewable Energy Systems (RES) were on hand to share details about the 200-megawatt wind farm planned for the area locals refer to as Huns Valley.

If approved, the development would include between 28 and 36 turbines, connected to Manitoba Hydro's existing substation in the area. Once completed, the project is expected to generate enough electricity to power approximately 59,000 homes and businesses.

Brian Hodder, a development manager for RES, explained to the Banner & Press that the open house marked the start of a lengthy

process.

"We are early in the project development process, and the open house was an opportunity to share preliminary information about the proposed project, answer questions that people may have and receive feedback on the project," Hodder said. "This was the first open house for the project, and we expect to have additional sessions after completing further studies and incorporate feedback."

Hodder noted that attendees raised a wide range of questions, with the most frequent of those related to project timelines, Manitoba Hydro's process, land lease arrangements, turbine visibility, and wildlife considerations, were also topics raised.

As for current commitments, Hodder said that 40 landowners have already signed option-to-lease agreements, covering roughly 20,000 acres, though only a small portion of that land would be required for infrastructure if the project proceeds.

*Continued on Page 10*

## Open house in Polonia on wind farm proposal draws crowd and criticism

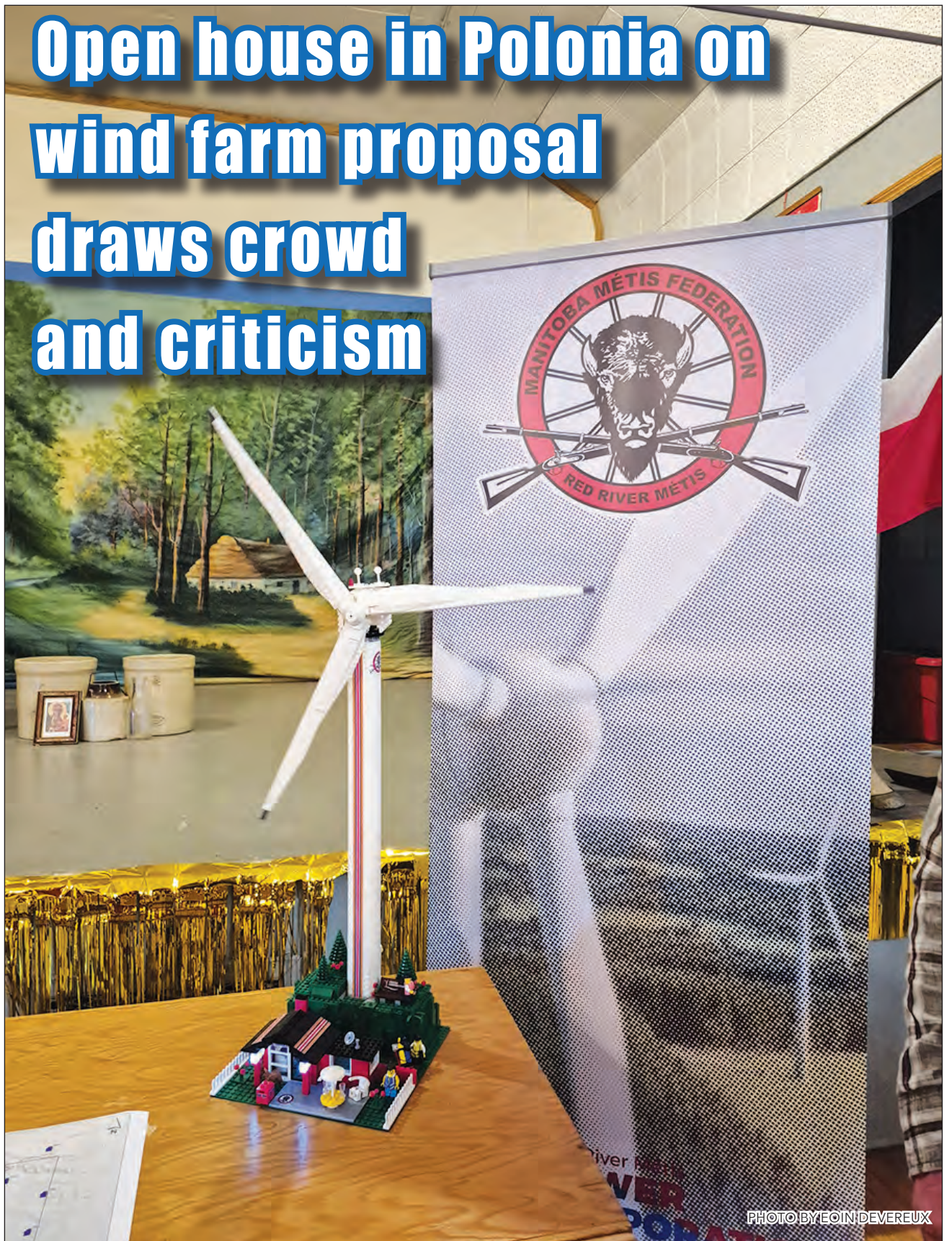


PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

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# Concerns raised over style of engagement at Fleury Winds Open House in Polonia

*Continued from Page 10*

Despite the turnout, many attendees left the open house dissatisfied with the format and level of engagement. The event did not include a formal presentation or structured question-and-answer session. Instead, residents were invited to view informational displays and speak one-on-one with project representatives.

A few local land owners commandeered the open house for a few minutes in order to speak directly to everyone in attendance, including the reps for RES and the Métis Federation. They expressed their frustration with the format style, stating they would have preferred a formal town hall setting, where they could ask questions on the record, rather than in private conversations. They also asked the presenters to formally acknowledge that the gathering was “Not

**About the project**

Manitoba Métis Federation, in partnership with RES is proposing to develop, construct, and operate the Fleury Winds Project that will have a capacity of up to 200 megawatts and be located on private land near Neepawa.

- 28-36 wind turbines proposed
- Up to 200MW power generated
- 59,000 homes supplied with electricity
- Employ 300 people at peak construction
- 51% owned by Manitoba Métis Federation

Manitoba Hydro has launched a procurement process for Indigenous majority-owned wind projects to help meet the rising electricity demand. Their 2025 Integrated Resource Plan forecasts demand could more than double over the next 20 years. Wind energy will help increase Manitoba's supply while supporting economic development and Indigenous reconciliation.

The site was selected for its strong wind resource, proximity to MB Hydro's existing substation, and compatibility with agricultural land use. The project is in early development and is planned for submission to the Manitoba Call for Power on July 6, 2026.

**Timeline**

- Development (2025-2026):** Signing land agreements, Wind measurement and analysis, Infrastructure study, Environmental and engineering studies, Engineering and layout, Initial municipal approvals, Manitoba Hydro procurement.
- Permitting (2026-2028):** Federal consultation and approvals, Provincial approvals, Municipal development permits, Indigenous and community engagement.
- Construction (2028-2030):** Mobilization and site set up, Layout area, Access roads, Turbine foundations, Substation, Electrical works, Turbine install, Commissioning.
- Operation (2031-2061):** Operations and maintenance.
- Decommissioning (1 year after end of operations):** Equipment removed and recycled at end-of-site, Land rehabilitation.

PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Several billboards with information related to the proposed wind turbine project were set up around the Polonia Community Hall for the general public to learn more about the project.

an official consultation.” Reps with the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) and Renewable Energy Systems (RES) replied that they would incorporate the feedback and explore a more formal approach with the appropriate content in the future.

At the end of the open house, the Banner & Press spoke with some of the at-

tendees to get their perspective on the night. A few of those individuals stated that they felt their concerns were not adequately addressed.

“It was not a meeting, it was a sales pitch,” said one attendee who spoke with the Banner & Press, but asked not to be named. Another opponent to the proposed wind farm also voiced frustration about

what they perceive as a lack of meaningful consultation with everyone in the region. They said “Some of us... A lot of us have been completely left out of the conversation.”

Others in attendance cited concerns with the amount of traffic into the valley a project of this scope would create. Health and

sound concerns, interference with aerial seeding and spraying, as well as impact on moose migrations within the area, were also concerns brought up to the Banner & Press.

### A long timeline ahead

The Fleury Winds project is still in its early stages,

with a permitting process expected to run through 2028. If all necessary approvals are granted, construction would take place between 2029 and 2030 and include the development of access roads, turbine foundations, a substation, and associated electrical infrastructure, followed by turbine installation and commissioning. The project's operational phase is projected to run from 2031 to 2061.

Fleury Winds is named in honour of the late MMF cabinet minister John Fleury, recognizing his contributions and deep connection to the Red River Métis community in southwestern Manitoba.

A community meeting on individuals looking to stop the project from proceeding is being arranged for Monday, Apr. 27 at the Polonia Community Hall. It is set for 7:00 p.m.

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# AI is transforming agriculture

Submitted  
Metro Creative

Technology has revolutionized global agriculture. Automation has changed the agricultural sector, and those changes might have arrived in the nick of time.

The global population is projected to reach nearly 10 billion by 2050, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimates that food production has to increase by at least 70 percent to keep up with demand. In order to address the deficit without exhausting the Earth's finite resources, many farmers are seeking help from artificial intelligence (AI). AI offers farmers additional perks as well.

### Precision agriculture

Precision is a notable benefit of utilizing AI within the agricultural sector. By using AI-powered sensors and satellite imagery, farmers can



PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Technology has vastly changed since the old days, even in agriculture. Farmers now have many tools at their disposal to aid with precision and more..

monitor crop health by looking at each and every plant instead of inspecting by the acre. According to a report by MarketsandMarkets, a revenue impact and marketing consulting firm, the market for AI in agriculture is expected to grow from \$1.7 billion (the figure in 2023) to \$4.7 billion by 2028.

Precision helps to keep plants strong and weed-free.

AI-driven "see-and-spray" technology utilizes computers to identify weeds among crops and apply herbicides only to those weeds. This reduces blanket-spraying an entire field, which is a waste of resources. Research published in the Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry indicates that this AI-guided tool can reduce herbicide use by up to 90 percent. This

reduces costs to farmers and benefits local ecosystems.

### Risk management

Weather across the planet has featured an uptick in volatile, unanticipated conditions. This can make planting even more challenging for farmers. AI models can process decades of historical weather data, soil conditions and atmospheric changes to offer predictive analytics that help the

agriculture industry. By using predictive AI tools, farmers can determine optimal planting windows to maximize yield, according to the International Food Policy Research Institute. In addition, AI algorithms can predict outbreaks of pests and diseases before farmers notice them on their own. Multispectral imagery from drones can detect crop stress caused by nutritional deficiencies

or fungus days before a human might recognize such indicators. By catching things early, farmers can reduce risk of a poor crop and financial losses.

### Automation

Agricultural labor shortages are forcing farming operations to seek alternatives to get the job done. The American Farm Bureau Federation notes that farm labor has become more expensive and it's harder to find workers who want to do the arduous tasks often required of them. AI-driven robotics and autonomous tractors guided by GPS can help fill the void. These devices can work through the night, preparing soil, harvesting crops and performing other vital tasks.

AI continues to be integrated into the agricultural sector. In order to maintain food security and mitigate labor shortages, farming operations are using technological tools to bridge gaps and improve efficiency.

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# Letter: Great concerns about Fleury Wind Project

Dear David Chartrand, President, Manitoba Metis Federation

I am writing regarding the proposed Fleury Winds Project, formally announced on April 14, 2026. This project is a plan to build 200 MW of wind generation, from 28 to 36 wind turbines, on the Riding Mountain Escarpment, along the south edge of Riding Mountain National Park. While I support both rural community investment and the great business practices of the Manitoba Metis Federation, I have great concerns about the way this project has been approached by your partner, RES Group, and the damage it is doing to our community.

The press release speaks of much positive impact on the community, however, I sit here as a resident, experiencing quite the opposite effect in real time.

For the last year and a half, RES Group employees have been surveying the area and going individually to selected land owners, soliciting them to sign up their land for the project. However, this past week, on April 15, was the

first and only time this project has been presented to the broader community, to not only provide information about the project, but also gauge support. Many area residents, completely unaware until a day or two before, came expecting a public meeting. That wasn't the case. Instead, they were forced into one-on-one, off the record conversations with RES representatives who were unwilling to address the community as a whole.

For most of us, seeing our homes on a map as a number and corresponding colour code triggered a very visceral reaction. Not only that, but some residents whose colour code indicated they had been consulted, said they had not.

This type of project will have a profound effect on area residents, far beyond just those whose lands will host wind towers. Community support is essential. This is a completely unacceptable level of engagement and a meeting like last week's, to inform and gauge support, should have taken place a year and a half ago, not now.

Many of us in the community feel blindsided by this backdoor approach.

What came out of the meeting was confusion; about what participating land owners had actually agreed to; about government and Crown Corporation support; and very little in the way of answers.

In the days since the meeting, multiple cases of conflicting statements from representatives from the RES Group have emerged. Beyond discrepancies regarding residents' individual consultation, there was also the completely false statement at the community meeting that our municipality, the RM of Rosedale, was in support of this project. Having reviewed the recording of the Feb 13, 2026 council meeting, where RES and MMF presented, there was no decision made one way or another, just a presentation. At that council meeting, however, when asked about the level of community support within an outlined zone on a map, the land agent with RES Group indicated "95% support within residents",

which is also clearly a false statement.

Community members have well founded concerns for this unique and ecologically sensitive landscape. Among them, a trail of abandoned towers, standing liabilities and eyesores left by prior projects whose owners have ceased to operate. By their own admission, this is a 30 year project and in the end, while RES plans to remove the towers, all the underground power lines and huge steel and concrete foundations will remain.

In less than a week, the project has sowed deep division within our community. We now find ourselves in a position where landowners, friends, neighbours and even families are divided over this project; hardly the "partnership with communities" praised in the press release. A project like this impacts far more than just the land owners who agreed to wind towers on their property. It impacts the entire community, through our views, impacts on wildlife, road traffic, infrastructure and even taxes and property values.

Many of us, myself included, have lived in a city and have chosen to live in this area. While there are definitely conveniences I miss about city living, additional traffic, noise and 300' structures are none of those things. I know a lot of residents of our province identify the escarpment on the south east of Riding Mountain National Park as a beautiful part of our province and that is one of the many reasons we choose to live here.

As you can imagine, following the announcement and subsequent community meeting, there have been groups organizing in the area to oppose the way this project has been handled, without transparency or clarity. They will be prepared to dedicate significant time and resources towards this because of what it means for our homes and community. There will be requests for close scrutiny of the practices of RES in terms of how the community has been notified and land owners contacted. Additionally, ensuring the municipal reeves

and councils have remained impartial throughout this process, as there have been concerns raised that that has not been the case.

It is unfortunate, because this will only bring further problems and division to our area.

At this time, I write out of respect asking that you rethink your position and withdraw MMF's support for this project. I know your organization is committed to thorough consultation and a strong sense of community and given that, I do not believe this project is in line with those values.

If this project continues, a huge amount of time and effort will be spent on both sides of this issue. Instead, I would rather see that effort used to unite and rebuild in our community, not further divide.

Once again, I respectfully request that you withdraw your support and do not proceed with the Fleury Winds Project.

Sincerely,  
**Matthew Atkinson**  
Mountain Road, MB

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# History lessons with Helen: Settlers

By Helen Drysdale  
Neepawa Banner & Press

In late 1890s in the European countries, posters and ads in the papers began appearing stating, "Living is cheap; climate is good; education and land are free." Why would you not answer the call to migrate to the Canadian West if you came from countries like Hungary, Romania, Ukraine and Poland that had much poverty, over population and lack of employment? Sir Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior from 1896 to 1905, established a network of recruiting agents with immigration offices in many European cities to distribute tremendous quantities of pamphlets and posters. Translated into dozens of languages, these pamphlets were geared to address farmers. The farmers were tenants occupying tiny farms and could not afford to purchase land for themselves or their sons. Free 160-acre homesteads in the Canadian West appealed to these poor eastern and central European farmers.

The pamphlets promised fertile soil, sufficient rainfall, bountiful crops and a healthy climate. They left out words such as "cold" and "snow" in favour of the more positive words such as "invigorating" and "bracing." There was nothing to forewarn the want-to-be-Canadians about the harsh weather, isolation, stoney fields, lack of roads etc. on their new farms. Those pretty pictures on the advertising with golden



The Kovacs (Smith) family on their homestead located just south of the Polonia Cemetery (c. 1899). Pictured are Julius, Bert, Steve, Lou, Gus, Joseph Jr. Mary (mother) Mary, Joseph Sr. (father). They are one of the original 17 settlers that came to Huns Valley (Polonia).

PHOTO COURTESY OF WILL SMITH

fields of wheat, happy kids playing in the fields and beautiful homes and barns made the prairies seem like a land of golden opportunity.

The pamphlets also had glowing testimonials: "I was thin and pale, had a cough," wrote a former Chicagoan who moved to Lacombe, Alberta. "When winter came, I found it to be the most pleasant part of the year, as the dry, cold air was bracing and entirely different from the damp, chilly wind I was used to."

Sifton strongly believed that sturdy European farmers were the best settlers for the Prairies, because of their familiarity with farming. The more traditional British immigrants did not have farming backgrounds. They were made up of bakers, brick layers, factory workers, merchants, clerks and others whose jobs were

not related to agriculture. These people were not what Sifton desired. Posters stated that Italians Blacks, Jews and Chinese need not apply. However, the English Canadians loyal to their motherland did not share Sifton's vision of immigrants coming from non-British countries. It soon became a political necessity that English Canadians be reassured that their culture was not at risk.

So once in Canada the CPR and the government both attempted to control where the newcomers settled. They wanted to keep the size and structure of the new communities acceptable to the predominantly English-speaking settlers. The new immigrants wanted to settle in groups for support and assistance. Many insisted that they settle together in larger

communities with their own people and did so. They were not always welcomed with their different style of dress, language and ways by the English settlers. Many children started school not knowing a word of English. Some were not treated with compassion, but in many schools' kindness and hospitality were shown, and over time the walls of hostility were broken down.

The recruitment campaign had denied the truth about the living conditions the new settlers were coming to. I read of one settler saying, "at least in the old country, though food was scarce, they had always been warm." Many settled on land that was poor, unproductive and had no water sources. The first years for the settlers were rough, as many arrived with insufficient funds.

This resulted in the men working away from home building railways, in mines, lumber camps and as hired farmhands. Men who came to farm their own land had to become labourers to buy food, equipment, seed and livestock. In the 1914 Drysdale record book are entries that show the wages paid to the hired hand known as "the Galician" (a province of the Ukraine) So much for the pamphlets stating that farms would be so prosperous that farmhands could be employed to do the fieldwork. The women stayed home with the children and

cleared the land of trees and stones. Far from the pictures of happy children playing in the fields.

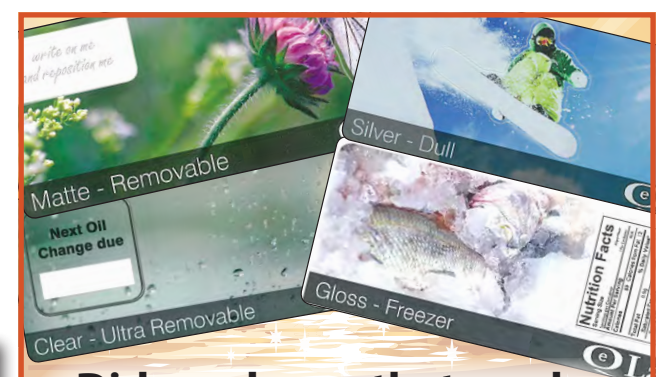
The largest single immigrant group in Manitoba was the Ukrainians, who now constitute over 11 per cent of the population and are an important part of Manitoban culture. They brought a rich cultural heritage, including distinctive culinary traditions, music and dance, and religious customs. With all the new immigrants came ample varieties of food.

Today our celebrations are a happy mingling of many ethnic origins. Who does not look forward to a church perogi supper, a steaming bowl of borsch, Oktoberfest sausage and sauerkraut, an Icelandic Vínarterta, or a crunchy Polish dill. It does not get more Canadian than that. Today on the prairies, we are welcoming our new immigrants from the Philippines. Thankfully they had much more knowledge to what they were getting into with their emigration experience. With their coming our lives are enriched with new food tastes such as Pancit, Lumpia, Leche flan and colourful parades and traditions.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BEAUTIFUL PLAINS MUSEUM

Pictured: The Laba family of Mountain Road taking loads of wood by ox team to Neepawa to exchange for groceries in November of 1908.



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### Thank You

Would like to take this opportunity to thank the Kelwood Legion #50 for the beautiful plant and fruit tray. Also, thanks to our friends for the lovely fresh flower arrangement, they are greatly appreciated. Many thanks to one and all. Gladys McQuarrie and family.

### Personal

Crisis Pregnancy Centre Winnipeg: Need to talk? Call our free help line, 1-800-665-0570 or contact our Westman office: 204-727-6161

### Notice

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings currently being held at 342 Mountain Ave, Neepawa, Thursdays at 7 pm. Call Don 204-856-9072 or Debby 204-352-4065

Arden Hall, cap. 255. Park, camping and sports facilities, rink, curling ice, kitchen and lounge. Call 204-368-2202

### Notice

Drug problem? Yellowhead Narcotics Anonymous meets Sundays at 7 pm, at the Minnedosa Town Hall basement.

Minnedosa Handivan 204-868-8164 Mon-Fri 9:00-3:30

Neepawa Banner & Press offers full research and re-print services from our archives that go back to 1896. Additional copies of papers, \$2 each depending on availability. Re-print of a page from past copies, \$2 per page. Archival research, \$25 per hour with a \$10 minimum. Individual photos on photo paper \$5 depending if we have a suitable original in our digital, print or photo archives. Ken Waddell, publisher

### Livestock

Polled Hereford yearling bulls. Vern Kartanson. Minnedosa. 204-867-7315

### Invitation

You are invited to celebrate Ellen Grudeski's 85th birthday, Saturday April 25th, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Kinsmen Courts 2, 307 Davidson Street Neepawa. No gifts please.

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### Obituary

#### William (Bill) Harvey Nelson



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of William (Bill) Harvey Nelson at the age of 71 years old on March 11, 2026.

Bill was born on January 25th, 1955 to Jean & Harvey Nelson. He grew up on the farm in the Mentmore area with his four brothers - Jack, Don, Wayne & Randy and attended school at Brookdale and NACI.

Bill married Debra Chemerika on December 4th, 1982 and they became parents of two daughters; Ashley & Dana.

Bill worked at numerous places in Neepawa throughout his life - MacLeods, Springhill Farms, Agassiz Ag-Depot but most notably at Mayor Equipment where he was known as one of the best "parts men" in town.

Bill had many interests; he loved history and was known to read encyclopedias for fun, he enjoyed sports and was a great athlete, he loved to read and play cards. He had an incredible ability to memorize numbers and was known to never have to look up a part number. He loved his family and excelled the most at being a dad and a grandpa.

Bill will be deeply missed by his wife of 43 years; Debra, daughters; Ashley (Jesse) and Dana (Justin) and grandchildren Novalee, Eli and Macy. He also leaves to mourn his brothers Don (Kathy) and Wayne (Joanne), sister-in law Betty, sister-in law Cheryl, nieces, nephews and many cousins.

He was predeceased by his parents; Jean & Harvey, and brothers Jack and Randy.

He will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

A Celebration of Life was held on April 10th at the Neepawa Legion Hall with Rita Friesen officiating. Internment took place at Riverside Cemetery in Neepawa. The family would like to thank White's Funeral Home for all the arrangements, Rita Friesen for officiating, the Legion Ladies Auxiliary for the luncheon and also to everyone who has sent their condolences, prayers, food and flowers and shared their memories of Bill.

### Obituary



#### Karen Louise Jenner

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Karen Louise Jenner on April 14, 2026 at the Brandon Regional Health Centre, at the age of 73.

Karen was the only child born to Harvey and Gladys Granger in 1952 in Virden, Manitoba. As her mother passed away when Karen was very young, she grew up sharing her time living with her dad in Broomhill and with her grandmother in Brandon. She also spent summers with her many cousins on the farm south of Weyburn, Saskatchewan.

After she graduated high school in Brandon, she worked various jobs such as a telephone operator, mortgage loan officer, and legal secretary.

Karen met her husband Ken in Brandon and they married in December 1973. Moving to Ken's family farm south of Minnedosa, she found employment as a legal secretary in Minnedosa. In 1979, they started their family with the birth of their daughter, Robyn, followed by their son, Justin, a year later.

After her children were born, she focused on raising her family and the family farm. She managed the farming records and balanced the budget. In addition, Karen drove the grain truck during harvest, drove to town for repairs, ran meals to the field and did whatever was needed. As the kids grew, Karen was heavily involved in volunteering for their activities including coaching baseball and becoming a brownie and girl guide leader. Many memories were made with family while camping in the summer, attending Justin's hockey games, and attending family reunions in Saskatchewan.

Karen was an active gardener and reader and enjoyed spending time with her friends. She loved her couples' trips to Mexico, camping in the summer with friends, attending Rockin' the Fields and Fun Fest in Minnedosa, and shopping trips to Minot with the girls. She also spent lots of time and cherished her grand children with trips to BC to visit Nolan and playing tractors with Tyler and Connor.

Karen was known for her strength and sense of humour. She dedicated her life to her family and friends and will be remembered for the joy she brought to everyone.

Karen will be lovingly remembered and cherished by her husband of 52 years, Ken, her daughter Robyn (Jeff) Koffman, son Justin (Deanna) Jenner and three grandchildren Nolan Koffman, Tyler Jenner, and Connor Jenner.

If so desired, donations may be made in lieu of flowers to Cancer Care of Manitoba.

A celebration of life will be planned for July 24, 2026 in Minnedosa, Manitoba.

White's Funeral Home in care of arrangements.  
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- Fully integrated facility – Feed Mills, Barns, Transportation, and Production Plant
- 2500+ employees worldwide
- We Care about our employees, communities, customers, animals, and our environment

#### What we can offer you:

- Competitive Wage
- Vacation: 10 working days of paid vacation
- Comprehensive Benefits package – health coverage, dental plan, vision care, long-term disability, and pension plan
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#### To excel in this role, you should possess:

- Respect for animal welfare, food safety, and workplace safety. Understanding of animal behavior
- Capable of working in diverse environments, including exposure to varying temperatures, humidity, and odors
- Minimum of one (1) to seven (7) months experience working with livestock
- Fit and capable of working in a physically demanding role. Capable of bending, lifting, and crawling
- Completion of Secondary school or equivalent experience
- Capable of repetitive manual tasks
- Able to effectively communicate in English
- At least 18 years old to meet the minimum age requirement

HyLife is dedicated to promoting equal employment opportunities for all job applicants, including those who identify as a member of the following groups: Indigenous people, Newcomers to Canada, Older workers, Veterans, and Visible minorities.

#### Ways to apply:

Online at <http://hylife.com/careers/> or mail to PO Box 10,000, 623 Main St E, Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0.  
Fax to: 204.476.3791 | Email to: [jobs@hylife.com](mailto:jobs@hylife.com)  
In Person at 623 Main St. E, Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0

**For inquiries contact:** Phone: 204.476.3393

HyLife has an accommodation process for employees with disabilities. If you require a specific accommodation during your employment because of a disability, please contact [Jobs@hylife.com](mailto:Jobs@hylife.com). An HR representative will be in touch with you as soon as possible. Reasonable accommodations will be determined on a case-by-case basis and our accommodation policy can be forwarded upon request.

**Be a part of the HyLife experience  
– your journey starts here!**

*We thank all applicants, however, only those under consideration will be contacted*



@HyLifeLTD

@hylifeld

@HyLife



Driven by Trust, Powered by Service

### NEEPAWA, MB

#### Hiring Class 4 Driver

Must have Child and Adult Abuse, Criminal Record Check and Driver Abstract

Call 431-351-3151

Or Email [Info.northerntaxi@gmail.com](mailto:Info.northerntaxi@gmail.com)



### Industrial Butcher (NOC 94141)

#### Why join our team?

HyLife is a global leader in food processing, with a vision to be the best food company in the world. To achieve this, we are currently expanding our team and have exciting career opportunities at 623 Main St. Neepawa, MB. We are actively seeking to fill 100 positions.

**The current starting wage is \$17.95/hour with incremental increases to \$26.10/hour based on tenure as per our Collective Agreement**

#### Quick Facts:

- Culturally diverse – employ people from all over the world
- Fully integrated facility – Feed Mills, Barns, Transportation, and Production Plant
- 2500+ employees worldwide
- We Care about our employees, communities, customers, animals, and our environment

#### What we can offer you:

- Competitive Wage
- Vacation: 10 working days of paid vacation as per our collective bargaining agreement
- Comprehensive Benefits package – health coverage, dental plan, vision care, long-term disability, and pension plan
- Permanent full-time employment (74-80 hours per bi-weekly)
- PM Shift Premium
- Full training, with genuine opportunities for career progression
- Employee Referral program - \$500!
- Free parking
- Company events
- And more!!!!

#### Your duties may include:

- Slaughter, eviscerate, and mark hogs for further processing;
- Debone edible parts and remove inedible organs for parts;
- Cut pork carcasses into primal cuts for further processing, cutting, or packaging for local, national, and international premium markets.

#### We are looking for people who are:

- Fit and capable of working in a physically demanding role
- Capable of repetitive manual tasks and standing for long periods of time
- Open to working in colder/warmer environments
- Minimum of one (1) to seven (7) months experience in meat cutting or slaughter or completed a program in Industrial Meat cutting
- Completion of Secondary school or equivalent experience
- Able to effectively communicate in English

HyLife is dedicated to promoting equal employment opportunities for all job applicants, including those who identify as a member of the following groups: Indigenous people, Newcomers to Canada, Older workers, Veterans, and Visible minorities.

#### Ways to apply:

Online at <http://hylife.com/careers/> or mail to PO Box 10,000, 623 Main St E, Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0.  
Fax to: 204.476.3791 | Email to: [jobs@hylife.com](mailto:jobs@hylife.com)  
In Person at 623 Main St. E, Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0

**For inquiries contact:** Phone: 204.476.3393

HyLife has an accommodation process for employees with disabilities. If you require a specific accommodation during your employment because of a disability, please contact [Jobs@hylife.com](mailto:Jobs@hylife.com). An HR representative will be in touch with you as soon as possible. Reasonable accommodations will be determined on a case-by-case basis and our accommodation policy can be forwarded upon request.

**Be a part of the HyLife experience  
– your journey starts here!**

*We thank all applicants, however, only those under consideration will be contacted*



@HyLifeLTD

@hylifeld

@HyLife



Invites applications for the following position:

#### Accounting Assistant

at the Division Office in Neepawa, MB

Full time permanent position commencing June 1st, 2026 or a date mutually agreed.

Maintain accounts payable, purchase order processes, GST/PST and equipment/asset database

Deadline: NOON, Monday, April 27th, 2026

See Division website for more details on this position at [www.beautifulplainsd.ca](http://www.beautifulplainsd.ca)  
Click on Job Postings.

## PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN HEALTH SANTÉ PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN Control System Specialist

#### JOB DETAILS:

Full-Time  
Permanent  
7.75-hour Day shifts  
Neepawa District Memorial Hospital  
Starting Wage: \$47,935/hour

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- \* Licensed, Journeyman:  
(as recognized by the Province of Manitoba)
- Instrumentation and Control Technician, or
- Electrician, or -Electrical Technologist (CET), or
- Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanic
- \* Three (3) years of experience as a recognized journeyman within the last five (5) years.

See the full job description in the job advertisement on our Careers website.

**APPLY TODAY:**

[www.careers.pmh-mb.ca](http://www.careers.pmh-mb.ca)

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOR ALL**

## Notice

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Please be advised that the next general municipal election will be held on October 28, 2026.

Prospective municipal election candidates must register with the Senior Election Official (SEO) during the registration period before they may begin to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will be receiving candidate registrations:

- For the office of head of council: Between May 1, 2026 and September 22, 2026
- For the office of councillor: Between June 30, 2026 and September 22, 2026

at the office of the Town of Neepawa, 275 Hamilton Street, Neepawa, MB, during the regular hours of business Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

To obtain a registration form contact the S.E.O at the email or telephone number listed below, or pick up a form at the Office.

Colleen Synchshyn,  
Senior Election Official  
Phone: (204) 476-7603  
[cao@neepawa.ca](mailto:cao@neepawa.ca)



Dated at the Town of Neepawa this 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026



**Ad DEADLINE  
TUESDAY NOON**

**Notice**

The Wellwood Cemetery Association are gratefully accepting any donations to put towards the yearly summer maintenance. Thank you for your consideration.

Please make checks payable to Wellwood Cemetery Association and mail them to:  
Blair Graham, Box 11, Wellwood, MB. R0K 2H0



**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
FINANCIAL PLAN 2026**

Public Notice is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act, that council of the Town of Carberry intends to present its Financial Plan for the fiscal year 2026 at a public hearing:

May 4, 2026  
5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers  
44 Main Street, Carberry, MB

Copies of the proposed financial plan are available on our website [www.townofcarberry.ca](http://www.townofcarberry.ca), or at the office at 44 Main Street during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Dated this 17th day of April, 2026

Teresa McConnell, C.M.M.A.  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Town of Carberry

**NOTICE OF VOTERS LIST /  
PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION  
Municipality Of Glenella-Lansdowne**

Notice is hereby given that a copy of the VOTERS LIST may be revised at:

The Municipality of Glenella-Lansdowne office, 50 Main Street N., Glenella, Manitoba from Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:00 pm. The last day for changes to the voter's List is September 22nd, 2026

At this time the Senior Election Official (SEO) (or designee) will be available to update the voters list by:

- (a) adding the names of voters who are entitled to have their names on the list;
- (b) deleting the names of persons who are not entitled to have their names on the list; and
- (c) making such other correction of errors to the list as required.

**VOTER ELIGIBILITY:**

A person is eligible to have his or her name added to the Voters List if he or she is:

- 1) a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years of age on election day (October 28, 2026); and
- 2) a resident of the Municipality of Glenella-Lansdowne for at least six months prior to election day, OR a registered owner of land in the municipality for at least six months prior to election day (April 28, 2026).

**NON-RESIDENT VOTERS QUALIFIED IN MORE THAN ONE WARD:**

In accordance with Section 25(2) of The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Act, any non-resident voter who owns property in more than one ward is responsible to notify the S.E.O in writing, not later than September 22nd, 2026 of the ward in which he/she desires to vote. Failing the foregoing, the voter's name will be placed on the list as the SEO may select.

**APPLICATION FOR PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION:**

A voter may apply in writing to the SEO at (at address/email below) no later than September 15, 2026 to have his/her name and other personal information omitted or obscured from the voters list in order to protect the voter's personal security. The application may be submitted in person, by mail or email and must include your name, address and include proof of identity.

All changes to the voters list must be completed on or before September 22, 2026.

Dated at Glenella in the Province of Manitoba, on April 20, 2026.

Wendy Wutzke, Senior Election Official  
Municipality of Glenella-Lansdowne  
PO Box 10, 50 Main Street N  
Glenella, MB R0J 0V0  
Phone: 204-352-4281  
Email: [rmofglen@glenella.ca](mailto:rmofglen@glenella.ca)

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
2026 FINANCIAL PLAN**

Pursuant to Section 162 (2) of The Municipal Act, that Council of the RM of Rosedale intends to present its Financial Plan for the fiscal year 2026 at a public hearing: April 28, 2026 at 9:00 AM, Council Chambers, 282 Hamilton Street, Neepawa

Copies of the Financial Plan and additional information can be viewed online at [RMRosedale.com](http://RMRosedale.com) or at the office at 282 Hamilton Street during regular office hours (8:30 am to 4:30 am).

Dated this 10th day of April, 2026.

Jordan Willner, CMMA  
Chief Administrative Officer  
RM of Rosedale

**NOTICE OF REGISTRATION  
OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL  
MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

**Municipality of WestLake-Gladstone**

Please be advised that a general municipal election will be held on October 28, 2026.

Prospective municipal election candidates must register with the Senior Election Official (SEO) during the registration period before they may begin to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that I (or my designee) will be receiving candidate registrations:

**For the office of Head of council:** Between May 1, 2026 and September 22, 2026

**For the office of councillor:** Between June 30, 2026 and September 22, 2026

at the Municipality of WestLake-Gladstone office, 14 Dennis St E, Gladstone, Manitoba during the regular hours of business.

A registration form can be picked up the Municipal office in Gladstone or by contacting the SEO at the email listed below.

Eileen Peters  
Senior Election Official (SEO)  
204-871-4495  
[SEO@westlake-gladstone.ca](mailto:SEO@westlake-gladstone.ca)

Dated at Gladstone MB on April 20, 2026.



**The Rural Municipality of Minto-Odanah  
REGARDING THE 2026 FINANCIAL PLAN**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Minto-Odanah intends to present its financial plan for the fiscal year 2026 at a public hearing in the Council Chambers of the Rural Municipality of Minto-Odanah on the 14th day of May, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Council will hear any person who wishes to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the financial plan, as provided.

Copies of the financial plan are available for review and may be examined by any person during the regular office hours of the municipal office at 49 Main Street, Minnedosa, MB.

Aaren Robertson, C.M.M.A., C.A.O.  
Rural Municipality of Minto-Odanah

**NOTICE OF REGISTRATION  
OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR  
GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

**Municipality Of Glenella-Lansdowne**

Please be advised that a general municipal election will be held on October 28, 2026.

Prospective municipal election candidates must register with the Senior Election Official (SEO) during the registration period before they may begin to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that candidate registration forms will be received:

**For the office of head of council:**  
Between May 1, 2026 and September 22, 2026

**For the office of councillor:**  
Between June 30, 2026 and September 22, 2026

at the Municipality of Glenella – Lansdowne municipal office in Glenella, 50 Main Street North during the regular hours of business.

To obtain a registration form contact the municipal office at 204-352-4281

Wendy Wutzke  
Senior Election Official (SEO)  
Municipality of Glenella-Lansdowne  
Box 10 Glenella, MB R0J 0V0  
Phone: 204-352-4281  
Email: [rmofglen@glenella.ca](mailto:rmofglen@glenella.ca)

Dated at Glenella, MB on April 20, 2026.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

IN THE MATTER OF the Estate of JAMES CARMAN MCNARLAND, late of McCreary, in the Province of Manitoba, deceased.

ALL CLAIMS against the above Estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be sent to the undersigned at Box 551, Dauphin, Manitoba, R7N 2V4, on or before the 15th day of May, 2026, after which date, the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims of which the Executor then has notice.

DATED at the City of Dauphin, in the Province of Manitoba, April 13, 2026.

JOHNSTON & COMPANY  
Jason Patrick Beyette  
Solicitor for the Executor



**NOTICE OF REGISTRATION  
OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR  
GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION  
Rural Municipality of Rosedale**

Please be advised that the next general municipal election will be held on October 28, 2026.

Prospective municipal election candidates must register with the Senior Election Official (SEO) during the registration period before they may begin to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that I will be receiving candidate registrations:

**For the office of head of council:** Between May 1, 2026 and September 22, 2026

**For the office of councillor:** Between June 30, 2022 and September 22, 2026

at the office of the Rural Municipality of Rosedale, 282 Hamilton Street, Neepawa, MB, during the regular hours of business Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

To obtain a registration form contact the S.E.O. at the email or telephone number listed below, or pick up forms at the Municipal Office

Jordan Willner, Senior Election Official  
Phone: 204-476-5414  
[cao@RMRosedale.com](mailto:cao@RMRosedale.com)

Dated at Neepawa this 15th day of April, 2026

Jordan Willner  
Senior Election Official  
RM of Rosedale



**NOTICE OF VOTERS LIST /  
PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION**

**Rural Municipality of Rosedale**

Notice is hereby given that a copy of the VOTERS LIST may be revised at:

The Administration Office of the RM of Rosedale, 282 Hamilton Street, Neepawa, Manitoba from Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

During this time the Senior Election Official (S.E.O.) will be available to update the voters list by:

- (a) adding the names of voters who are entitled to have their names on the list;
- (b) deleting the names of persons who are not entitled to have their names on the list; and
- (c) making such other correction of errors to the list as required.

**VOTER ELIGIBILITY:**

A person is eligible to have their name added to the Voters List if he or she is:

- 1) a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years of age on election day (October 28, 2026); and
- 2) a resident of the local authority for at least six months prior to election day, OR a registered owner of land in the municipality for at least six months prior to election day (April 28, 2026).

**APPLICATION FOR PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION:**

A voter may apply in writing to the S.E.O. (at the address / email below) no later than September 22, 2026, to have their name and other personal information omitted or obscured from the voters list in order to protect the voter's personal security. The application may be submitted in person, by mail or email and must include your name, address and include proof of identity.

All changes to the voters list must be completed on or before September 22, 2026.

Dated at Neepawa in the Province of Manitoba, April 15, 2026.

Jordan Willner  
Senior Election Official  
RM of Rosedale  
Box 100  
Neepawa, Manitoba, R0J 1H0  
Ph: 204-476-5414  
Email: [cao@RMRosedale.com](mailto:cao@RMRosedale.com)



**MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH NORFOLK  
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person who wishes to make them in respect to the following matter:

**THE MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH NORFOLK BY-LAW NO. 138-2026 being an AMENDMENT to the MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH NORFOLK DEVELOPMENT PLAN BY-LAW 121-2025.**

**HEARING LOCATION:**

Municipality of North Norfolk Council Chambers at 27 Hampton St. E, MacGregor, Manitoba

**DATE AND TIME:**

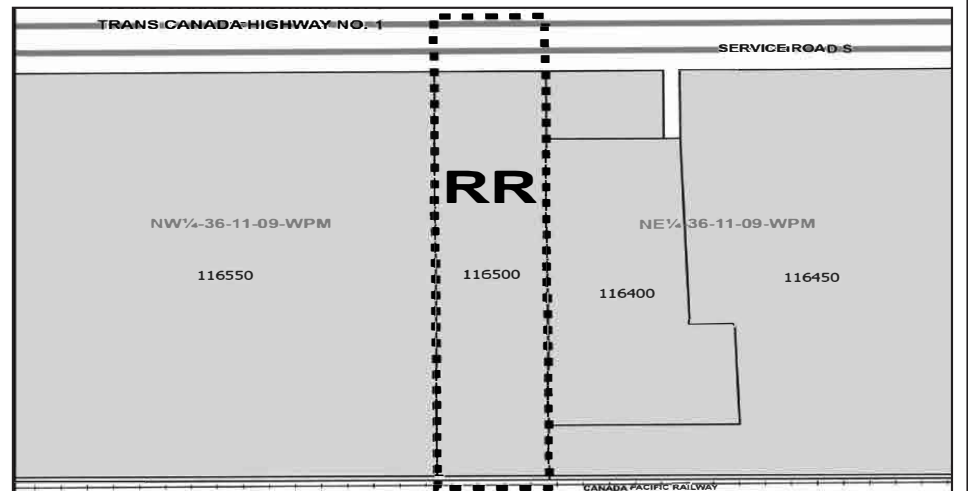
Wednesday, May 6th, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

**GENERAL INTENT OF BY-LAW 79/2021:**

To amend part of Development Plan Overview Map of the Nor-Mac Development Plan By-Law by redesignating from "R/A" RURAL/AGRICULTURAL POLICY AREA TO "RR" RURAL RESIDENTIAL POLICY AREA.

**AREA AFFECTED:**

Redesignate land part of NW 36-11-9WPM legally described as, roll 116500 as shown outlined in a heavy broken line on the map attached here from "R/A" Rural/Agriculture Policy area to "RR" Rural Residential Policy Area.



**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Theresa Bergen, Chief Administrative Officer,  
Municipality of North Norfolk  
Phone 204-685-2211

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the locations noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made and extracts taken therefrom, upon request.

**CLASSIFIED Ad DEADLINE**

**TUESDAY NOON**

**Cancellations and corrections only within business hours and corresponding deadlines.**

# Editorial: In my opinion

By Ken Waddell  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

This past weekend, the Winnipeg Free Press published a story about Riding Mountain MLA, Greg Nesbitt. Nesbitt lives in Shoal Lake and had a long career in the newspaper business before being elected as MLA. Needless to say, I have known Nesbitt for about 40 years. I find it ironic that a person who spent decades in the newspaper business has fallen victim to very shaky reporting by The Winnipeg Free Press. The story tried to show that Nesbitt committed some wrong doing, that Nesbitt used his position to affect a trial and that he somehow is soft on crime.

A relative, a niece of Nesbitt's, was charged with several offences, the case went to trial and she was sentenced to a jail term. She served some time in jail but launched an appeal. Pending the appeal, the niece is out on bail. The

appeal is being heard and that means the defendant has been released on bail from jail in the meantime. The appeal was set to be heard on Monday, April 20 at the Manitoba Court of Appeal in Winnipeg. A decision from that hearing will likely take many weeks.

The Free Press made several errors in my opinion. They claimed in the article that Nesbitt pledged a million dollars to secure a bail bond. That is not true. Nesbitt's net worth has no relevance to the case. The bail surety requested by the court was \$7500. The way bail surety works, it isn't in cash, it's a promise to pay if the defendant were to not show up in court or leave the country. So why it was claimed that Nesbitt pledged a million dollars, a false statement, is beyond me.

The reporter perhaps showed bad judgement or a lack of experience in his reporting. The headline writing was also very misleading. The photo picked

to go with the article shows Nesbitt with a very serious, even a worried, expression on his face. Trouble is the photo has nothing to do with the situation. It's a Brandon Sun photo from an event where, ironically, Nesbitt and other MLAs were hearing submissions from people on how to improve Manitoba news media. As an editor/publisher of three newspapers, and having been involved for nearly 40 years, I expect better reporting, photo editing, fact checking and headline writing from Manitoba's largest newspaper.

Nesbitt said he doesn't comment publicly on family matters. PC Party leader Obby Khan has said that Nesbitt did what any aunt or uncle would do by posting bail so a family member could be out of jail pending the appeal hearing. It's called due process and that is exactly what is happening.

# A look through history: Acropolis Fashions

By Casper Wehrhahn  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

This week, the Neepawa Banner & Press is taking a look back at some rural business history. Readers may recall the Acropolis Fashions ad which appeared in the Looking Back feature of the Apr. 1, 2026 edition of the newspaper.

Over its years, the Acropolis Boutique (and later Acropolis Fashions), appears to have provided a wide variety of items. This included clothing, Japanese pottery, Polynesian woodcraft, Hare Krishna hand-carved candles and incense, and much more.

The following is a brief history of that same business:

Neepawa's Acropolis Fashions first started on Mar 15, 1974, with proprietors Linda and Dennis Foley. At the time, it was known as the Acropolis Boutique.

The Acropolis Boutique was located at what is known as the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F) building, located at 376 Mountain Ave. The building directly beside it (374 Mountain Ave) was known at the time for the business "Acklands".

The business remained at 376 Mountain Ave for a time. Then, in the Aug. 15, 1974 edition of The

Neepawa Press, it was announced via an advertisement that a moving sale was being held.

The advertisement also made note of the location the Acropolis Boutique was moving to— "next door to the Bamboo Restaurant". This is presumed to be referencing the north half of the same building, with the Bamboo Restaurant being located within the southerly half (440 Mountain Ave.).

While an opening date for that location was not found, there were advertisements for winter sales at the new location in the December editions for 1974.

## Foleys open second location

The Foleys expanded the extent of their business the following year. In the Mar. 6, 1975 Neepawa Press, it was noted that, after clearing out some existing inventory, Linda and Dennis Foley were re-opening the Acropolis Boutique with a whole new line of goods— "clothing for children between the age of infant to 14 years"— on Mar. 14. As well, it was noted they would be retaining some of their more "popular boutique lines".

While the business got its start in Neepawa, it did expand further in 1975. In May of that year, pro-

prietors Linda and Dennis Foley held a grand opening for a Minnedosa location of the Acropolis Boutique. A specific location was not stated for this new branch of the business.

## 'Boutique' now 'Fashions'

The name swap for the business appears to have been implemented a few months later. In the Aug. 28, 1975 edition of The Neepawa Press, a back to school sale advertisement was featured. This advertisement identified the business as "Acropolis Fashions (formerly Acropolis Boutique)."

Further details pertaining to any other potential expansions or moves, and the ceasing of operations, are not known by the Neepawa Banner & Press at this time. However, it is known that another business, The Lighthouse (a satellite store of Neepawa Furniture Centre), operated in the former Acropolis Boutique/Fashions Space from 1980 to 1983.

If anyone has any additional information regarding the Acropolis Boutique/Acropolis Fashions, please contact Casper at the Neepawa Banner & Press via email at [newsroom@neepawapress.com](mailto:newsroom@neepawapress.com). Photos related to this business are also welcome.

## SERVICES GUIDE

**Birnie Builders**  
Redi-Built and on site homes, cottages, huron PVC Windows  
Phone/Fax 204-966-3207  
Cell 204-476-6843  
Harold Klassen Birnie, MB  
"Let Us Custom Design A Home For You"  
[harold.birniebuilders@gmail.com](mailto:harold.birniebuilders@gmail.com)

**HILLSIDE ACCOUNTING**  
**INCOME TAX AND ACCOUNTING**  
Glenn Wohlgemuth  
Phone: 204-476-2847  
245 Hamilton St. Neepawa  
[glennw@agapemail.com](mailto:glennw@agapemail.com)

**NorthWind AG**  
Custom planting  
Serving Western MB  
Set up for Corn, Soybeans & Canola  
Call or Text Trent at 431-351-0741

**RAINIE'S SEWAGE SERVICE**  
PHONE  
Jim Beaumont  
476-2483  
Owner/Operator  
Cellular 476-6591  
Dennis 476-2766  
**23 Hour Service**

**TAC Ventures Inc.**  
**Garbage Bin Rentals**  
**Roll Off Bins**  
We buy Scrap!  
Phone 476-0002 for more information

**WURTZ BROS. LTD**  
**REDI-MIX CONCRETE**  
• Concrete Pumps  
• Excavation & Earthworks Contractor  
• Complete Demolition Service  
**204-466-2824**  
fax: 204-466-2999  
[admin@wurtzbros.com](mailto:admin@wurtzbros.com)

Trenching • Ditching  
Water & Sewer  
Dugouts • Demolition  
Brushing • Trucking  
Sand & Gravel  
Snow Removal  
**P BAKER**  
BACKHOE SERVICE Winter Parking Lot Sanding  
Contact Pat Baker at 204-476-0712  
[p.baker@wgcwave.ca](mailto:p.baker@wgcwave.ca)

**FIREWOOD - LUMBER**  
**Tri-J Industries**  
204-966-3372  
ROUGH LUMBER  
Full dimension  
Corral Planks  
Windbreak  
FIREWOOD  
Cut and split firewood - Poplar, Ash, Spruce/Pine  
8ft firewood - 16 cord load delivered to your yard  
Oak - Maple - Poplar - Jackpine - Spruce  
**TIMBER HARVESTING**  
We buy standing Spruce and Poplar timber

**Rolling Acres Ready Mix**  
Certified Batch Plant and Cement Trucks  
Concrete • Gravel Sales • Rebar Sales  
Custom Hauling  
**Irvin 204-476-6236**

[www.neepawabanner.com](http://www.neepawabanner.com)

**Your recipe for success**

Ingredients:  
- 1 Neepawa Banner & Press ad  
- Your business

Directions:  
Book an advertisement with the Neepawa Banner & Press. Wait until readers view advertisement. Enjoy the success with more customers and increased sales.

[ads@neepawabanner.com](mailto:ads@neepawabanner.com) ~ 204-476-3401 ~ 423 Mountain Ave. Neepawa

Thank you for reading  
the Neepawa Banner & Press!



PHOTO BY ROB WADDELL

As Spring slowly creeps along, open water areas like this are welcoming back Great Blue Herons. The Great Blue Heron is widespread in southern Manitoba with most recorded sightings coming from the Prairie Potholes, Boreal Taiga Plains, and Boreal Hardwood Transition areas.

## Neepawa Health Auxiliary supports ENT Surgical Program

**Submitted**  
Neepawa Health Aux.

Thanks to donations received from Neepawa and surrounding area businesses during our annual fall canvas the Neepawa Area Health Auxiliary was able to purchase a Vorotek Headlamp valued at \$2,833.60 for the Neepawa Health Centre.

The Vorotek headlamp is shown in the attached picture with Erin Almey, OR nurse and Dr. Thess, ENT Surgeon. Dr. Thess is an itinerant ENT (Ear, Nose and Throat) surgeon who comes to the Neepawa Health Centre three to four times a month.

The Vorotek Headlamp is a surgical hands-free

lighting system used by medical professionals for performing high intensity, shadow free illumination during examinations and procedures. It is widely used in Ear, Nose and Throat surgeries such as tympanotomy (i.e. T-tube insertion).

At Neepawa Health Centre the Vorotek headlamp makes it possible for Dr. Thess to perform minor procedures in the outpatient procedure room rather than having to transfer the microscope from the OR. In the event that the microscope in the OR is away for maintenance or repair the Vorotek headlamp can be used in place of the microscope.

In addition to purchasing the Vorotek headlamp



the Neepawa Area Health Auxiliary in 2025 also purchased a diagnostic otoscope/ ophthalmoscope for the Emergency Department and chart carts and walkie talkies for a total cost of \$8,244.73.

## Gladstone Market report

**By Blaine Huston**  
Gladstone Auction

Good day cattle producers from the Gladstone Auction Mart. On Tuesday Apr. 21, we sold 1,146 head. We had about 230 butcher cattle to start the day on a very strong market, here's how they sold:

- We had about 230 butcher cattle to start the day on a very strong market, here's how they sold:
- D1-D2 cows \$2.20-2.40.
- D3 older cows \$1.90-2.19.
- Feeding type cows \$2.40-2.67.
- Bulls \$2.65-2.86.

On the feeder side of things I'd call it a very strong market. Here is a look at how things played out.

### Gladstone Auction Mart Cattle Market Report April 26, 2026

Steers	
4-500 lbs.	\$7.90 to 9.32
5-600 lbs.	\$6.60 to 7.87
6-700 lbs.	\$5.80 to 7.16
7-800 lbs.	\$5.05 to 6.39
8-900 lbs.	\$4.50 to 5.37
900+ lbs.	\$4.00 to 4.67
Heifers	
4-500 lbs.	\$6.70 to 7.62
5-600 lbs.	\$5.80 to 6.70
6-700 lbs.	\$4.95 to 6.30
7-800 lbs.	\$4.40 to 5.44
8-900 lbs.	\$3.85 to 4.93
900+ lbs.	\$3.50 to 4.56
1,146 head sold	

Here are some market highlights from yesterday's sale:

- We had a package of three red and black steers weighing 867 pounds bring \$5.1050 a pound (\$4,426 a head).
- Eleven black and red steers come in the ring weighing 713 pounds and cash in at \$6.23 a pound (\$4,441 per head).
- Twenty-five black and red steers weighing 645 pounds stamp there ticket at \$6.8050 a pound (\$4,386 a head).

On the Heifer side of things:

- Six black and red exotic heifers weighing 996 pounds bring \$4.50 per pound (\$4,480 per head)
  - Six black and red exotic heifers weigh 865 pounds and fetch \$4.93 per pound (\$4,265 per head).
  - 14 black and red heifers come in the ring weighing 799 pounds and bring \$5.10 a pound (\$4,074 per head).
- Plainer type cattle and cattle with horns or bulls are seeing discounts.
- Over all it was a very strong sale in Happy Rock.

## Letter: Neepawa Titans excited about current foundation, direction of the organization

Hello Titans Partners,

As we wrap up the 2025-26 season, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued support of the Neepawa Titans. Your commitment plays a vital role in everything we do—both on and off the ice.

This season was another important step forward for our organization as we continue to build.

When I look back on this year, I see a group that took steps in the right direction. We didn't always get the results we wanted, but there was honest growth in how we played and how we carried ourselves.

Competing in a tight league, our group showed they can match up with any team when playing to our identity.

This league is tight every single night. I thought our group learned what it takes to compete consistently. We showed we can play with anyone when we're dialed in.

As the season progressed, our identity became clearer—built on work ethic, structure, and team play.

We want to be a hard-working, structured team that's difficult to play against. At our best, we were exactly that.

A major positive this year was the development of our players. Younger players stepped into bigger roles, while our veterans led by example.

I'm really proud of the development we saw. That's what junior hockey is about—helping players grow both on and off the ice.

Our leadership group helped establish a strong culture within the room.

Our room was built on accountability and teamwork. When you have that, it gives you something to build on moving forward.

Off the ice, our players continued to represent the Titans and our partners with pride throughout the community.

Our players understand they're role models. The way they represented our organization in the community is something we take seriously.

As we turn the page to the offseason, our focus is clear—continue building.

This season showed us what it takes to compete and win consistently. Now the work shifts to getting better and coming back ready to take another step.

We are excited about the foundation in place and the direction of our organization.

With the experience gained and the culture we're building, there's a lot to be optimistic about moving forward.

Thank you again for your continued partnership and support of Titans hockey. We look forward to building on this season together and continuing to grow both on and off the ice.

Sincerely,

**Ken Pearson**  
Head Coach and  
General Manager  
Neepawa Titans Hockey Club



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## Titans announce departure of associate coach Zak Hicks

**Banner Staff**  
Neepawa Banner & Press

The Neepawa Titans will begin next season with a notable change behind the bench, as associate coach Zak Hicks has stepped down from his role with the organization.

The junior 'A' hockey club confirmed the departure in a statement released on Sunday, Apr. 19, noting Hicks' contributions over his tenure with the team, over the past four years.

"Zak has been an important part of our organization," said general manager and head coach Ken Pearson. "His passion for the game and commitment to our players have helped shape the program in a positive way. We are grateful for everything he has given to the Titans."

The media release also commended Hicks' work ethic and leadership over the years, contributing not only to the team's on-ice performance but also to the

growth of players away from the rink.

In a statement of his own, Hicks expressed his appreciation for his time with the franchise.

"Thank you to the Neepawa Titans for allowing me to be a part of such a great organization," he said. "The things I've learned from both the staff and players over the past four years will stay with me forever. I can't wait to see what's in store for the franchise and wish them all the best. Go Titans."



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE NEEPAWA TITANS

Zak Hicks.

## MJHL Playoffs



## Club 55 Bowling

**Apr. 16: Ladies' High Single:** Janice Absteiter 195. **Ladies' High Triple:** Elsie Slimmon 480. **Men's High Single:** Russ Taylor 208. **Men's High Triple:** Darrell Gabler 556. **Other Good Scores:** Laurie Kohinski 162; Darrell Gabler 190, 164, 202; Vivian Oswald 171, 160; Chuck Morden 153, 169; Frank Porada 177; Elsie Slimmon 160, 155, 165; Russ Taylor 170, 165.

## Westman VOLT to compete in Alberta



**Banner Staff**  
Neepawa Banner & Press

This weekend is bound to be one full of excitement for the Westman VOLT Hockey Club. A contingent of 12 athletes from the Westman VOLT, including players from Neepawa, Brandon, Virden, and Oak Lake, will be journeying to Calgary, Alberta for some hearty competition.

The Westman VOLT will be competing against other teams from across Manitoba, Ontario, and Alberta. What's more, fans desiring to see how the tourney will play out will be able to see the action unfold live. The Westman VOLT will have a livestream available for the games on their Facebook page on both Apr. 25 and 26.

The Neepawa Banner & Press wishes the Westman VOLT luck in each of their games.

*Note: VOLT Hockey is an adaptation of the ever popular*

*on-ice sport which is inclusive for individuals with intellectual or mobility disabilities. VOLT Hockey is played indoors in spaces such as gymnasiums, with players utilizing electric scooters equipped with a small hockey stick on the front to navigate, pass and shoot.*

*Readers who would like to learn more about VOLT Hockey may do so at [www.westmanvolt.ca](http://www.westmanvolt.ca).*

## 2012 Yellowhead Chiefs win in Winnipeg

**Banner Staff**  
Neepawa Banner & Press

The Yellowhead Chiefs recently returned home from Winnipeg with a new championship banner to hang from the rafters. The 2012 team competed in and won the Silver Division at the North American Hockey Classic.

The team played six games over the course of four day, and went an impressive 4-0-2, including and 5-0 victory over the Southeast Blades in the gold medal game. The Chiefs had five players in the top ten scoring for the tournament.

The Shoal Lake based squad consists of players from across the region, including Neepawa, Hamiota, Forrest, Shoal Lake, Oakburn, McCreary, Roblin, Cromer, Elkhorn, Virden and Laurier. Congratulations to the 2012 Chiefs on their success.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The 2012 Yellowhead Chiefs featured four Neepawa based players: (From left to right) Connor Smith, Cobe Terin, Lucas Yuavato, Zane Jakubowski.

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# Something to 'grouse' about



PHOTO BY ROB WADDELL

Pardon the pun, there's no complaints here— just an actual ruffed grouse photographed by Rob Waddell!

The ruffed grouse can be found across Canada, and much of the northern United States. Right here in Manitoba, 'Nature Manitoba' states that they are typically found in deciduous and mixed-wood forests, and are more scarce or absent in intensive agricultural regions, and the northern quarter of the province.

Described as a "chicken-like bird with an intricate pattern of grey, rusty black and white markings", ruffed grouse do not migrate. Rather, they may conduct local, seasonal movements to different habitats within a small area.

# Author John Warms featured at Neepawa Library

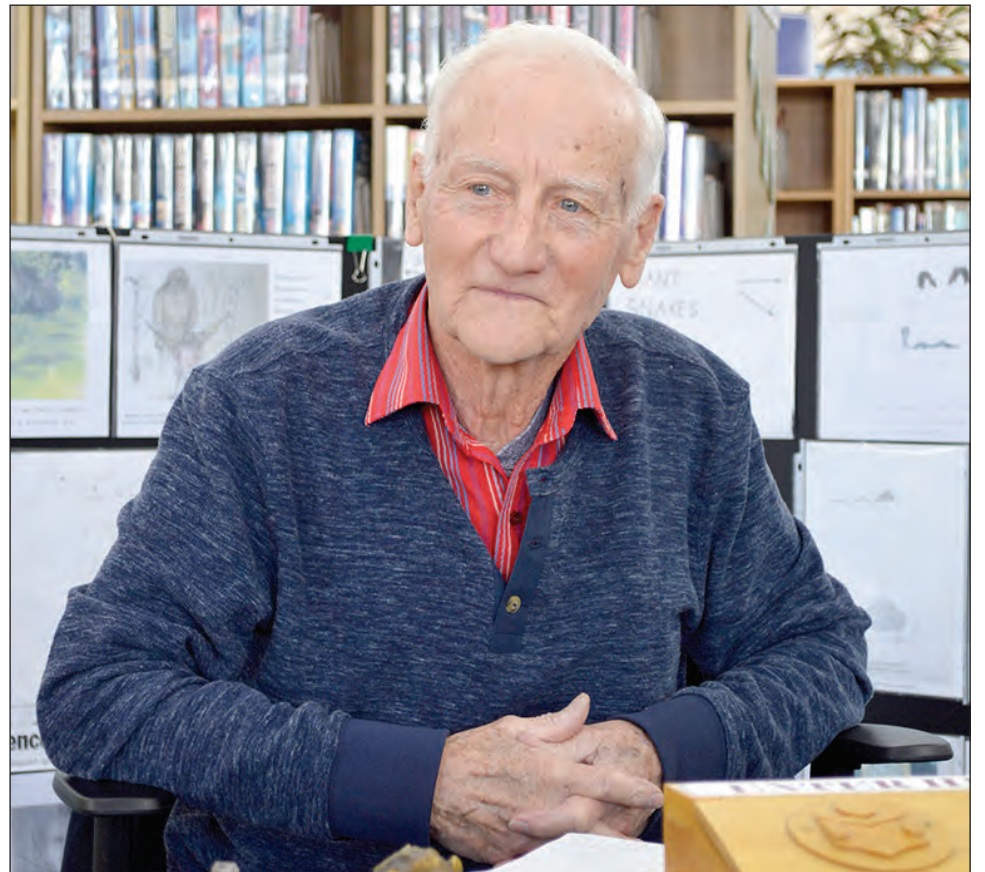



PHOTO BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

With a gentle smile, Canadian writer-researcher John Warms was ready to greet any visitors to the Neepawa Public Library on Wednesday, Apr. 15. Warms was at the library from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with a variety of items in tow- including photos, sketches, and his books 'Strange Creatures Seldom Seen' and 'The Girl Who Met Sasquatch'.



**Stride Credit Union announces a \$1.1million member dividend payout!**

April 21, 2026: Stride Credit Union held it's 2025 Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, April 15th where they announced that eligible members would be receiving their share of \$1.1 million in dividend payouts within the next week. These payments were deposited into members' accounts on Friday, April 17th – what a way to kick off the weekend!

The payments also coincided with Member Appreciation Day on April 17th, where members were invited into Stride branches to get their literal piece of the pie – a homemade piece of pie baked by The Little Red Barn. Branches were busy all day with members popping in for the sweet giveaway and entering their names into the Stride prize draw. The day was a success and Stride staff were excited to share a piece of the pie with their valued members.


Being a Credit Union member means you are part of a cooperative. On top of receiving personalized service from people who know you and your story, you can also benefit from profits depending on the amount of business you have with your Credit Union. Its another way Credit Unions are giving back to their communities.

Interested in joining Stride Credit Union? Please visit us at [stridecu.ca](http://stridecu.ca) to get started.

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