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Inside this week



Page 13: Meet RBC's
MJHL Ambassador



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'Truly an honour,
and a bit surreal'



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Yvonne Sisley, executive director of ArtsForward, has been named a finalist for a Travel Manitoba Tourism Award.

By Casper Wehrhahn
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

One of Neepawa's own is in the running to potentially receive recognition on a provincial level. Last week, during the Jan. 20 Neepawa Town Council meeting, deputy mayor Murray Parrott announced that Yvonne Sisley, executive director of ArtsForward, has been selected by Travel Manitoba as a finalist for its Tourism Awards.

Sisley was nominated for the Employee of the Year (Rural) award by ArtsForward's board members. While she was aware of the initial nomination, Sisley noted that she never imagined she would have been selected as a finalist from across Manitoba.

Continued on Page 7



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX
Snowmobilers with Journey for Sight arrived in Neepawa on Saturday, Jan. 24. The annual fundraiser began in Flin Flon earlier in the week and would conclude in Brandon later on the 24th.

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

An iconic charitable tradition has once again passed through Neepawa, as Journey for Sight made a quick stop

over the weekend. The annual snowmobile event has been motoring in Manitoba since 1983, with its goal being to support vision-related programs, through fundraising and awareness.

This year, the ride started in Flin Flon on Wednesday Jan. 20 and concluded in Brandon on Saturday, Jan. 24. Along the way, the participants make stops in several communities, including Nee-

pawa. The caravan arrived mid-afternoon locally to top up the full tanks and grab a late lunch at our local Dairy Queen (DQ).

*Continued on
Page 8*



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A show of support for local palliative care

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The employees for the Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op understand the importance of having a strong palliative care program close to home. That's why they're doing everything they can to support a pair of local initiatives.

On Monday, Jan. 19, Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op conducted cheque presentations for a combined \$2,738 to the palliative care units in both Neepawa and Gladstone.

That money has been split equally within each community and was raised through Co-op staff member's efforts. Each year, all the employees in both Neepawa and Gladstone have the option to have a payroll deduction of a dollar per pay period donated to a charity of their choice. Over the past several years, that money has been pooled together at the end of the year and donated locally to Neepawa Palliative Care



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Neepawa-Gladstone Co-ops made a pair of donations to local palliative care units recently. Shown above for the Neepawa presentation are: Mary Ellen Clark, Glenda Cathcart, Keith Babcock, and Kelsey White.

Coordinator Mary-Ellen Clark and Seven Regions Palliative Care Community Coordinator April Hiller accepted the donations. Mary-Ellen Clark spoke with the Banner & Press and noted that this support is very much appreciated. "It's great to see that [Co-op and its employees] see

the value of these services, and to be so generous. We are more than grateful for a donation of this size," said Clark. "This money is a great contribution, because with the new hospital [in Neepawa], we will be buying some new things for palliative care. It will stay local and help sustain our

programs." April Hiller, the Community Coordinator for Seven Regions Palliative Care, echoed similar sentiments, adding this type of support is absolutely invaluable.

"As a non-profit who does not receive any ongoing grants or provincial funds, all income to support those at the end of life are solely raised by fundraisers and thoughtful donations. With this donation from the employee program, we are able to provide our support and services for free in our client's hardest time, when finances should be the least of their worries," stated Hiller.

Palliative care involves the use of trained volunteers offering emotional support, comfort, and practical assistance to individuals and families living with a life-threatening or terminal illness, to improve their quality of life.



Pictured at the cheque presentation for Seven Regions Palliative Care, presented by the Gladstone branch of the Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op are: Derrick Edwards, April Hiller, Kelsey White, and Glenda Cathcart.

A helping H.A.N.D.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Home Assistance Neepawa & District (H.A.N.D.) provided Handi-Van Neepawa with a helping hand recently in the form of a \$2,000 donation. Handi-Van Neepawa credits donations such as this one with aiding in keeping the Handi-Van on the road, and in turn helping those who may have mobility or transportation barriers. The Handi-Van helps people get to medical appointments, grocery stores, social activities, community events, and more.

Pictured: Michelle Kasprick, of H.A.N.D.; and Cody Cicholski, of Handi-Van Neepawa.

AgWest Ltd. adds new Account Managers in Neepawa

Submitted
AGWEST LTD MEDIA RELEASE

AgWest Ltd. is continuing to invest in local customer support in the Neepawa area with the addition of two new account managers, while also acknowledging the upcoming retirement of a long-time member of the local ag community.

Kevin Friesen, AGCO account manager, and Brad Van Wyk, CLAAS account manager, have joined AgWest to serve farmers in and around Neepawa. Both bring strong agriculture experience and an understanding of the region, helping ensure customers have consistent,

knowledgeable support. "Adding Kevin and Brad strengthens our local team and our ability to support customers locally," said Andrea Lukin, branch manager at AgWest's Neepawa location. "It's important that local farmers have people they know and trust to work with long-term."

The transition also comes as Randy Van Humbeck prepares for retirement after many years supporting producers in the area. Over his career, Van Humbeck built strong working relationships with customers and played an important role in AgWest's presence in the region.

"As Randy steps into retirement, we're grateful for the experience and relationships he's built with local customers," Lukin added. "We're focused on making sure that same dependable local support continues."

AgWest remains committed to serving the Neepawa farming community with a team focused on long-term relationships and reliable service.

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1976: The old and the new- Neepawa schools

By Casper Wehrhahn
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

**125 years ago,
Friday,
January 25, 1901**

Acton: Acton school closed on Thursday 24th on hearing of the death of our beloved Queen Victoria.

Acton: R. Freed has sold his farm to W. Newell and intends ranching in the west.

Acton: It is reported that our school teacher purposes investing in a team of long eared ponies and a red jumper at an early date.

Carberry curlers defeated Portage la Prairie in the Tuckett and district medal competitions. Birtle curlers won from Shoal Lake and Binscarth.

**100 years ago,
Tuesday,
January 26, 1926**

Riding Mountain: Miss Netta Grudeski was taken to Neepawa hospital last week and underwent an operation for appendicitis. We are pleased to know she is doing nicely and hope to see her home again.

The present principal of Gladstone school has been engaged to succeed principal Robertson, of the Neepawa schools, at Easter, when Mr. Robertson takes on the duties of inspector, with headquarters at Brandon.

Arden: Mrs. Alex Moffatt and Mrs. Jack Oliphant were joint hostesses to a number of their friends at the home of the latter on Monday evening last, the occasion being the celebration of the anniversary of Robbie Burns' birthday. After a sumptuous dinner, which included a real haggis from Glasgow, Scotland,



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

The Viscount School (pictured left), an educational institution in Neepawa, held its last class on Jan. 22, 1976 after almost 50 years of service. When classes resumed, they were held instead at a brand new facility which had finished construction. This was the Neepawa Area Collegiate Institute (right), which still stands today and has had a number of additions. The Viscount School was expected to become a cultural services centre following its closure as a school building. Later, in 1985, it was demolished.

a very pleasant evening was spent in games and music appropriate to the occasion.

Eden: The one day bonspiel held on Wednesday was a huge success, every one in their place and right on time. Play started at 9:00 a.m. and continued through the day. The final game was played at 12 o'clock. The ladies club served lunch. Curling brooms were given as a prize. H. Currie and R. E. Coad playing the final game, the latter winning by two. The rinks were: Mrs. J. W. Edwards, Mrs. J. B. Jackson, Roy Fraser, H. Currie, skip; Mary Ross, Mrs. R. J. Thompson, Jas. Scott, R. E. Coad, skip.

Franklin: Miss A. Galop, of Minnedosa, has accepted the position of principal of Mountain Road School, and assumed her duties last Wednesday.

Glencairn: H. Town Jr. is driving the north school van. Herb should make a good van driver, as he used to drive for Eaton's, in Winnipeg.

Several citizens were witnesses of an exceptionally beautiful celestial display on Tuesday evening. The moon shone

through a thin cloud, above which there were illuminations of many colours extending across the sky from east to west. It was grander than the fictions accompanying the "Ten Commandments".

Charley Pedlar, in his little Ford, has kept well up in the procession of motor cars making the "Pine to Palm" run. Not only that, but on the first day, in rather stormy weather, he led the way into Hallock, Minn. He reports the utmost courtesy all along the route and royal entertainment at all stopping places. Their objective will be reached on Feb. 4 and then Mr. Pedlar deviates to visit his brother in Neepawa.

The Hobberlin cup did not stay long in Eden. It has now found a resting place in Arden, for the first time. But Neepawa and Minnedosa are hot after it.

**75 years ago,
Thursday,
January 25, 1951**

Brookdale: Congratulations to Mrs. Barrett, who celebrated her birthday on Sunday; to Wm. Harris, who celebrates his 85th

birthday on Jan. 30.

Kelwood: A considerable amount of property damage was caused by a wind storm on Tuesday afternoon. A number of roofs and windows were damaged.

**50 years ago,
Thursday,
January 29, 1976**

Viscount School, an educational institution in Neepawa since it opened almost 50 years ago, held its last class on Thursday, Jan. 22. There were no classes for the students Friday and Monday and when school resumed it was in the new collegiate addition.

The new junior high school is now in operation. Classes started in the new wing Tuesday with a minimum disruption for the students. Viscount School is expected to see service as a cultural centre.

The Neepawa Town Council made a big splash Tuesday night as they passed a motion accepting responsibility for operating the swimming pool that is to be constructed in connection with the Manitoba Summer Games.

In part the motion read that the town will "cause to operate and maintain the proposed swimming pool to be erected in conjunction with the Manitoba Summer Games after the Games are over".

**20 years ago,
Monday,
January 30, 2006**

Support staff at Turtle River School Division were back on the job last Monday, even though the issues that led to strike action three months ago have yet to be resolved.

Flying restrictions were placed on Neepawa's airport two weeks ago after freezing rain iced over the runways.

Neepawa's Kaiten Critchlow won seven gold medals in the Manitoba Junior Short Course swimming championship in Brandon last week. He captured six golds in individual events— the

100 meter backstroke and breaststroke, as well as the backstroke, freestyle, butterfly and breaststroke over 50 meters. He also swam the anchor leg as the Brandon Bluefins 15-and-over team captured gold in the 200-meter freestyle race. Critchlow, a Grade 12 student at Neepawa Collegiate, established personal best times with his effort in the 50-meter backstroke (35.24 seconds), butterfly (39.6). He has been a member of the Bluefins club since September.

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.

**God is spirit, and his worshipers
must worship in the Spirit and in truth.**
John 4:24 (New International Version)

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This ad from It's Time Promotions is from the Jan. 30, 2006 edition of The Neepawa Press.

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Highlights of the week

Seniors Update - HAND
Feb. 3 at 10:30 am | Feb. 5 at 4:00 pm | Feb. 8 at 2:00 pm

Journey For Sight
Feb. 3 at 8:30 pm | Feb. 5 at 1:00 pm | Feb. 7 at 5:30 pm

Cooking with the Stars - Kids Edition
Feb. 4 at 12:30 pm | Feb. 6 at 4:30 pm | Feb. 7 at 1:00 pm

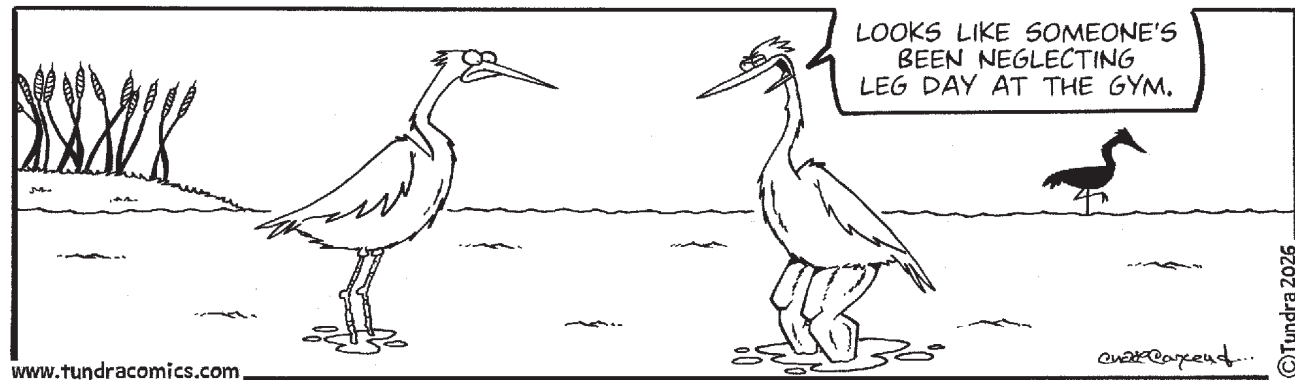
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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Why are we watching this garbage?

It's long overdue but many people in the news industry and millions upon millions of non-media people are slowly coming to the recognition that many, if not all online mediums, are not necessarily good for humanity. Online platforms are almost completely unregulated. Facebook claims that they do fact checking. A few years ago I asked how many FB fact checkers there were and the ratio worked out to be one for every 90,000 users. That automatically tells us that fact checking is minimal at best, and at worst, non-existent. In some countries there are no fact checkers as the billionaire owners have come to realize that fact checkers cost money and are basically ineffective.

In the past few years, it has become evident that Artificial Intelligence (AI) can make up many thousands of stories and videos, be they fact-based or fiction. And lately it has become apparent that, be it AI or otherwise, sexual abuse, promotion of falsehoods and violent scenes are being spewed out by the thousands on web based venues.

I have heard of a number of people who are abandoning social media. I think what it will boil down to is being very careful as to what sites a person visits. For example, town or community web sites should be reliable and are needed to announce emergencies and promote last minute changes to events. Newspapers, like the one you are holding, can't always get the news out quick enough being weekly papers. That means community web sites are important.

It should be noted that FB sites for newspapers, radio and television stations are banned in Canada by Facebook. The Canadian On-line News Act declared that companies like FB and Google would be required to compensate domestic Canadian media as they use our



“It should be noted that Facebook sites for newspapers, radio and television are banned in Canada by Facebook.”

material with neither recognition nor compensation and have done so for years. Google agreed that they would pay money towards Canadian Media. Facebook refused and, as a reaction, shut down Canadian news media FB sites.

As criticism of unrelenting and uncontrollable online material increases, Jen Zoratti of The Winnipeg Free Press said on the weekend about X (formerly Twitter), “Respectfully, a primary communication tool for whom, exactly? Who is still using it, besides bots, ragebaiters and the creators of child sexual abuse images? There's nothing to save, nothing to make better. It's a social media platform run by a billionaire who allows this stuff to happen. The decision to leave should be easy.

How bad does it need to get, exactly, to make people log off forever?”

Good question. Zoratti's column, along with my own observations and reading other peoples' frustration has lead me to resolve to cut way back on the use of social media. I plan to head back to reading a book a month. I prefer Canadian histories

and biographies. The local papers, radio and TV stations should be our go-to sources for the most of our media with the only usage of social media being local sites. Other social media should be used very carefully and sparingly.

Interesting that the Bible verse of the day for Jan. 25, the day I wrote this column, speaks about being careful what you read and think about. “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” —Philippians 4:8 New International Version.

I feel moved to take that advice but not a lot of what is on the internet falls into the standards of that admonition

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 newspaper staff.

Homebodies

RITA FRIESEN



Not trusting my memory...

About this cold snap...it's not the first or the worst in my memory. Way back in 1963 the temperature recorded at Richardson's Airport, and experienced at Graysville, never rose above zero degrees Fahrenheit, day or night, for the month of January. It was a winter that my father was attending the University of Manitoba, leaving me to keep the home fires burning, and the chores completed. I was in grade eleven, turned 17 that February. It is recorded as one of the coldest winters, colder than 1947, coldest since 1740. January 1966 beat that record.

It was a tough winter, so cold that some mornings the fog was heavy enough to dim the yard light's glow and give the whole world an eerie other world feeling. So cold that even sheltered animals needed more feed, and watering the livestock was challenging. There was one barn with several milk cows, Jersey and Jersey mix (I still know them by name, Molly, Daisy, Bambi, Penny...coo boss), some chickens and possibly a hog or two. The other barn housed the sheep. The buildings were adjacent and attached, so once inside, all was well. The loft of the main barn was home to the bedding straw and some bales, but most of them were hauled from a stack outside. Some prickly clover, some alfalfa, some straight hay, all off our land, so any farmer knows that back them, those wonderful square bales were handled many times—on the rack, off of the rack and onto the stack, into the barn, and then in a less delightful form, out of the barn! No wonder I have long arms! By this time the water had been piped into the barn, a vast improvement from hauling it, in five gallon pails, from the well. That was not a pleasant winter chore.

What I remember so well was the wonderful sense of accomplishment when the chores were done. Opening the door I would be greeted with a cacophony of sounds, cattle, sheep, chickens all calling for breakfast. And as the food was distributed, silence would reign. Well, silence in comparison, for there was the sound of chewing, hay being pulled toward, and the lambs gambolling and galloping in the open space provided as all the ewes gathered at the feed. The air was heavy, moist, rich, and pungent. The morning routine only called for the supply of feed, the clean up and out came as part of the evening chores. There was satisfaction there as well.

I don't recall many snow days, days that the vans didn't make their rounds. Back then the route was driven by a neighbour, a bus to which we had progressed from using individual's vehicles that could have been a station wagon—no seat belts— or simply a car.

I do recall that winter wear was not what it is today. We relied on bulk to keep warm, layers of sweaters and jackets. Thankfully by then I was past those brown cotton stockings kept in place with a canning jar sealer ring to leotards.

Not the first, not the worst. Not the last!

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Canada

ADHD education, support and a way forward

Nowadays you meet lots of people with ADHD. It seems like it's in the news and in social media all the time, but is it becoming more common to have ADHD?

There are many theories out there. One of the theories is that neurodivergent people tend to attract one another. We tend to choose friends and partners who are also neurodivergent. This means that we will have a greater likelihood of having children who have ADHD, increasing the population of people with ADHD. Another theory is that there is more knowledge nowadays, so there has always been the same amount of ADHD, we are just diagnosing it more because more people are coming forward with symptoms. Finally, another theory is that because of our busy, fast paced world, evolution is causing our brains to develop, with each generation, into brains built for a fast-paced world (which ADHD brains are). No matter the theory you subscribe to, the bottom line is that more folks are being diagnosed with it, so it's important to know what it looks like in case you could benefit from diagnosis.

ADHD presents differently in men and women. For women, we tend to present with more inattentive symptoms, and our hyperactive ones become internalized. We may present with: Difficulty focusing, in-

**YOUR
LISTENING EAR
DELSIE MARTIN**

ternal feelings of restlessness, difficulty with organization, difficulty with big emotions, extremely busy brains (I'm talking five lines of thought and a song going all at once), chronic feelings of exhaustion, forgetfulness and sometimes skin picking, fidgeting, nail biting and other repetitive behaviors. For guys, they tend to present with more hyperactive/impulsive symptoms. They may present with restlessness and energy, impulsiveness, short frustration tolerance and forgetfulness. This only scratches the surface of symptoms but is something for your consideration.

Education is the first step in recognizing your own ADHD. If you see yourself in any of these symptoms, it is worth a visit to your doctor to speak to them about the option of being tested. Not everyone chooses to use medication, and that is totally OK, but for those who do, medication can make a world of difference in someone's life. Counselling support is also very helpful in building routines, learning organization strategies and learning more about how your brain works.

Counselling is especially important because of

the stigma that folks with ADHD face. It is not uncommon for us to be thought of as lazy, ditzy, dumb or unmotivated. We are aware that many believe this and unfortunately many of us internalize it. We are none of these things, our brains just work differently, and it is completely outside of our control. Folks with ADHD have a lot of strengths, we are creative, very detail oriented and focused (when interested in something), we have a lot of enthusiasm and will put our entire heart into something that we believe in.

How do you support a loved one with ADHD? Lead with kindness, empathy and most of all believe in them. Believe that they are capable, believe that they have a lot of amazing qualities and put the proper supports in place to set them up for success, beginning with a judgement free environment.

Delsie Martin (BA, MSW, RSW), is a Registered Social Worker and an instructor at Assiniboine College in Brandon. If you have any questions or suggestions related to these columns, your enquiries can be sent to news@neepawabanner.com and they will be forwarded.

HELEN DRYSDALE OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN Clementines

A clementine is a tangerine, a citrus fruit hybrid between a mandarin orange and a Seville orange, thought to be one of the sweetest oranges. They were named after a family member of my mother, Brother Clément Rodier, a French missionary who first propagated the cultivar in Algeria in 1892. Hence their name "clementine"! Unlike oranges, Clementines are smaller, easy to peel and typically seedless. They are an easy way to add fruit to a child's diet.

With just 35 calories in one clementine, you can technically count two as one serving of fruit. Two clementines have the same amount of sugar as one banana, one cup of grapes, or one small apple. But they are lower in total carbs with just 18 grams of carbohydrates in two fruits, compared with 25 grams in one medium apple and 27 grams in one medium banana. Clementines are also a vitamin C powerhouse, with one small fruit providing 40 per cent of your daily needs.

Clementine cranberry loaf

An easy orange glaze is the perfect finishing touch to top this Clementine flavoured loaf.

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 cups flour | 1 1/2 Tbsp. clementine zest, |
| 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder | from about 3 clementines |
| 1/2 tsp. baking soda | 1/3 cup clementine juice, |
| 1/2 tsp. allspice | from about 4 clementines |
| 1/2 tsp. cinnamon | 1/3 cup milk |
| 1/2 tsp. salt | 1 cup dried cranberries |
| 1/2 cup butter, softened | Drizzle: |
| 3/4 cup white sugar | 1 1/4 cups icing sugar |
| 3 eggs, room temperature | 2 Tbsp. clementine juice |

Heat oven to 350°F. Spray bottom and sides of a 9x5-inch loaf pan with cooking spray. Very lightly flour. In a large bowl, mix together flour, baking powder, baking soda, allspice, cinnamon and salt. Set aside. In a the bowl of a mixer beat butter and sugar on medium-high speed about two to three minutes, scraping sides and bottom of bowl occasionally, until mixture is light and fluffy. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating on medium speed for about a minute after each addition. Stir in zest, juice and milk until combined. Gradually stir flour mixture into butter mixture; stir until everything is just combined. Add the cranberries. Pour batter into prepared loaf pan. Bake loaf 45 to 55 minutes or until loaf is golden brown and a toothpick inserted in the center of the loaf comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes in pan, remove loaf from pan and continue to cool on a wire rack. Once loaf is fully cooled, make the icing: In a medium bowl, mix icing sugar with clementine juice until mixture is smooth. The mixture should be thick but still drizzle off a spoon; if necessary, add more clementine juice or powdered sugar until you reach the correct consistency. Spread icing over top of cooled loaf; let stand until icing is fully set, about 10 to 15 minutes, before slicing.

Beet and Clementine salad

Oranges can add an unexpected twist to vegetable side dishes: they complement root vegetables like carrots and beets surprisingly well! If you do not have fresh beets you can use a can of cooked beets for this recipe. You can make this ahead to allow the dressing to soak into the beets and oranges. However do not add the spinach, cheese or nuts until just ready to serve.

For the Salad:

- 3 medium beets, cooked, peeled, and sliced
- 2 cups baby spinach or micro greens, washed
- 3 Clementines, peeled and segmented
- 3 thin slices of red onion, halved
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese or more to taste
- 1/4 cup chopped toasted walnuts or pecans

Dressing:

- 2 Tbsp. oil
- 2 Tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 2 Tbsp. fresh Clementine juice
- 1 Tbsp. honey
- 2 tsp. Clementine zest
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp. Dash or dried dill salt and pepper to taste

In a bowl add the sliced beets, spinach, orange pieces, onion and parsley. Place all of the ingredients for the dressing in a lidded jar and shake. Pour over the vegetables in the bowl. Gently stir. Top with the cheese and nuts, serve and enjoy!

Your recipe for success

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- Your business

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7-800 lbs.	\$4.00 to 5.01
8-900 lbs.	\$4.10 to 4.73
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875 head sold



Yvonne Sisley selected as a provincial tourism award finalis

*Continued
from Page 1*

"It was truly an honour and a bit surreal. This work has always been about community pride rather than recognition, so to be named a finalist is incredibly meaningful," Sisley expressed. "It feels like a reflection of Neepawa itself and the many people, artists, volunteers and partners who help bring our community to life every day."

The Employee of the Year is awarded by Travel Manitoba in recognition of 'a front-line employee in the tourism industry who demonstrates service excellence and has made outstanding contributions to the tourism industry'. Additionally, the nominee must have 'made a lasting and positive impact that enhances visitors' experiences and creates a high level of customer satisfaction'.

The role of executive director at ArtsForward is described by Sisley as a mixture of arts leadership, community development and tourism promotion. The scope of work led through that role is certainly vast. It includes overseeing programming, exhibitions, festivals, partnerships, grant writing, facility operations, and so much more.

"I also spend a lot of time telling Neepawa's story," said Sisley. "That includes promoting events, creating cultural tourism experiences, supporting local artists, and helping position our community as a place to visit, live, and invest in."

Sisley later added, "ArtsForward is much more than a gallery. Under my leadership, it has grown into a true community hub and one of Neepawa's strongest tourism drivers. My role focuses on developing inclusive programs

for all ages, leading large-scale festivals and cultural events, supporting local and regional artists and actively promoting Neepawa to visitors from across Manitoba and beyond. Arts and culture are often the first way people experience a community, and that responsibility is something I take seriously."

'A place I deeply love'

This work is reflected in events, initiatives, and attractions such as Neepawa's Indigenous Culture Day, ArtFest, Super Saturday and the Neepawa Art Trail Map. Sisley stressed however, that these things were a collaborative effort not just with the rest of the ArtsForward board, but the broader community as well.

"While this work is led through my role, it would not be possible without the incredible Board

members, artists, volunteers, partners, and community organizations who bring their energy and ideas to the table," Sisley enthused. "A key focus remains engaging a younger demographic through festivals and cultural experiences, as those visitors are essential to the long-term vitality of rural communities and local businesses. There is always something in development, ensuring creativity, connection, and cultural tourism continue to thrive in Neepawa."

The final results for the Travel Manitoba Tourism awards will be declared at the spring awards gala, which is to be held on Apr. 23.

"I'm very much looking forward to celebrating alongside so many other passionate tourism champions from across the province," said Sisley.

In the meantime, Sisley shared

a final comment which shed further light on the passion she holds for her work, and the significance of being selected as a finalist.

"Neepawa is a place I deeply love, and I truly believe our community has so much to offer. I saw a need to better share our story, our creativity, and our sense of place with people who may never have visited before, and I felt compelled to step into that role," said Sisley. "This recognition is a reminder that when you lead with passion and pride for where you live, it can make a real impact. I'm grateful to be able to do this work in Neepawa, and to work alongside so many people who care just as deeply about our community."

The year that was for recreation and economic development

Neepawa Town Council meeting - Tuesday, Jan. 20

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

A pair of municipal departments had good news to share during the most recent gathering of Neepawa Town Council. The Director of Recreation Services Cassandra Noonan-Robinson was the first to present a report on 2025 to council. She noted that the department had a successful year, having received 11 grants and organized 56 programs and events.

In relation to the Neepawa Swimming Pool and the annual Day Camp program, there were 793 swim lessons registered and 209 participants in the camp. Plans for the future of these programs include expanding the day camps and evening swimming activities.

Next was a report from Marilyn Crewe, Neepawa's Economic Development

Officer. The highlights from 2025 included completion of the Business Retention and Expansion project, Storefront Improvement Program and the addition of housing and medical recruitment information to the www.chooseneepawa.com website.

Over the year, seven new businesses opened locally and three successfully transitioned ownership. Finally, Crewe noted that Neepawa had seen 22 new residential builds in 2025, up from 10 in 2024.

Looking to the future, Crewe elaborated on plans for a business walk to maintain business connections and the launch of an immigration initiative with Brandon Economic Development.

Council Reports

• **Councillor and Deputy Mayor Murray Parrott** shared news which included

the recent efforts to attract housing developers for Project 320. As well, Parrott noted that he and several other representatives of the Town of Neepawa had recently attended a stakeholders' meeting with Prairie Mountain Health regarding the new hospital. Finally, he congratulated fellow councillor Yvonne Sisley, who was recently named a finalist for a Travel Manitoba Tourism Award. (See story on page 1.)

New business

• In preparation for the municipal election scheduled for later this year, CAO Colleen Synchishyn has been named the Senior Election Official (SEO).

• The 2026 Neepawa & District Chamber of Commerce Fair, set for May 22 to 24, has been declared a community event.

• A subdivision of land

has been approved near the Beautiful Plains Museum. The decision will create three lots for future development, and includes the closure of a public lane.

• Council accepted a bid from Associated Engineering for contracted administrative services for the new lift station and force main for Project 320 development, at a cost

of \$173,425. As well, a bid was also accepted from Rob Smith and Son and Trucking Limited's for water and sewer utility installation for Phase One of Project 320.

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Unnecessary paperwork takes away critical time for doctors

Banner Staff
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Doctors Manitoba is urging that dropping unnecessary paperwork and administrative tasks could free up the equivalent of 326 doctors.

According to a report conducted by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) in partnership with the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), nationwide, eliminating the 20 million hours of unnecessary paperwork and administrative tasks doctors face annually would free up the equivalent of 9,000 full-time physicians.

The release by Doctors Manitoba noted the province has made impressive early progress on this front through its Joint Task Force, eliminating over 75,000 hours of unnecessary physician paperwork according to a 2024 progress update.

Currently, Manitoba physicians spend 9.7 hours per week on administrative tasks, above the national average of 9.1 hours per week, which is an improvement from 10.1 hours per week estimated in a 2023 survey from Doctors Manitoba.

“Excessive paperwork and unnecessary administrative tasks continue to impact care by pulling doctors away from seeing more patients,” said Dr. Nichelle Desilets, President of Doctors Manitoba, via a press release. “This new report shows a modest improvement in physician administrative burden in Manitoba, reflecting some early and easy fixes to reduce our paperwork.

However, the report also confirms Manitoba’s doctors still spend more time on these tasks than in most provinces, underscoring the need for more substantial and systemic changes to make a real difference for doctors and their patients.”

The release noted that most physicians (85 per cent) said unnecessary work stems mainly from health-system processes, insurance companies (76 per cent), government forms (59 per cent), pharmacies (58 per cent), and electronic record systems (51 per cent).

Physicians in Manitoba identified the following priorities to make a meaningful reduction to their administrative burden:

- Improving specialist referrals and diagnostic test ordering.
- Simplifying government, insurance, and employer medical forms.
- Eliminating sick notes.
- Introducing truly interoperable electronic records to help eliminate the fax machine in medicine.
- Adopting AI scribes to help with charting.

The release added that the Manitoba government has indicated it will introduce new legislation this spring to limit the use of sick notes in the province.

Prairie Mountain Snow Drifters support Journey for Sight fundraiser

Continued from Page 1

Josh MacQuarie is one of Journey for Sight’s lead coordinators this year. He said this year’s extreme weather has not deterred the spirits of the riders.

“We’re snowmobilers at heart, so whether it’s minus four or 40, we’re in it. And when it comes to helping out on something like Journey for Sight, that’s a motivator, as well. We’ve seen the support from the communities over the years and what it’s been able to do in terms of helping those in need. The weather is not going to deter us from that,” said MacQuarie.

But the stop was about more than a quick lunch and a bit of a break from the rigours of the trails. This year, Prairie Mountain Snow Drifters Snowmobile Club stepped up to fill the void left by the demise of Neepawa’s Lion Club, partnering with DQ to provide lunch for the riders. They also presented a cheque for around \$1,200, raised locally

Roy Globak of Prairie Mountain Snow Drifters said everyone with the



PHOTO BY LIWAY CABRERA

From left to right: Roy Globak, the Executive Director of Prairie Mountain Snow Drifters presents a cheque to Journey for Sight Director Todd Rathwell on Saturday, Jan. 24.

group is proud to step up and keep this tradition alive locally. MacQuarie thanked Globak and the Snow Drifters, as well as DQ for their support.

“[Neepawa] is a stopping point for us each year, but it’s more than that. Every

year it’s been an amazing supporter. Whether it was Lions Club or the Snowmobile Club, this has been a town that’s supported us, and we’re grateful for that support.”

Since its inception over 40 years ago, Journey for

Sight has raised over \$3 million, helping to fund vision programs. As of Jan. 25, the 2026 Journey for Sight had collected \$62,375 in pledges and donations, which is nearly double last year’s result.



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

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A little chili on a chilly day



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

A fundraiser for Handi-Van Neepawa received a warm reception on a cold winter day. ArtsForward in Neepawa hosted a chili and a bun lunch on Friday, Jan. 23. That combination definitely hit the spot, as 109 pre-orders were made for the meal, along with several walk-ins looking to support Handi-Van. The official results have not yet been released, but the event did sell out early, meaning it will likely be deemed a major success. Congrats to everyone who supported the cause, including ArtsForward and the Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op.

Winter Park's success credited to group efforts

By Casper Wehrhahn
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Plenty of winter fun can be found right here in the Neepawa area. One such location is the Langford-Neepawa Winter Park— a source of family fun for generations, and not just for the people living within Neepawa's town limits.

"The Winter Park is popular with folks from miles around, and with highway travellers who stop for an activity break," said Muriel Gamey, Neepawa & Area Cross Country Ski Club committee member.

Located just seven kilometers (km) east of Neepawa, adjacent to Highway #16, the park features 10km of groomed classic cross country ski trails, four km of skate ski trails, eight km of snowshoe trails, a toboggan hill, warming cabin, fire pits. With these amenities, guests certainly have plenty to do. The park is also fitted with an outhouse, allowing guests

to enjoy the great outdoors without worry.

The Neepawa & Area Cross country Ski Club cares for the Winter Park, with many volunteer hours being contributed by Gamey herself for its maintenance.

Gamey noted that there are plenty of benefits to enjoying the great outdoors.

"There's fresh air, space for quiet, private time and space for time with friends and family, no admission, and no time restrictions," said Gamey.

Gamey added, "Individuals and medical professionals are recognizing and promoting the physical, mental and emotional benefits of daily spending time outdoors."

The Winter Park has seen plenty of activity throughout its years, with this winter being no exception. Gamey told the Neepawa Banner & Press that this success, in addition to peoples' enthusiasm for the available activities, is credited to col-

laborative efforts.

"Our RM of North Cypress-Langford keeps the parking lots cleared, and they formed the initial toboggan hill. Pat Baker added berms and noles for more enjoyment, K & K Penner provides tubes for sliding variety, and volunteers maintain the trails," said Gamey.

Another valuable partner for the Winter Park has been the Beautiful Plains Community Foundation, which has provided support via funding for a variety of utilities and projects.

A portion of the success, however, was also credited to the very people who utilize these outdoor recreational facilities and spaces.

"Ninety-nine per cent of participants are excellent at respecting the facilities and carrying out their garbage," said Gamey.

This respect keeps the public amenities open to all, and keeps the natural space clean, beautiful and enjoyable for future generations.

Canadian Taxpayers Federation: 'The real problem is illegal gun smuggling'

Submitted
CTF MEDIA RELEASE

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation released new Leger polling showing that most Manitobans think stopping illegal gun smuggling is the most effective way to reduce gun crime.

"The poll shows that Manitobans know the real problem is illegal gun smuggling, not firearms owned by licenced gun owners," said Gage Haubrich, CTF Prairie Director. "Premier Wab Kinew needs to keep fighting for Manitoba taxpayers and licensed firearm owners by opposing Ottawa's confiscation program.

"Ottawa needs to stop wasting money on its gun confiscation program and instead listen to law-enforcement experts telling the federal government to focus on illegal guns."

The federal government is rolling out the gun confiscation nationally with

a declaration period that started on Jan. 19.

The Leger poll asked Manitobans what they think is the most effective way to reduce gun crime. Results of the poll show:

- Fifty per cent say introducing tougher measures to stop the illegal smuggling of guns into Canada from the United States is most effective.
- Thirty per cent say banning the sale and ownership of many different makes and models of guns as well as using a government confiscation program is the most effective.
- Twenty per cent don't know.

Among Manitobans with an opinion, 62 want the federal government to focus on introducing tougher measures to stop illegal gun smuggling.

Kinew is the latest provincial politician to tell Ottawa it will not be participating in the gun confiscation program.

"If we're looking at taking away weapons from criminals... I'm all for that, but this program doesn't look like it's going to achieve that end," said Kinew. "Instead, it's going to create other issues around administration and costs."

The government has committed \$742 million to carry out its gun ban and confiscation scheme, according to Budget 2025.

The government has handed out at least \$2.8 million to the Winnipeg Police Service to carry out its part of the program.

The WPS is the only police service that currently has an agreement in place with the federal government to administer the program. Other cities, including Toronto and Charlottetown, have explicitly rejected participating in the gun confiscation.

Law-enforcement experts have been saying for years that Ottawa's program won't work.

The union representing RCMP members says Ottawa's program "diverts extremely important personnel, resources, and funding away from addressing the more immediate and growing threat of criminal use of illegal firearms."

"We know that the gun buyback program is going to have, essentially, zero impact on the crime in Toronto," said Clayton Campbell, the president of the Toronto Police Association.

The governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan have passed laws to block the feds from confiscating guns in those provinces.

"Kinew needs to follow Alberta and Saskatchewan and pass legislation to block the gun confiscation," Haubrich said. "All governments need to focus on the real problem of criminals and illegal guns not going after licensed firearm owners."

Choraliers present Tribute to the Music of the 1970s

Submitted
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

On Sunday, Feb. 8 at 2:00 p.m., Neepawa area women's choir, the Choraliers, will be presenting a Musical Tribute to the 1970s at ArtsForward.

In 1968, seven Neepawa area women who love to sing formed the Choraliers. Over the years the conductors have changed, the accompanists have changed, and the group has grown — there are now 25 members. But one thing hasn't changed — their love for singing and harmonizing together.

The last time the Choraliers featured a decade of music was in 2019. With director Carolyn Durston at the helm, they featured the music of the 1950s in a fun-filled concert that included costumes and choreography.

This year's event promises to be an afternoon of familiar songs from many genres. "There is so much great music from the 1970s that we had a lot of material to choose from" says current director Angie Weisgerber. "We have selected a wide variety of songs including some Canadiana, country, folk, and pop, including Abba, of course." The songs will be presented in a variety of ways, with some sung by the choir in multi-part harmony, while audience participation will be encouraged for other songs.

The Choraliers invite everyone to attend this concert for an afternoon of musical nostalgia and fun! There will be a silver collection at the door.

Truck completely consumed by fire near Franklin turnoff



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Banner & Press recently received images from an automobile fire reported near Franklin, at the 466 and 84N junction. The grain truck was completely ablaze. Fire officials were on the scene to put out the fire. There are no available details at this time of when the accident occurred, the cause, or if there were any injuries. The Banner & Press will provide an update, when those details become available.

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Beautiful Plains SCHOOL DIVISION Kindergarten Registration for the 2026 Fall Term

will be held during the *regular school hours* at the following schools:

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February 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 All Day

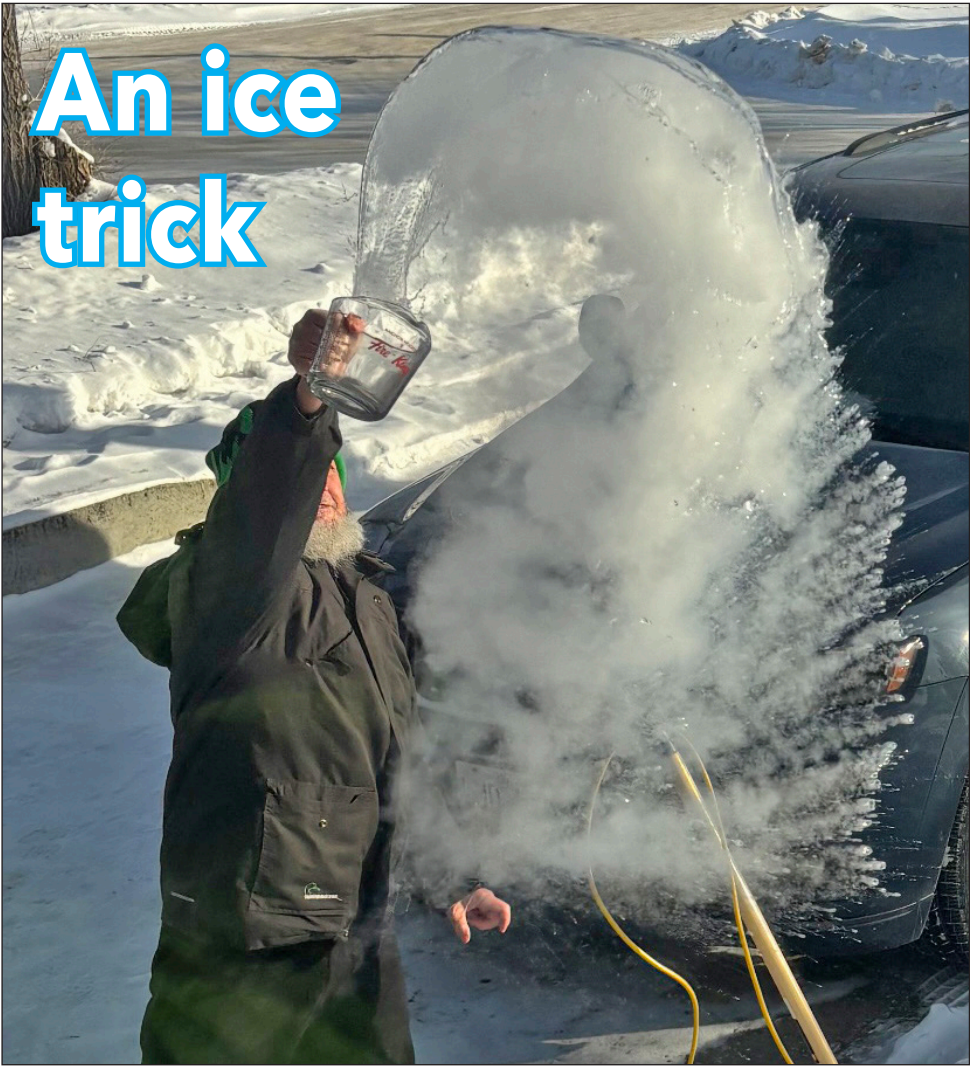
J. M. Young (Eden)
Feb 3 & 4 (Tues & Wed) Mornings only

Brookdale
Feb 4 (Wed) Afternoon only 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

R. J. Waugh (Carberry)
Feb 5 & 6 (Thurs & Fri) 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please register at your school

- To be eligible for Kindergarten, a child must be five years of age on or before December 31, 2026.
- A copy of your child's birth certificate is required for their school file.
- For Newcomer Families, copies of your child's passport and residency documentation are also required. If further assistance is needed you may contact Neepawa Settlement Services 204-476-2055



SUBMITTED PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLAN MCPHEE

A local resident recently tried the boiling water challenge on a ice cold day. The challenge, which has taken off on social media, features the tossing of boiling hot water into the air to create instant "snow" or steam in freezing temperatures. Just a warning on this trend, however, if done incorrectly, does cause severe burns to a person's skin. While the challenge seems straightforward or safe to those doing it, some across Canada and the United States, are ending up in the E.R., after getting splashed with hot boiling water.

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Concluding the 50th Manitoba Ag Days



PHOTOS BY KAY DE'ATH AND MANITOBA AG DAYS

The 50th annual edition of Manitoba Ag Days came to a close in Brandon recently. The event included 'Agriculture in the Classroom' sessions, displays of a variety of different types and sizes of equipment, and more. Also featured was a 'Produced on the Prairies' market, which featured a variety of vendors from the area. Degelman Industries was also presented with Manitoba Ag Days' Best in Show award.

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Neepawa Farmers fall to Minnedosa

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The Minnedosa Bombers survived some late game penalty kill problems, to hold on to an 8-5 win over the Neepawa Farmers in the Tiger Hills Hockey League. Neepawa scored a pair of power-play goals in the third period on Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Sunrise Credit Union Place to try and make things interesting late. The Bombers, however, were able to maintain a lead they'd assembled early in the evening to secure the victory.

Minnedosa struck early and often in the opening frame, building a 3-0 lead in the first seven minutes. Ricky Kowalick started the scoring just 2:38 into play. Ryan Heino then made it 2-0 at the 5:00 mark. Barely 90 seconds later, Braeden Beernaerts added one more. Neepawa was able to reply back before the intermission, when Rylan Bray got the Farmers on the board.

The second period turned into an old style shootout, with Minnedosa picking up four more goals to Neepawa's two. Beernaerts picked up his second of the game, while his teammates Victor Lamb, Owen Riffel

and Tyler Jury also scored. Neepawa's Garrett Rempel and Cohen Kulbacki were the contributors for the Farmers.

Neepawa refused to go quietly though, as their special teams took over in the third. Jory Kulbacki scored on the power-play 8:55 into the period. Cohen Kulbacki's put away a second power-play goal of the night with 2:41 left in regulation, to make the score 7-5. The Bombers' Logan Robinson scored into the empty net with 11 seconds remaining though, to make it an 8-5 final.

Beernaerts lead for Minnedosa with four points (2 goals - 2 assists), while five different Farmers has two point performances.

This results improves the Bomber's record to 13-3-0, and has them tied with Hartney for third place in the standings. Neepawa, meanwhile, drops to 8-8-1, and are in seventh place. The Farmers have two games left in the regular season, both at home. First, they'll place the MacGregor Wild on Saturday, Jan. 31. Then they will conclude the schedule on Friday, February. 6 versus Minnedosa.

Kaspick commits to ACC Cougars



Assiniboine College in Brandon has announced the commitment of Paige Kaspick to the ACC Cougars women's volleyball program for the 2026-2027 season. Paige is a solid athlete that plays well above the height of the net. She will bring energy a positive attitude and will be a valued member of what will be a young team. The Assiniboine College men's and women's volleyball, soccer and futsal programs all play in the Manitoba Colleges Athletic Conference.

GRAPHICS COURTESY OF ASSINIBOINE COLLEGE

Tigers roar past Plainsmen in WHSHL

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

A strong second period push to earned the Neepawa Tigers a hard-fought 5-2 win over the Crocus Plains Plainsmen on Sunday, Jan. 25.

After a scoreless opening frame, the Tigers struck twice in quick succession in the second to take control of the game. Neepawa opened the scoring 8:03 into the second, when Zach Plett finished a play set up by Jude Carr and Ian Foster. Just 20 seconds later, the Tigers made it 2-0 as Foster buried one of his own, assisted by Luke Nicholson.

The Tigers carried that momentum into the third, extending the lead with

a Kane Lapointe goal. Foster picked up another assist to make it 3-0. Crocus Plains showed a little pushback midway through the third, scoring their first of the night. Neepawa answered back quickly though, as Brock Pasloski restored the two-goal cushion on a setup from Brooklyn Boersma.

While the Plainsmen did add one more goal, Plett would respond with his second of the night off another Foster assist, to make the final score 5-2.

NACI fired 63 shots on goal, while Crocus Plains registered just 20 shots. Ian Foster closed out the game with four points (1 goal - 3 assists), while Zach Plett had two goals. Jase Eros earned the win in goal for Neepawa.

With the win, the Tigers improved their WHSHL regular season record to 12-4-0, which has them in sixth place in the overall league standings. Neepawa does, however, have several games in hand over every team they're chasing in the standings.

The Tigers' next home game will be on Thursday, Jan. 29 at 2:30 p.m., versus the Major Pratt Trojans. This is a make up game from the one that had been previously scheduled for Friday, Jan. 22, but was postponed due to the extreme cold weather conditions.

NACI will have another game at the Yellowhead Centre on Sunday, Feb. 1 against the RGG Raiders. Start time is 6:30 p.m.

Editorial: MJHL turning into a have and have not league

By Derek Holtom
SUBMITTED

There is a power-imbalance in the MJHL – and everyone knows it. Growing communities with newer arenas are just naturally going to attract more and better players. It's far easier to recruit to Steinbach, Portage or even Dauphin or Virden if you have a nice, shiny, newer arena with modern amenities for players, as opposed to an old barn arena built before this reporter was even a sparkle in his dad's eye.

My first-ever reporting gig was in Dauphin in the early 1990s at the old DMCC Arena. While that rink was steeped with history and had a, shall we say unique configuration (complete with a condemned section of seats at the far end of the arena), it also rained inside the rink every spring as condensation fell from the rafters. Not to mention how the brutally cold winter would blast its way through holes in the walls.

Compare that to Dauphin's current arena, the Credit Union Place. It comes complete with a walking track, a VIP seating area, booths, press box, heating flooring in the dressing room and more.

And the Credit Union Place is already nearly 20 years old. Steinbach is playing in the new Southeast Event Centre, and it's become a license to print money. The building sports two restaurants, an atrium, a walking track, club and suite seating, two rinks, and more.

Again, you can see the allure of playing in a community such as Steinbach in a brand-new state-of-the-art arena.

The power-imbalance also bleeds over into attendance. And why wouldn't it? People want to see a winner. It's no surprise that teams with a winning product or a new rink lead the league in attendance. See the numbers below – the only playoff team in the bottom five is the Neepawa Titans, a team that has only recently gotten back into the playoffs after years of being on the outside looking in. As well, Neepawa's rink dates back to the 1970s, reportedly developed from a recycled warehouse for a salt plant.

MJHL attendance averages 2025-26

Team	Home attendance
Steinbach Pistons	1,810
Virden Oil Capitals	736
Dauphin Kings	677
Portage Terriers	646
Niverville Nighthawks	597
Winkler Flyers	384
Waywayseecappo Wolverines	316
Northern Manitoba Blizzard	308
Neepawa Titans	299
Swan Valley Stampeders	286
Selkirk Steelers	286
Winnipeg Monarchs	121
Winnipeg Blues	114

The top five teams in the MJHL for attendance all have newer arenas. And the sixth-place team, the Winkler Flyers,

are getting a major renovation to their arena, increasing capacity for the arena to roughly 1,500. They are also changing the seating to allow for seats to go up to the glass, new concession areas and better lighting. I expect to see their attendance numbers spike upwards after the renos. The Flyers averaged 843 fans in 2023-24 when they won the league title.

Steinbach offers tickets as high as \$36 for club seat, and as low as \$13 if you get season tickets. For the sake of argument let's say all teams charge \$15 a ticket (that would be pretty close for most teams).

By that math, Steinbach would be grossing \$787,350 just for regular season tickets, not including playoff revenue. By comparison, the Selkirk Steelers and Swan Valley Stampeders would be grossing \$124,410. The two Winnipeg teams would generate even less.

A new rink for every MJHL team isn't going to solve all the world's problems, and from what I hear from players, once they get to a place such as The Pas, Swan River or Waywayseecappo, they really enjoy the small-town experience and playing in front of their fans.

But you could also see how long-term this ongoing attendance disparity will continue to shape the MJHL. Fans of have-not teams eventually tire of forking over their hard-earn money to see a team that faces an uphill battle for a win every night – everyone loves a winner. Likewise, fans of have-teams will also tire of seeing their teams paste their opponents 9-1. That's not competitive and not entertaining.

MJHL Standings

Western Division	G	W	L	OTL	SOL	Pts
Viriden Oil Capitals	36	24	10	2	0	50
Neepawa Titans	39	22	16	0	1	45
Dauphin Kings	40	22	17	1	0	45
Waywayseecappo Wolverines	41	18	20	1	2	39
Swan Valley Stampeders	38	11	23	3	1	26
Northern Manitoba Blizzard	37	6	27	2	2	16
Eastern Division	G	W	L	OTL	SOL	Pts
Niverville Nighthawks	39	36	2	1	0	73
Steinbach Pistons	40	31	8	1	0	63
Portage Terriers	39	26	12	1	0	53
Winkler Flyers	40	22	15	1	2	47
Selkirk Steelers	39	18	19	2	0	38
Winnipeg Blues	38	10	25	3	0	23
Winnipeg Monarchs	40	7	31	2	0	16

Game results

Friday, Jan. 23

Neepawa 6-5 SO Wayway

First Period

17:32 NPA K. Weisgarber (12)
ASST: T. Kirk (9), D. McCann (3)
17:52 WAY A. Herring (15)
ASST: C. Hunter (21), A. Chipelski (7)

Second Period

01:14 WAY B. Roulette (17)
ASST: C. Hunter (22)
04:50 WAY A. Herring (16)
ASST: C. Hunter (23)
06:28 NPA O. Durigan (4)
ASST: K. Weisgarber (21)
16:18 WAY S. Hicks (22) PP
ASST: K. Rookes (34), A. Herring (11)

Third Period

05:22 NPA O. Durigan (5) PP
ASST: K. Weisgarber (22), L. Paquette (27)
13:23 NPA L. Paquette (14)
ASST: O. Durigan (19)
16:19 NPA J. Clark (21)
ASST: T. Lewis (10), J. Kohut (6)
18:48 WAY R. Cyca (10)
ASST: B. Roulette (27), A. Herring (12)

Overtime

No scoring

Shootout

WAY: S. Hicks - No goal; A. Herring - No goal; B. Roulette - No goal. NPA: K. Skrupa - Goal; J. Faith - No goal.

Scoring 1 2 3 OT SO Total PP

WAY 1 3 1 0 0 5 1/4
NPA 1 1 3 0 1 6 1/2

Goaltender

WAY - J. Wareham - (SOL) 35/40 saves
NPA - Z. Burleigh - (SOW) 18/23 saves
Attendance: 258 - Yellowhead Centre

MJHL Player Stats

Leading scorers (MJHL)	G	A	Pts
1. Hayden Wheddon (NIV)	20	42	62
2. Nik Gudmundson (WKR)	24	34	58
3. Adam Vigfusson (NIV)	23	34	57
4. Rhett Platt (POR)	21	33	54
5. Sebastien Hicks (WAY)	24	27	51

Leading scorers (Titans)	G	A	Pts
1. Logan Paquette	14	27	41
2. Jack Clark	21	18	39
3. Cooper Kasprick	14	23	37
4. Kyle Weisgarber	12	22	34
5. Talen Wallis	16	17	33

Club 55 Bowling

Jan. 22, 2026: Ladies' High Single & Triple : Vivian Oswald 202 & 488. Men's High Single & Triple: Chuck Morden 234 and 597. Other Good Scores: Laurie Kohinski 162; Muriel Porada 155; Darrell Gabler 153, 163; Caroline Harding 150; Chuck Morden 191, 172; Frank Porada 166; Russ Taylor 161, 179; Carole LeBoutillier 180.

Cooper Kasprick lauded as an RBC-MJHL Community Ambassador



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

The award is given to one player from each Manitoba Junior Hockey League team, and they are recognized for making a difference and giving back to their communities in which they play. The award honours players who display outstanding citizenship and sportsmanship both on and off the ice. Pictured"Local RBC Manager Ahmed Elsamahy presents the honour to Kasprick on Friday, Jan. 23.

By Joshua Jackson
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Before the puck dropped during the Neepawa Titans' bout with the opposing Waywayseecappo Wolverines on Jan. 23, Captain Cooper Kasprick was a recipient of the RBC-MJHL Community Ambassador Program.

The award is given to one player from each Manitoba Junior Hockey League team, and they are recognized for making a difference and giving back to their communities in which they play. The award honours players who display outstanding citizenship and sportsmanship both on and off the ice, as well as a commitment to volunteerism.

Kasprick said it's a very big honour to receive the RBC Community Ambassador award.

"I try to give back to the community as much as I can. We have tons of guys on our team who could also have won the award. We do lots of volunteering. I remember being a kid, and the Neepawa Natives at the time, they always helped out, and I looked up to them as a kid, and I try to give back as much as I can."

The hometown player is on track for his best MJHL season yet. His previous

point high came in the 2023-2024 season where he played 58 games, with 18 goals and 23 assists for 41 points. In the current 2025-2026 season, Kasprick has only played 39 games, with 14 goals, 23 assists, totalling 37 points. He is currently in his final season of the MJHL season and has held the title of captain since the 2024-2025 season. He said it's been a highlight to play for his hometown team.

"My whole life, I looked up to those guys. I had billets growing up, and I have always wanted to play here. To play on this team and to be the captain is really cool, and it makes me happy."

In four years played for the Titans, the 20-year-old has amassed 196 games played (and counting), 57 goals and 76 assists, for a total of 133 points. Kasprick said it's a surreal feeling to be in the place of his childhood heroes.

"I just try to give back to the kids as much as I can and be nice to them, and teach them things, said the captain. "I was that kid when a player came and talked to me, I thought it was the coolest part of my day, so I try to do that as much as I can."

Kasprick has found ways to give back through volunteering in the community. Each award recipient gets

\$1,000 to donate to a school of choice, and the hometown player selected the Neepawa Breakfast Club to receive those funds.

"Every Wednesday morning, Landon Cameron, our assistant coach, runs a program where any kid can show up for a three-hour skate, where they learn skills, and young hockey players can develop. They get a free breakfast, and then they head to school," he said. "I always attended the program as a kid, and I still like to go back and help out when I can. I wanted to give back with them, because it was something I grew up with, and it means a lot to me."

In his tenure with the Titans, Kasprick has made plenty of memories, from first goals to hat-tricks, scoring the first goal in the teddy bear toss game and

watching them rain down, but he said this one takes the cake.

"Two years ago, playoffs at home against Viriden. It was our first home game of the playoffs we've had in a few years. It was absolutely packed in (the Yellowhead), and that was super exciting," he said. "It was late in the third, and I got a rebound goal. It was probably the most pumped I had ever been in my life. It was super exciting, so that one stands out."

At the conclusion of the regular season, one RBC-MJHL Community Ambassador will be named as the recipient of the RBC Community Award, which comes with a further donation from RBC in the player's name to a school in their local community.



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Cooper Kasprick tries to make a diving play against the Waywayseecappo Wolverines on Friday, Jan. 23.

Neepawa Titans

Junior "A" Hockey team

vs. Winnipeg Monarchs

January 30

Yellowhead Centre - 7:30pm

vs. Selkirk

February 4

Yellowhead Centre - 7:30pm

Adults: \$15 • 7-17: \$5 • 6 and under: free

Send us your team's latest game results so we can get it in the paper without a fight!

Banner & Press

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Neepawa Titans win hard fought battle

ByJoshua Jackson
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The Neepawa Titans may have only played one game this week, but they sure made it count, winning a 6-5 shootout thriller against Manitoba Junior Hockey League MGEU West divisional foes, the Waywayseecappo Wolverines on Jan. 23.

The Titans assistant captain, Kyle Weisgarber, would score his 12th goal of the season to put Neepawa up 1-0 in the first period. However, the Wolverines would fire one back 20 seconds later to tie things up at one to round out the first period.

The Wolverines Ben Roulette and Aiden Herring would net two goals in the first five minutes of the second period, as Neepawa would find themselves down 3-1. Titans defenseman Owen Durigan would bury with help from Kyle Weisgarber. However, the Wolverines would continue to surmount their lead with another before the period ended, finding themselves outscoring Neepawa 4-2.

The Titans had to dig deep to mount a third-



The Neepawa Titans won a 6-5 shootout thriller on Friday, Jan. 23 against the Waywayseecappo Wolverines. Seen here is Titans #14, Talen Lewis carrying the puck (left) and #77 Dawson Andries getting into a scrap.



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

period comeback, but would do so in dramatic fashion. Neepawa would strike on the powerplay as Durigan picked up his second goal of the night, and fifth of the season, assisted by Kyle Weisgarber and Logan Paquette. Paquette would then even the game up at four apiece, just over half-way through the third, with assists from Durigan.

The Titans would find

their way to the back of the net again, with slightly over three minutes of play. Leading goalscorer Jack Clark would grab his 21st goal of the year, assisted by Talen Lewis and Jackson Kohut, to find their first lead of the game, 5-4. However, the Wolverines would make things interesting, scoring with 1:52 left in the game to even the score at 5-5.

The two teams would

go to overtime, and the Titans would keep the game scoreless, despite Jack Clark taking a hooking penalty, and the Wolverines would have a four-man power play. The Titans would display solid penalty killing, a few good saves, and a few short-handed offensive opportunities to take the game to a shootout.

Keenan Skrupa would pot the lone goal in the

shootout, giving the Titans a 6-5 victory.

Neepawa Titans Captain Cooper Kasprick said it was a great game for them.

“The nerves were flowing, it’s a big two points for both teams. I’m happy we got the two points,” he said. “We talked as a team in the second period, and we knew we had confidence. We came to play in the third to beat these guys. I think in

the second period we were a bit slow, but when we play a third period like that, we can win most games.”

Owen Durigan (2g, 1a), Kyle Weisgarber (1g, 2a), and Logan Paquette (1g, 1a) would all have multi-point nights to help lead the Titans to victory. The Titans outshot the Wolverines 41-23, and netminder Zach Burleigh would stop 18 of 23 shots.

Currently, the West division, which the Titans call home to is hotly contested. As of publishing, Virdens sits in first with 50 points and three less games played. Neepawa and Dauphin are tied for second with 45 points, and the Waywayseecappo Wolverines have surged to the fourth place spot with 39 points.

Neepawa will have a week off to recover and practice before a busy weekend. The Titans play host to the Winnipeg Monarchs, Jan. 30, before travelling to Dauphin for a game on Jan. 31. The Titans then take on the Wolverines in Waywayseecappo Feb. 3, before coming home for a matchup against the Selkirk Steelers on Feb. 4.

Curling rocks in Plumas



PHOTO BY LINDSAY KONCZ

Mother Nature couldn’t stop Plumas Curling club from hosting its First Curling Bonspiel of 2026 that had an exciting start to it on the Friday evening. On January 16th, the rink of Sam Koncz - Skip, Rylan Single - Third, Dean Rosling - Second, and Zander Dumont - Lead, gave the Bonspiel fans reason to cheer when they scored their first ever 8-ender. Their rare and memorable moment at their hometown rink proved to be a great start to a successful weekend! R-L : Lead-Zander Dumont, Skip-Sam Koncz, 2nd-Dean Rosling, 3rd-Rylan Single



PHOTOS FROM PLUMAS CURLING CLUB

The Plumas Curling Club has announced the winners of its most recent bonspiel, held over the past weekend. Winners for each event were as follows. First event: (top left photo) Morley Walker, Tyson Walker, Wade Madill, and Tim Bulls. Second event: (bottom left photo) Brady Walker, Joe Smith, Riley Dayholos, and Tom Coutts. Third event: (top right photo) Brad Lough, Kevin Klatt, Cody Lough, and Logan Purkess.

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Classified Ad Deadline: **TUESDAY NOON**

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- Please check your ad when first published the Neepawa Banner & Press will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion.
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Notice

Alcoholics Anonymous meet-
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 Thursdays at 7 pm. Call Don
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Arden Hall, cap. 255. Park,
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 lounge. Call 204-368-2202

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Neepawa Banner & Press offers full research and re-print
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 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
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 our digital, print or photo archives. Ken Waddell, publisher

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 balconies and mail is delivered to the building.

**Call Jeff at 204-476-2112
 or email nem@wgcwave.ca**

Obituary

Lois [Walker] Morrow

July 11, 1955 – December 20, 2025

Lois Donna Morrow, beloved wife of Lee Morrow,
 passed away peacefully at home in Duncan, British
 Columbia, on December 20, 2025, at the age of 70.

Lois Donna Walker was born on July 11, 1955, in
 Gladstone, Manitoba. She lived throughout Manitoba,
 Alberta, and British Columbia, eventually making
 Duncan, BC her home. She was a devoted wife, mother
 and home maker, sister, and friend, and a woman
 of remarkable intelligence, quiet strength, and deep
 compassion.

Lois was the beloved wife of Lee Morrow and a loving
 mother to Walker Morrow, both of Duncan. Family was
 at the centre of her life, and she cherished them deeply.
 Lois will also be lovingly remembered by her sisters: Viola
 and Vivian, her brother Doug, her best friend Karen, as
 well as her many cousins, nieces, nephews, and in-laws.
 She was predeceased by her sister Lorraine, her mother
 Elizabeth, her father George, and her brother William.

Throughout her life, Lois was actively involved in
 her community. She dedicated countless hours to
 charities, battered women organizations, political
 campaigns, churches, church volunteer groups, and
 resident/condo associations. Often working behind the
 scenes, Lois had an incredible ability for organization
 and leadership, paired with a sharp mind and thoughtful
 insight. While socially engaged and community-minded,
 she was also very private and quietly carried herself with
 grace and humility.

In keeping with Lois's wishes, there will be no memorial
 service at this time.

Those who knew Lois will remember her for her
 intelligence, dedication, kindness, and unwavering love
 for her family.

Notice

Rolling River School Division

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2026-2027



Kindergarten Registration for the Rolling River School
 Division will be held during February 2nd - February 6th,
 2026 from 9:00-11:30am and 1:30-3:00pm. Children who
 will be 5 years of age on or before December 31, 2026 are
 eligible for Kindergarten.

Please register at the following catchment area schools:

SCHOOL	PHONE NO.
Douglas Elementary	204-763-4480
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Forrest Elementary	204-728-7674
Oak River Elementary	204-566-2167
Onanole Elementary	204-848-2402
Rapid City Elementary	204-826-2824
Rivers Elementary	204-328-7416
Tanner's Crossing Elementary	204-867-2591

**Parents are required to present their child's birth certificate
 and medical number at time of registration.*

**Please contact the School Division Office
 (204-867-2754 Ext. 0)*

if unsure of your catchment area school.

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE

TUESDAY NOON

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

Obituary

Russell Newton

Born in Neepawa, October 2, 1927 - Age 98



As a child, Russ grew up
 in the Arden and Eden areas
 and eventually moved with
 his family to Kelwood when
 he was 13 years of age. His
 life began on the farm and
 remained there until his
 retirement. Russ took great
 pride as a youngster that he
 helped move his family with a team of horses from Eden
 to Kelwood. At Kelwood his father Arthur soon passed
 away, and Rob, Alf, and Russ were left to run the farm
 with their mother Ella. Rob eventually took on his own
 farm west of Kelwood and then Neepawa. Alf bought land
 north of Kelwood, and Russ remained on the homestead.
 In 1956 Russ married Eileen Schultz and together they
 had three children Kevin (Laurie), Greg (Maribeth), and
 Terri-Lynn (Darcy Archambault). Laurie and Kevin have
 three children Paige, Mackenzie, and Sydney (Griffin).
 Paige (Dylan Thornborough) has two daughters Mara and
 Goldie, and Mackenzie (Cory Martin) has one daughter
 Scottie. Terri-Lynn and Darcy have two boys, Eric (Alex)
 and Matthew (Alana).

Russell worked hard as a mixed farmer. Through the
 years he farmed just over 1000 acres of grain land, had a
 hog operation involving farrow to finish, and at times had a
 small herd of beef cattle. There were always "chores" for
 the kids to do, learning (under the tutelage of their mother
 and father) the importance of work ethic and commitment.

Russ was very involved with the goings on in the
 Kelwood community. He helped coach baseball and
 hockey through the years, was on the Garage Committee,
 Store Committee, Hall Committee, Skating Rink board,
 Curling Rink board, Kelwood Legion, and Kelwood Lions
 Club. He was a school trustee for many years in the Turtle
 River School Division, sat on the Manitoba Government
 Reference Board and the Manitoba Government Mineral

Resources Board. In all, the community and people of
 Kelwood are (and will always remain) near and dear to his
 heart.

During the summer season, and only when those
 few work/chore breaks were allowed, the Newton
 family spent the odd Sunday at Clear Lake. Eventually
 after purchasing a cabin and leasing a lot in the Old
 Campground, friendships were fostered with Manitoba
 and Saskatchewan folk, becoming life-long (60+ years)
 relationships.

During the last years on the farm and into retirement,
 Russ and Eileen not only travelled throughout the world
 every year, but they also became annual snowbirds settling
 into the winter season in Southern Texas. There they met
 many people from various North American locations.
 Those relationships became year-round. The times in
 the south gave Russ and Eileen an opportunity to enjoy
 excellent health and friendships through their senior years.

Eventually, and in 1995, Russ and Eileen left the farm
 in full retirement and bought a house in Neepawa. In
 2016 they both moved into the Elks Manor, enjoying the
 comradery of many wonderful friends, and in 2024 after
 suffering a stroke, Russ relocated to the Neepawa Hospital
 and Country Meadows Personal Care Home. Russ passed
 away peacefully on Wednesday, January 21, 2026.

Russ was predeceased by sisters Ivadel (Clayton
 McGorman), Betty (Ray Beckstead and Stan Shippam),
 Grace (Dave Smith) and brothers Rob (Mary) and Alf
 (Daisy). He was also predeceased by his parents Arthur
 and Ella.

Russ' family would like to thank the staff at the Country
 Meadows Personal Care Home and Neepawa Hospital
 for the nothing less than exceptional care he recently
 received.

Those wishing to do so, donations in memory of
 Russ, can be made to the "Beautiful Plains Community
 Foundation" - Box 486 Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0

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Help Wanted



Industrial Plant Cleaner (NOC 65312)

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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 10 positions.

The current starting wage is \$22.20/hour with incremental increases to \$23.55/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:

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- 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:

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- Ensuring all Quality Assurance checks are performed.
- Maintaining a safe, clean, and organized work area throughout the facility.
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We are looking for people who are:

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- Available to work the Monday to Friday shift from 11:30 PM to 8:00 AM.
- Capable of repetitive manual tasks and standing for long periods of time
- Capable of working in diverse environments, including exposure to varying temperatures, humidity, and odors
- Minimum of one (1) to seven (7) months experience in sanitation, or industrial cleaning or heavy-duty cleaning
- Completion of Secondary school or equivalent experience
- 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.

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For inquiries contact: Phone: 204.476.3393

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

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



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Hog Receiving Barn Worker (NOC85100)

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What we can offer you:

- Competitive Wage
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- Comprehensive Benefit 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 involve:

- Receiving and unloading hog deliveries.
- Sorting hogs into appropriate receiving pens.
- Ensuring humane and safe handling of hogs in our facility.
- Completing hog receiving documents to CFIA standards.
- Scraping trailers.
- Working outdoors and in a barn environment.

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.

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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. 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.

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



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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 \$17.45/hour with incremental increases to \$25.60/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
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- 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

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For inquiries contact: Phone: 204.476.3393

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



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Specify what position you are applying for and submit resume to: Municipality of WestLake-Gladstone
14 Dennis Street E, Box 150 Gladstone, MB R0J 0T0
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Submitted Editorial: Forecasting 2026

By Cam Dahl

GENERAL MANAGER, MANITOBA PORK

How did Canadian agriculture fare in 2025? What trends will continue from 2025 into 2026 and what does that mean for export dependent farmers?

A year ago, I predicted that 2025 would be filled with global uncertainty that disrupted markets. I was hoping that this forecast would be proven wrong, but unfortunately it was not. Our neighbour to the south is focused on "America First". U.S. policies are moving away from supporting free and open trade. Canadian agriculture faced a short period of tariffs but ultimately was protected by the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA). However, we don't know if this will continue until the end of 2026 as CUSMA is up for review. This is the most important policy file for the 90 percent of farmers in Canada that depend on international markets. The agreement will either be extended to 2032, put into a cycle of annual reviews, or terminated. The outcome of the review will determine the fiscal sustainability of many farms across Canada, including Manitoba.

Tariffs are a threat, but they are not the only protectionist measures faced by farmers and food processors. The revival of country-of-origin labelling in the U.S. and individual state legislation that is fragmenting the North American market (e.g., Proposition 12 in California) are just two other examples of protectionist policies threatening Canadian agriculture and food exports, and the U.S. is not alone. China has targeted agriculture commodities in retaliation for Canadian tariffs on electric vehicles. The European Union continues to block Canadian agricultural and food exports using non-tariff trade barriers.

Uncertainty in world trade is costly for both

Manitoba farmers and processors. Unfortunately, this uncertainty will remain throughout 2026 and will likely intensify during the review of CUSMA. Securing the North American market, offsetting the cost of trade uncertainty, and trade diversification need to be at the top of the policy list for all governments in 2026.

Food and agriculture need to be top of mind at every Canadian negotiating table in 2026. Canadian governments and negotiators need to be continuously reminded that food and beverage processing is the largest manufacturing sector in Canada with sales worth about \$175 billion. The sector accounts for over 20 percent of total manufacturing sales. Meat products comprise the largest proportion of the food manufacturing sector in both Manitoba and Canada. If agriculture and food are left behind in trade discussions, livelihoods in every region of Manitoba will be significantly impacted.

Manitoba hog farmers continue to be world leaders in disease prevention and management. The entire sector has recognized the need to work together to effectively protect the health of animals under our care. Sometimes this means that parts of the value chain take actions that are not in their short-term fiscal interest but will deliver long-term benefits to the entire sector. This level of collaboration is not often found in other countries or regions. Manitoba's pork sector should be congratulated for this accomplishment.

Working with the entire value chain to prevent and mitigate disease impacts is a key priority for Manitoba hog farmers in 2026. This includes preventing diseases like Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome and Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus

where possible and limiting their spread when it is not. We are also working with processors, veterinarians, transport companies, and Manitoba's Office of the Chief Veterinarian to keep foreign animal diseases like Foot and Mouth Disease and African Swine Fever out of Manitoba. Again, collaboration is the key factor in developing effective disease prevention and response plans.

On the economic front, 2025 was a profitable year across the hog sector. Profitability is being driven by strong pork demand

around the world, relatively affordable pork prices for consumers, especially when compared to beef, disease pressures in other pork producing regions, and reasonable feed costs. I expect profitable conditions to continue into 2026, at least for the first half of the year. Profitability in the second half of 2026 will depend in large part on the world trade situation.

Given current profitability, 2026 should be a year of renewal and growth for Manitoba's hog sector, but investing in the future is difficult when markets

and trade patterns remain uncertain. Financing barns with a 25-year lifespan becomes more costly and difficult with growing uncertainty. Manitoba's Economic Development Plan recognizes the impact of international uncertainty on the province's investment climate and recognizes the need to reduce our reliance on trade with the U.S. a priority for 2026 will be to develop ways to partner with government and industry to offset some of these financial risks and costs to facilitate industry renewal.

In some ways, 2026 will likely look a lot like 2025. We will continue to see significant trade and market uncertainty, with the potential to see this uncertainty increase going into the CUSMA review. Positive profitability should continue, based on strong demand, disease pressure in other jurisdictions, and manageable feed costs. The question at the end of 2026 will be whether the potential negatives coming from the political environment outweighed the natural potential positives of the market.

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History lessons with Helen: The one room school

By Helen Drysdale
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Publisher's Note: This special submission is the first in a new feature from Helen Drysdale exploring some of our local history. The feature will appear in the paper every other week.

When the first settlers arrived on the prairies their priorities were building a house to live in and breaking the sod to plant a crop. Then they turned to establishing schools. Local meetings would be called to determine the most centralized location to construct a schoolhouse. Resident tax payers initiated formation of the school, hired the teacher and made sure the school buildings were kept in good working order. The size and formation of the school district came under the province's school act. The schools were supposed to be located so students would be able to walk, ride or drive their horses to school, no more than five miles. It was not unusual for a six-year-old to be put on a horse and sent off to school. In the early settlement years the road system consisted of miles of nothing but prairie trails.

More than a building

The little schoolhouse was more than a building for school. It played the role as the central hub of the local community. It served as a church on Sunday, a community center for pot-luck suppers and political ral-

lies, dances, card parties, bridal showers and other community occasions. In some schools the teacher was also the custodian. The teachers had to arrive early in the winter to start the fire in a typical pot-bellied stove in the centre of the room. They were to sweep the floor and clean the black boards at least once a day, and scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water. Under other related duties, from the First Century of Langford History book in the Gordon school section: "During 1933-34, with the cooperation of the children nearly 8,000 gophers fell victim to death; in fact they were nearly eradicated. Of course all the tails had to be counted so the gruesome task was added to the teacher's duty."

With 15 to 40 children of various ages in the class at once, teachers had to be organized and resourceful. They managed multiple grade levels simultaneously and customized instruction for vastly different ability levels. Reading, writing, and arithmetic were stressed more than the other subjects. In the earlier years, with the scarcity of books

and paper, much memorization and oral drilling took place. By the end of the eighth grade students had heard the same lessons many times over. For parts of the year there may have been many boys missing from the class due to helping out on the farm. On top of all those tasks were twice a year visits from a Department of Education inspector. Oh, did I mention that many times the students, being new to Canada, spoke no English.

Not just about lessons

In an excerpt from Myrtle Fair's book, 'I Remember The One Room School' she says: "Johnny was one of my beginners. He never finished any work. I wrote to his mother asking for her cooperation. She wrote back that she couldn't help. He didn't finish his work because his little fingers and

little hands got tired. I decided something else would get tired. I put him over my knee, took down his pants and spanked his bottom. No more lazy Johnny!"

School was not just about lessons. Recesses and noon hour were a time for fun and games. In warmer weather outside games such as Red Light, Green Light, Red Rover, softball, marbles, and skipping to ditties like "Cinderella, dressed in yella, went upstairs to kiss a fella. By mistake she kissed a snake. How many doctors did it take?" Cold weather days saw inside games such as tic-tac-toe and hangman were played on the blackboard. Bathrooms were the outhouse behind the school. There usually two separate outhouses, one for the boys and one for the girls. In the cold of winter when a student asked to use the outhouse the teacher knew the

teachers were not allowed to teach and they did not want teachers to quit part way through a year. Staff turnovers were high with single teachers due to the fact there were a surplus of single male homesteaders looking for a wife. Many single teachers were married after their first year. Rural school boards preferred to keep small schools open and employ inexperienced or underqualified teachers over closing them down entirely because no qualified teacher could be found. The thought was if anyone could successfully pass through high school they were competent enough to teach the lower grades. My mom at 17, with a grade 12 education taught school for only one year before getting married. At 17 her oldest pupil was 16 and she gave him the strap for putting a mouse in her desk drawer.

person really had to go.

At that time male teachers' wages were set at higher levels because they supported a family, while women supported only themselves and did not need a higher pay. Female teachers had to be single as marriage was often followed by pregnancy. Pregnant

'They were curious and I was scared'

An excerpt from 'Rose-dale Remembers, memories of Rosedale school' by Enid (Wall) Henton 1928-29:

"One morning in late August 1928, I found myself in Springhill school facing 64 children ranging in age from 6-14. They were curious and I was scared. I guess I knew when I went there that there were that many, but when you are twenty nothing seems impossible. I wondered if I would ever learn to call them all by name. I will never forget the grade five class. There were 25 children mostly boys. Grade five was an important year in arithmetic (as math was called then) as the pupils were introduced to decimals and fractions. If they did not get a good grounding in this grade they suffered in each grade following. I would teach the lessons three times. The first day one third of them would grasp it. The second day all the others would get the idea and it took the third day to clinch it so all were prepared to go ahead."

In 1871, 80 per cent of Canada's population lived in rural areas. By 1961, that number was down to only 30 per cent. With improved roads and transportation students could attend larger, centralized schools on buses so the old one-room schools fell into disuse. The one-room school remains an important part of our heritage.

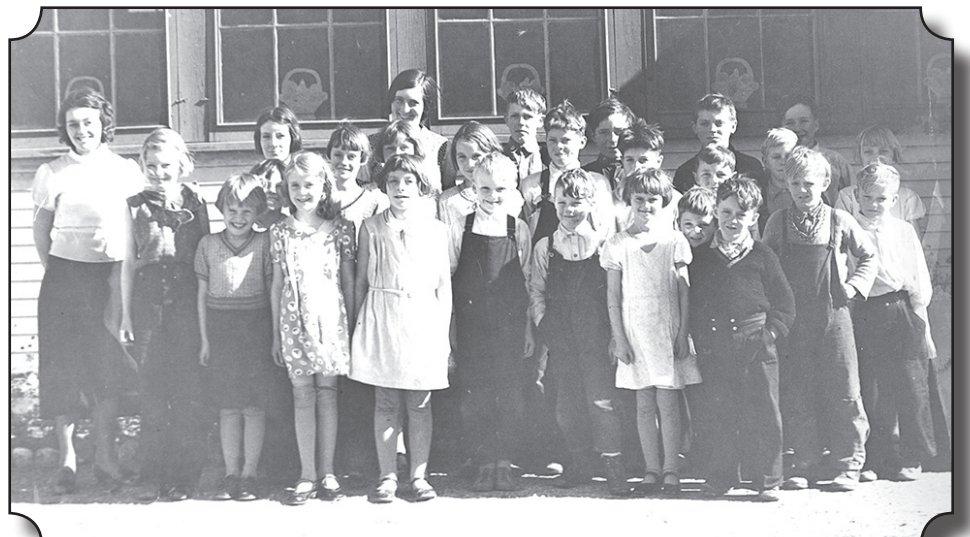


The Iroquois School - Sept. 1909.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Auburn School class 1962: Back: Mac Ramsay, Arnold May, Rod Baker, Larry Jakubowski, Bill Thorn, Gerry Thorn, Edwin May, Joey Jakubowski. Centre: Eunice Mack, Phyllis Poole, Lorraine Martin, Sheila Alexander, Joan Ramsay, Anna May, Betty Byram, Pat Peace (teacher). Front: Roy Poole, Leslie May, Arlene Poole, Lois Baker, Lynne Byram, Kathy Baker, Lloyd Mack, Stewart Poole.



Tobarmore School 1933 Back: ??, Audrey Barclay, Bob Large, Nick Zaruk, Pete Zaruk, Andy Buchanan. Centre: Miss V. Olstead, Marg Barclay, Isabelle Spafford, Gladys White, Violet Buchanan, Ed Large, Alex McRae, Weldon Buchanan, Dick Large, Laura Bilkoski. Front: Doreen Higgins, Ruby Hunt, Evelyn Buchanan, Mary Zaruk, Lloyd White, Jim Hunt, Eunice Bilkoski, Gordon Shatford, Clarence Buchanan, Joe Ames, Murray Higgins.

Neepawa Gymnastic Club hosts home competition



Submitted
NEEPAWA GYMNASTIC CLUB

The Neepawa Gymnastic Club held its' annual competition last weekend at the Yellowhead Hall. The competition was a great success, and it wouldn't have been possible without the countless hours of preparation and support happening behind the scenes. We are absolutely thrilled for our Neepawa Novas gymnasts. Watching them compete with confidence and accomplish new skills was amazing, they should all be so proud of themselves! A big congratulations to the following gymnasts: Lennon, Hadley, Avie, Ally, Natalie and Reagan, on being named to Team Westman, who will compete at the 2026 Manitoba Games in Thompson. What an incredible achievement!

Piper (CCP Level 1)
Vault- Silver.
Bars- Gold.
Beam- Silver.
Floor- Gold.
All Around- Gold.

Presley (CCP Level 1)
Vault- Silver.
Bars- Silver.
Beam- Gold.
Floor- Gold.
All Around- Gold.

Lauren (CCP Level 1)
Vault- Gold
Bars- Silver
Beam- Silver
Floor- Gold
All Around- Silver

Keira (CCP Level 1)
Vault- Gold.
Bars- Silver.

Beam- Silver.
Floor- Gold.
All Around- Silver.

Rylee (CCP Level 1)
Vault- Silver.
Bars- Silver.
Beam- Silver.
Floor- Gold.
All Around- Silver.

Ellie (CCP Level 1)
Vault- Gold.
Bars- Silver.
Beam- Silver.
Floor- Gold.
All Around- Silver.

Mackenzie (CCP Level 1)
Vault- Silver.
Bars- Gold.
Beam- Silver
Floor- Gold.
All Around- Silver.

Isla (CCP Level 1)
Vault- Silver.
Bars- Bronze.
Beam- Silver.
Floor- Gold.
All Around- Silver.

Vivian (CCP Level 1)
Vault- Silver.
Bars- Bronze.
Beam- Silver.
Floor- Gold.
All Around- Silver.

Brielle (CCP Level 2: 2011-13)
Vault- 2nd.
Bars- 4th.
Beam- 1st.
Floor- 2nd.
All Around- 2nd.

Madison (CCP Level 2: 2014)
Vault- 7th.
Bars- 6th.
Beam- 4th.

Floor- 8th.
All Around- 8th.

Emily (CCP Level 2: 2015)
Vault- 2nd.
Bars- 2nd.
Beam- 1st.
Floor- 1st.
All Around- 1st.

Rachel (CCP Level 2: 2015)
Vault- 3rd.
Bars- 1st.
Beam- 2nd.
Floor- 6th.
All Around- 3rd.

Scarlett (CCP Level 2: 2015)
Vault- 6th.
Bars- 4th.
Beam- 5th.
Floor- 5th.
All Around- 5th.

Quinn (CCP Level 2: 2015)
Vault- 4th.
Bars- 6th.
Beam- 4th.
Floor- 7th.
All Around- 6th.

Jemma (CCP Level 2: 2015)
Vault- 2nd.
Bars- 1st.
Beam- 2nd.
Floor- 3rd.
All Around- 1st.

Georgia (CCP Level 2: 2015)
Vault- 1st.
Bars- 5th.
Beam- 1st.
Floor- 1st.
All Around- 2nd.

Alayna (CCP Level 2: 2016)
Vault- 1st.
Bars- 2nd.
Beam- 1st.
Floor- 1st.

All Around- 1st.

Ashlyn (CCP Level 2: 2016)
Vault- 5th.
Bars- 4th.
Beam- 2nd.
Floor- 3rd.
All Around- 3rd.

Avie (CCP Level 3: 2011-2012)
Vault- 2nd.
Bars- 2nd.
Beam- 1st.
Floor- 1st.
All Around- 1st.

Ally (CCP Level 3: 2011-2012)
Vault- 3rd.
Bars- 3rd.
Beam- 5th.
Floor- 2nd.
All Around- 3rd.

Alora (CCP Level 3: 2011-2012)
Vault- 4th.
Bars- 5th.
Beam- 2nd.
Floor- 3rd.
All Around- 4th.

Hadley (CCP Level 3: 2013)
Vault- 1st.
Bars- 1st.
Beam- 1st.
Floor- 1st.
All Around- 1st.

Lennon (CCP Level 3: 2015)
Vault- 2nd.
Bars- 4th.
Beam- 6th.
Floor- 7th.
All Around- 4th.

Reagan (CCP Level 4: 2013-16)
Vault- 4th.
Bars- 3rd.
Beam- 1st.
Floor- 4th
All Around- 3rd Place

Eliena (CCP Level 6)
Vault- 2nd.
Bars- 2nd.
Beam- 2nd.
Floor- 2nd.
All Around- 2nd.

Jayden (Xcel Gold: 2006-2009)
Vault- 4th.
Bars- 3rd.
Beam- 3rd.
Floor- 5th.
All Around- 4th.

Natalie (Xcel Gold: 2010-2011)
Vault- 1st.
Bars- 1st.
Beam- 4th.
Floor- 2nd.
All Around- 2nd.

Crysten (Xcel Gold: 2010-11)
Vault- 3rd.
Bars- 3rd.
Beam- 5th.
Floor- 5th.
All Around- 5th.

Ava (Xcel Gold: 2012)
Vault- 1st.
Bars- 2nd.
Beam- 1st.
Floor- 1st.
All Around- 1st.

Huge thank you to all of our parents, volunteers, and supporters for helping make our Home Competition run so smoothly. We are so grateful to the Clubs, Coaches, and Judges who attended on an insanely cold day. Pictures and information courtesy of the Neepawa Gymnastics Club's social media.

A scenic winter in the Minnedosa valley



PHOTOS FROM
MINNEDOSA CDC + TOURISM

The winter season can provide plenty of its own picturesque landscapes. Shown here are some aerial photographs of Minnedosa, which were originally taken in late December of 2025.

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