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'We've accomplished building the dream'

Valley Life Recreation marks official opening of Squirrel Hills Trail Park



PHOTO BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

The ribbon cutting ceremonies for Minnedosa's trail park were completed this past weekend. The occasion was met with plenty of cheers and applause from all in attendance.

By Casper Wehrhahn  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

A labour of love from passionate volunteers reached a new peak recently. After years of dedication and hard work, Minnedosa's Valley Life Recreation held the

official grand opening of the Squirrel Hills Trail Park on Saturday, July 12. All of the public was welcome to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony, which was held at the new trailhead. "It thrills us all so much to have so many of you

here— thank you. We've accomplished building the dream, team. And we are very excited to welcome a new chapter for Squirrel Hills," said Dave Ternier, board chairperson for Valley Life Recreation. "We'd like to acknowledge the

many partners who have helped us get up to this point, and all of you who are here to celebrate with us."

**Behind the dream**  
First established in 1991 as the Squirrel Hills Recreation Area, this scenic

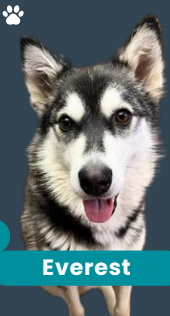
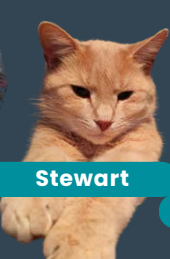

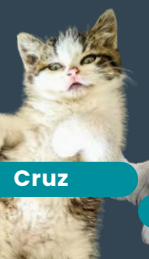

location began as a cross-country ski and summer hiking trail area. Over the decades, teams of volunteers maintained and gradually expanded this outdoor community feature. The plans to further develop the Squirrel Hills

Recreation Area began in 2020, following the creation of Valley Life Recreation. This vision for a major expansion and development led to what is now known by residents and visitors as the Squirrel Hills Trail Park. **Continued on Page 14**

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Old grass removed on boulevards to prepare for reseeding



PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX  
The existing sections of grass on several boulevards along Main Street in Neepawa have been removed in preparation for the area to be leveled and reseeded.

## New sidewalk installed along Mill Street suburb expansion



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX  
The gradual completion of the new subdivision on the former C.N. property in Neepawa continues, with the installation of a new sidewalk and trees along Mill Street. In the future, this new pathway will serve pedestrians, by allowing safe access from the residential properties to the proposed commercial areas to be developed along the highway.

# Neepawa Health Centre still on track for 2026 handover



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN HEALTH  
Top picture: An aerial view of the work that is continuing on Neepawa's east end for the new regional Health Centre. Picture above left: A look of what will be the in-patient wing of the hospital, once completed. Picture above right: How the main entrance currently appears.

By Joshua Jackson  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The construction of Neepawa's new health centre continues to trudge along. Each day, approximately 200-250 tradespeople can be found working at the site, with the number expected to increase as construction continues.

In a release by Prairie Mountain Health (PMH), crews have been focusing

on building out the interior clinical and public spaces, with framing and drywall work underway in many areas. Workers have installed most of the major mechanical building equipment, while mechanical and electrical rough-in work continues. An article by Prairie Mountain Health mentions that electrical contractors are beginning to pull wiring and data cables in some

areas of the new hospital. The interior spaces are set to be completed in phases, with some areas 60 per cent complete while other areas are just starting work to keep the different trades involved in building the facility organized and following each other.

Crews have also been working on landscaping, roadways, and parking areas in the summer heat. The building itself is al-

most completely clad with finish materials, with only trim areas remaining. The hospital's outbuildings, like the facility's storage garage and emergency generator building, are almost complete.

Construction on the new hospital is still on track, with plans to hand the building to PMH in 2026, with the first patients being seen in 2027.

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1925: Building the Mountain Road Church

By Casper Wehrhahn  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

125 years ago,  
Wednesday,  
July 18, 1900

Note: The entries for 1900 are from The Neepawa Register, as The Press for that year is not fit for regular handling.

It is reported that wild fruit will be plentiful in the Neepawa district this season. Saskatoons are more abundant than they have been for years, while settlers from Riding Mountain report raspberries in plenty and ripening fast since the recent rains. Wild cherries and plums will also be a good crop.

100 years ago,  
Tuesday,  
July 14, 1925

The formal opening of the magnificent new Orthodox Greek Church at Mountain Road took place on Sunday last, July 12, when the population of practically that whole countryside was present to participate in the ceremony. When a man forbids himself to do a thing the restraint makes for the liberation of the race. When he forbids his neighbour, the

tendency is toward tyranny. Nurse Theo McKone left yesterday for Chicago to resume training after a visit here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John McKone.

Note: Regarding this week's feature item, the Mountain Road Church, here are some additional details:

- The official name associated with the church is the Patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church.
- The first St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church built at Mountain Road, in the Rural Municipality of Rosedale, stood at that location from 1904 to 1925.
- The first Ukrainian settlers to this region arrived in 1896. At first, they had attended church services at Hun's Valley (now known as Polonia).
- Construction for the church pictured at the right of this page took place between 1924 and 1925 under the supervision of Father Philip Ruh. It was later burnt as the result of a lightning strike.

75 years ago,  
Thursday,  
July 20, 1950

Frederick Goodwill McClure passed away suddenly on June 30 in Royal Columbian Hospital, New Westminster, B.C., following a heart attack.

Mr. McClure was well known in the Springhill and Neepawa districts, where as a grain buyer he lived for many years. Arden: William Matthews left some time ago for CPR station work and is now at Gimli as assistant agent.

50 years ago,  
Thursday,  
July 17, 1975

The annual Orange Day parade in Neepawa was held Saturday, July 12, to commemorate the Battle of the Boyne, fought at the

Boyne River in Ireland in 1690. In the battle, William of Orange [William III] of England defeated the deposed monarch, James II, who fled the throne in the Bloodless Revolution of 1688. In the Neepawa parade Terry McCurry of Plumas played the role of William III, the victorious leader.

A study of the condition of Lake Irwin and the effect on it of its present use as a recreation facility has been requested by the Neepawa town council in a resolution passed at their regular meeting Tuesday, July 15.

The decision to seek the water resource study came in a discussion of the condition of the lake, which serves as a reservoir for the town, and hopefully will provide guidelines to the town for future development of the Lake Irwin area.

Mentmore Pool Elevator celebrated their 50th Anniversary by holding an old fashioned picnic at the K. of C. Picnic Grounds on Sunday, June 29, at 2:00 p.m.

20 years ago,  
Monday,  
July 18, 2005

Small-town Manitoba lost a lifelong booster when former business man Lawrence Harreaves passed away suddenly in Neepawa. He was 79.

A long-time member of the Neepawa Area Development Corporation (NADCO), Hargreaves was instrumental in establishing the Margaret Laurence Home.

He also championed the Mainstreet Manitoba program, which was



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

Although it is rare to see photos in older papers, depending on the year, there are the occasional exceptions. This photo depicting the Mountain Road Church was one such exception. It appeared in the July 14, 1925 edition of The Press and was taken on July 4, with work on the exterior still being in progress.

responsible for beautifying downtown Neepawa in the late 1980s...

As well, a pocket park was built in front of Hargreaves' drug store (now Sears).

Disclaimer: The information gathered and used each week in the Looking Back feature is directly taken from the original print copy of the Neepawa Press and Neepawa Banner newspapers.

Any errors or omissions from stories (Factually or otherwise) are the result of the original print and not the responsibility of the archivist for the current version of the Neepawa Banner & Press.

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How many readers remember the pic-a-pop in Neepawa? This ad was in the July 3, 1975 edition of The Neepawa Press.

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Coffee Chat: Children's Business Fair 2025  
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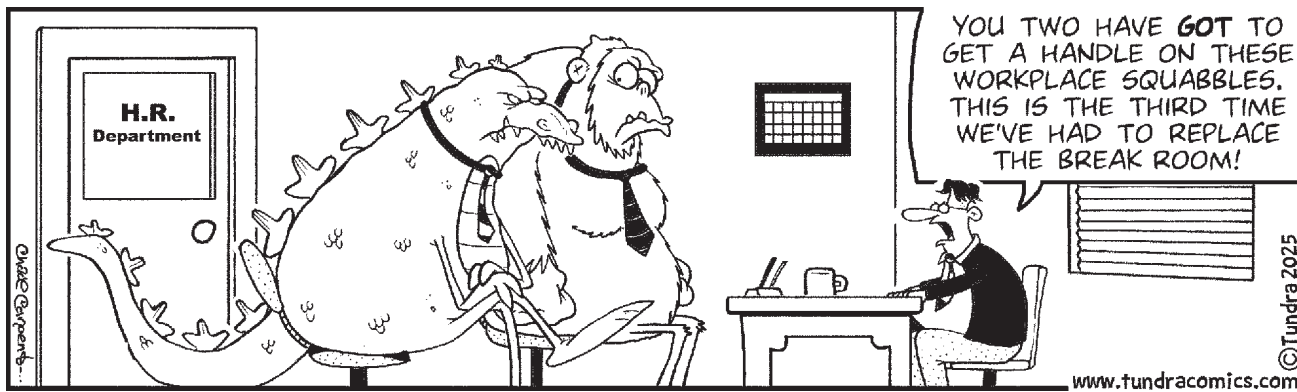
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By Chad Carpenter



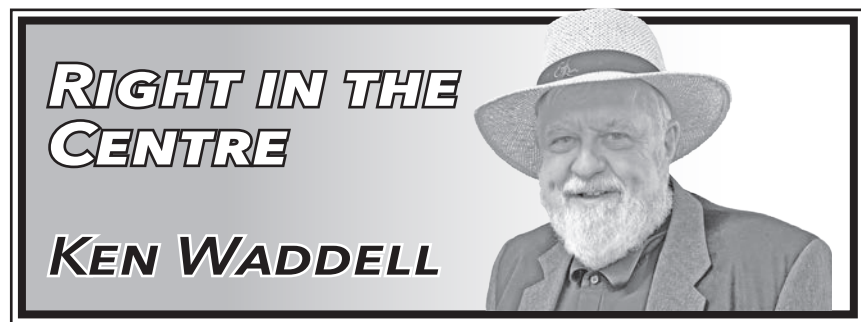
## A mix of fun and serious stories

First, some fun!

A man from the McKerchar family at Strathclair told me a neat story about one of his ancestors. What prompted this thought to my brain was visiting the campground and beach at Rapid City during their annual Porkfest. Noted on the historical plaque at the beach is a story about a flour mill on the river in the early days of Rapid City.

According to the McKerchar family legend, one of their earliest family members in the Strathclair area was told by his wife one day they were getting really low on flour. So Mr. McKerchar reportedly put a big sack of wheat on his back and proceeded to hike towards the flour mill at Rapid City. By today's highway map it's about a 35 mile trek but maybe it was a bit shorter across country. Upon arriving at the mill, McKerchar was annoyed, as only a penny-pinching Scotsman can get annoyed, about a price increase when he was told by the miller that the price had gone up since his last visit. In a huff, McKerchar decided he wasn't going to pay the higher price and walked back home with his wheat. Upon his arrival he was met with some scorn by his wife who, according to family legend said, "Ach man, you may saved your pennies but we still no have any flour." McKerchar marched back the next day to correct his penny-pinching ways and get his bag of flour.

My dad, also a Scotsman, was born in 1907 and came to Canada in January 1913. He spent his early years in Montreal and then until 1922 on a farm at Christieville, Quebec. For the next eight years or so, he worked across Canada, mostly western Canada, and often travelled by a method called riding the rails. That meant getting into or on top of a railway car and hitching a ride



for free. Times were tough and so any free way of getting across the country was sought out. Some men would "ride the rods" which he said was crawling in under the rail cars and laying on a board laid on the connecting rods under the rail cars. If you fell off, you would likely be killed by the train. My Dad said he never rode the rods; way too dangerous. Men would often travel in pairs or small groups, but one night Dad climbed into a box car by himself in the dark. He sensed there was another person in the car – a match was struck which provided a brief bit of light. Dad was smaller in stature and he remembered the man with the match was very large and all he said was "Hi". In the morning the man with the match was gone. Such a meeting could have turned out badly, but my Dad was grateful it didn't.

His older brother, a man of even slighter stature told me he was getting off a train somewhere at night and sensed a person was coming up behind him on the train station platform. My uncle simply reached down and swung his fist up, giving the approaching man an uppercut that dropped him in his tracks. Uncle wasn't taking any chances.

Over the last seven decades, I have heard and collected a lot stories and so I can't resist inserting a few into my column once in a while

This next story is a more serious topic and isn't so much a story as an

observation. Over the weekend, I was pondering the very serious wildfire situation and the extreme smokey air conditions, the evacuation and the huge cost of coping with the fires. I am wondering if we had spent as much on forestry management as we have in the past 5-10 years on emergency fire fighting, we might not have had as many evacuations, buildings lost, forests destroyed and human deaths. Nobody is talking much yet about the loss of animals and birds.

If nothing else, Manitoba and all of Canada, for that matter, has to re-think how we do forestry and fire management. Every community should have a wide maintained fire guard around the communities. Perhaps wood harvesting of all kinds needs to be stepped up, such as lumber, firewood, pulp and paper, and wood chip production.

I can't imagine us wanting as a country to go through these kinds of fires again. I think fires can be prevented and controlled but it will take a major change in the use of money, other resources, manpower and political will to create safer communities. Change must come.

*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



## I woke to watch the sunrise...

The seasons flow so quickly. The longer daylight hours are shortening, already. It's simply minutes per day, a few more minutes lost in the morning than in the evening, I don't know why or how, but that's what my limited research shows. Earliest sunrise for our area was 5:19 a.m. and now it's about 5:40; sunset has shifted from 9:41 to 9:28. The bedroom window faces east and most evenings I draw the darkening blind. I forgot and woke to a splendour filled morning sky. There was no moment of delay, the colours called me to full awareness, knowing that the day ahead could be a long one. I watched as the sun gained dominance over the darkness, pinks and purples flowing across the heavens. So perfect was the morning that looking out the west window, tinges and daubs of colours echoed there. The sun, far to the north, glowed and pulsed, and rose slowly, ever changing the hues and depths of colours. Mesmerised, I watched until the full morning won, blue skies, gently swaying tree tops now centre stage.

It's not often that I watch a summer sunrise; sunsets are my speciality. I admire the photos my friend Pat posts on social media, sunrises from her front door, but not so much as witness the actual event. And with all the awe the view inspired I never thought to capture it with anything other than my memory.

How did this blessed moment change my day? It was easier for me to see beauty in the ordinary; to note the growth and development of the garden, to hear the songs of the birds, to simply sit. As many of you know, sitting doesn't come easy for me! Somehow, that deliberate act of watching the sun rise, changed the tempo of my day. Could it be considered a moment of meditation, a prayer filled time? Not consciously. I do know that watching the dark chased away by the light moved me deeply. It was/is encouraging and inspiring, it was/is part of everyday living and choosing. So many times darkness comes in shifting shapes and persons – memories and current events. And so many times light comes in shifting shapes and persons! It come with a true dawning, it comes in words of peace and loving, it comes through gentle actions and caring thoughts. In most of our lives there are moments, seasons, of darkness, and it is in these times we need to be shown the light, we need to see the light.

That particular sunrise, was, for me, a brief revisit to the Isle of Iona, to the peace of Big Valley, to the walk through the tall trees.. It was an awareness of the majesty of creation, the majesty of the Creator, the wonder of life and living. I didn't expect the glory of the sunrise to move me so deeply, but it did. Did I miss the extra hours of sleep? Probably not! Sleep is my elusive friend at best. Would I set an alarm to try to recapture the moment? Absolutely not! Did it change me? Without a doubt.

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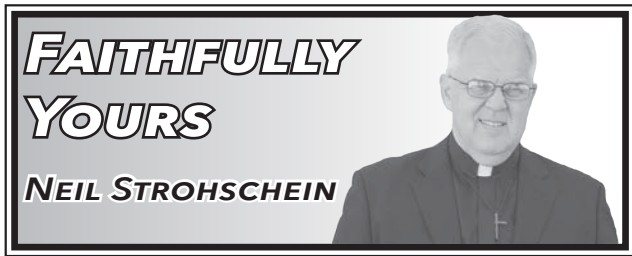


## Another year—looking back

I just celebrated another birthday. I'm not bragging; just reporting facts. I can't avoid birthdays. I can't hide from them. They come every year on the same date; and each birthday reminds me that I am one year closer to the day (known only to God) when my time on this planet will end.

So today and next week, I want to share some birthday reflections. This week I will share three things that haven't changed since I was born; and conclude with the one lesson I have learned from these observations.

First, the world has not come to an end—yet. It has survived two world wars, hundreds of smaller conflicts, numerous elections and regime changes. It has bounced back from major natural disasters, like volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, floods and wildfires. And, so far, it has taken back the remains of everything to which it has given life. Plants, animals and people cannot escape the fact that we are dust and



to dust we will return.

Second, God has not abandoned this world, its people or the nations in which we live. Those who suggest he has (and I would include some prominent televangelists in that list) are not telling you the whole truth. God will allow us to suffer the consequences of the choices we make, but he will never leave or forsake us. One day, the universe and this planet will cease to exist. It will be replaced with a new heaven and a new earth. But until then, God's promises to this earth and its people will remain intact and will be kept.

Many years ago, the prophet Jeremiah wrote: "the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning,

great is (God's) faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23) St. Paul (2 Thessalonians 2:7-8) tells us that the forces of evil (which he calls "the mystery of lawlessness") have been at work in our world since creation; and will continue until "the one who restrains (it) is removed." God's Spirit is actively holding back the evil forces that, if not restrained, would make conditions in today's world far worse than they were in the days of Noah. God hasn't abandoned us. Don't let anyone suggest that he has.

Third, the cycles of life continue as they always have. God has kept the promise he made to Noah after the great flood: "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall

not cease." (Genesis 8:22) These seasonal cycles have remained constant since the flood. So have life cycles. Every living thing is born, grows to maturity, ages and dies. Modern science has given us the ability to trace vital trends in society and the environment. Thanks to them, we have up to date information on pandemics, global warming, climate change and numerous other threats to human life and health. So here's the lesson I have learned.

Science can tell us how we got to where we are; but it cannot tell us how to instantly undo damage to our planet and its environment that has taken decades to create. God alone knows what's ahead for this planet and its people. He has given us people with the wisdom to guide us through the challenging times that lie ahead. He expects us to listen to them and trust that God will speak through them to guide us in the way that we should go. The question is—will we do as God desires?

## Letters

### What's the problem with going with the simplest solution

I, as a concerned citizen, ask where would somebody come up with such a ridiculous confusing want/a/be remedy to any highway intersection? It looks like a recipe for disaster.

What's the problem using a straight forward use of traffic lights?

This would be more cost effective. Everybody would get a turn at crossing safely. Use the extra savings to employ more enforcement people.

Another problem is maximum only in school, playground and work zones.

I was travelling west on #16 highway at posted speed. Somebody passing caused me to take the shoulder with on/coming traffic, the other shoulder and the perpetrator went down the middle. Why such inconsiderate dangerous driving? The passing lane was only 3 to 4 kilometres ahead. In my 1,000 kilometre trip, the only enforcement people I saw was one vehicle at Chicken Chef and two at Russell Inn on Friday. Why don't people realize speed and carelessness kills? It's better to be late than in hell on time.

**Norm Hogarth**  
Neepawa, MB

*Would you like to send in a letter to the editor?  
Email [news@neepawabanner.com](mailto:news@neepawabanner.com) to submit yours.  
Letters are limited to **approximately 400 words**  
The Banner & Press reserves the right to edit letters  
to fit available space.*

## Beautiful Plains Archives: Gunnar Trophy recipients of 1980



BEAUTIFUL PLAINS ARCHIVES

Pictured here are the recipients of the Frank Gunnar Memorial Trophy for 1980. The award was presented in late May that year, being received at the Provincial Rifle Shoot held in Dauphin. This team got top marks in the Beginners written test at the Manitoba Junior Rifle Club Championships. They are also the first team to bring the trophy home to Neepawa. At the time of the photo, these boys were ages 10-12.

Pictured are: Marshall Dolding, Tony McDougall, Evan McGorman, Murray Sneesby and Jeff Chappel.

### Thumbs up, thumbs down

Thumbs up to Pennos Machining and TIC Parts for making fixing things so easy. The farming community is lucky to have them.

**Bryce Parrott**  
Neepawa, MB



Thumbs down to the individuals who left five small puppies at the Eden dump to fend for themselves. How could you be so cruel? Fortunately better people than you have rescued them.

**Dan Walker**  
Birnie, MB



Would you like to send a thumbs up or thumbs down to an individual or group in the community? Please send it our way. Submissions must include a name and must be under 100 words.

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HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

Food safety continued

Did you know that undercooked hamburger is a large source of E. coli infection? For food safety cook food to the right internal temperature. The only way to know if the correct internal temperature is by using a food thermometer. Beef and pork - medium rare - 145°F (63°C), well done - 77°C (170°F), fish - 145°F(63°C), ham - 145°F(63°C), ground meats - 160°F (71°C) and all poultry - 165°F (74°C). The cost of a thermometer is inexpensive compared to missing several days of work due to a bout of food poisoning. To check the temperature insert a thermometer into the middle of the meat without touching any bones or layers of fat. Wash and sanitize your thermometer after use. Slow cookers can be used to cook food, but not to reheat it. Bring sauces, gravies, and soups to a boil when reheating. When reheating foods in the microwave rotate and stir food midway through reheating to distribute heat evenly.

When marinating meats if you want some of the marinade to baste cooked meat or use as a dipping sauce, make sure to set some aside in the refrigerator that hasn't touched uncooked meat. When using the BBQ, do not place cooked meat on the same plate used to bring the raw meat to the BBQ. Raw juices can spread bacteria to your safely-cooked food. That quick wipe of the raw meat plate does not make it any safer! I think everyone should know this but I have seen it happen. Don't wash meat, poultry or seafood to avoid spreading harmful germs around your kitchen. These raw meats are ready to cook and do not need to be washed first. Washing these foods can spread germs to the sink, to your hands and the surrounding counter. Do not defrost food at room temperature. The outside of the food, which thaws first, will spend too much time in "the Danger Zone" that lead to bacterial growth. Next week; what is the Danger Zone?

Cedar plank salmon is a great way to grill salmon for a delicious flavor. The salmon stays moist and you don't have to worry about the salmon sticking to the grill and falling apart. Cedar planks should be soaked for at least 1-2 hours. Weigh down the planks to prevent them from floating. While the planks are soaking marinate the salmon.

Planked salmon

- 1 cedar plank

2 lbs. salmon fillet with skin on

Marinade:

1/4 cup salt reduced soy sauce

1/4 cup balsamic vinegar

1 clove garlic, minced

1 Tbsp. grated ginger
- 2 Tbsp. honey

1/4 cup chopped fresh herbs such as dill, chives or parsley

Garnish:

lemon wedges

Preheat the grill, setting the burners to medium, about 350°F. Place the soaked plank on the grill and heat for 2 minutes on each side. Brush a tiny bit of oil on the top side of the plank. Place the salmon on top of the plank, skin side down. Cook salmon until it has reached an internal temperature of 145°F, about 18-20 minutes. Remove salmon from grill and let it rest for about 5 minutes before serving. Enjoy! Serve the salmon on a platter right off the plank with lemon wedges.

A fast meal, grilled salmon foil packs with veggies couldn't be easier to toss together and grill up quickly.

Salmon and veggies in foil

- 3 small cloves garlic, minced

fresh dill or parsley or thyme

1/4 tsp. each salt and pepper

4 Tbsp. melted butter

aluminum foil

1 small zucchini, sliced 1 inch thick

1 large red pepper, sliced length wise
- 1 large carrot, thinly sliced lengthwise

fresh green beans or broccoli

1 medium onion, sliced

4 salmon fillets,

no thicker than one inch

1 orange sliced

In a large bowl toss gently all the veggies with the garlic, fresh herb of choice, salt, pepper and 2 Tbsp. of the butter. Tear off 4 pieces of heavy duty foil, each about 24 X 18 inches. Divide the veggies in the middle of the four pieces of foil. Place one salmon piece on top of each vegetable portion. Drizzle remaining butter over each salmon piece. Salt and pepper fish lightly if desired. Place orange slices on top of fish pieces. Draw two opposite ends of the foil up, fold it over, and then fold each end (you want to securely seal the food inside, making a packet). Preheat your grill to medium to medium-high heat. Grill salmon and vegetables in foil for about 20-25 minutes. Check after about 18-20 minutes by opening one foil taking care to keep your fingers away from steam when opening the foil packets. If it flakes easily, or has reached an internal temperature of 145°F measured with a thermometer, it's done. Enjoy.

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Riverbend Maker's Market

returns home to Neepawa



ARCHIVED PHOTO

After a one year hiatus, the Riverbend Maker's Market is returning to Neepawa on July 19.

By Eoin Devereux  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The organizers of the Riverbend Maker's Market are looking forward to the event's greatly anticipated return to Neepawa. After a one year hiatus, the retail arts and crafters event is back and scheduled for Saturday, July 19 at the Riverbend Park.

Neepawa Tourism is organizing the festivities, with board member Jaclyn Farough helping to lead the way. Farough said they have a nice variety of vendors committed to this year's Market.

"We currently have 20 committed vendors, and they range from handmade bath bombs and soaps, handmade jewelry, food products, wooden furniture and decor, plus much more," said Farough. "We are excited to be back at it this year and look forward to seeing the turnout we

get, especially with all the other fantastic things going on in Neepawa on the 19th as well."

Farough noted that the last minute preparations are going very well, though they could always welcome some additional help.

"Our volunteer list is looking good! There's always room for a few more

people, but we've had a wonderful amount of support this year from a few different groups around Neepawa."

The Riverbend Maker's Market is set for July 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. All the proceeds from the \$5 admission fee will be donated to the Margaret Laurence Home.



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# Province backs off RCUT plan near Carberry

## Kinew Government discards proposal for disliked intersection upgrade

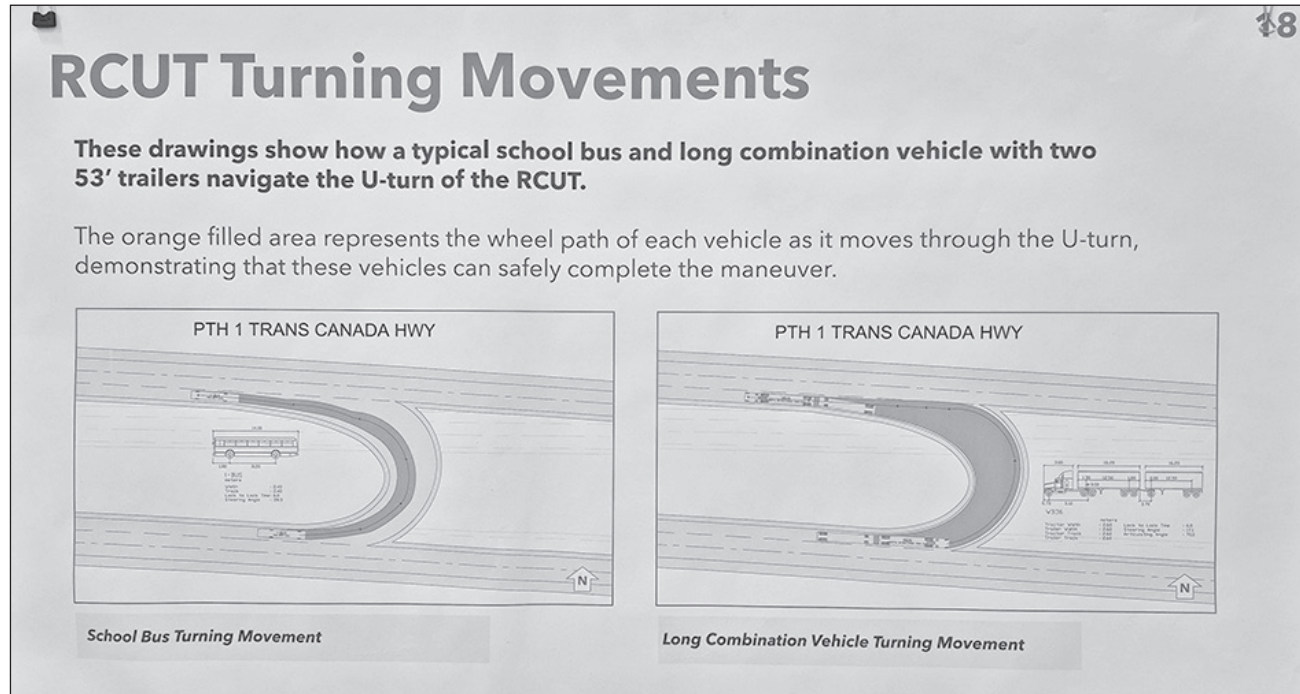
By Eoin Devereux  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The road safety option no one around Carberry wanted for the Trans-Canada Highway is now officially off the table. During an interview last week with Golden West Broadcasting, Premier Wab Kinew said that the province will no longer proceed with the proposed Reduced Conflict U-Turn (RCUT) for the intersection of the Trans-Canada and Highway 5. That location was the site of the 2023 multi-vehicle crash that killed 17 people and injured eight.

“What we’re announcing today is something that we’re not going to do,” Kinew told GoldenWest on Wednesday, July 9. “It’s really important to our government that we listen to rural Manitoba and folks in Carberry and the surrounding region have made it very clear they do not want this RCUT design.”

The Banner & Press reached out to the Premier’s office for additional details, and Kinew did further elaborate on the point.

“After hearing clearly from the community, our government will not proceed with the RCUT design at the intersection of Highway 1 and 5 near Carberry. While engineers identified it as a safe option, rural Manitobans told us it’s not the right fit. We’re listening, stepping back, and developing a new approach that prioritizes safety and reflects local needs. This process will include further design work, budgeting, and consultation with a commitment to transparency and com-



A rendering of the RCUT U-Turn and how it would work for larger vehicles, such as school buses or semi-trucks.

munity input every step of the way.”

The RCUT (Reduced Collision U-Turn) concept had been one of three considered for the intersection to improve safety at busy highway intersections when traffic volumes do not support an overpass. It basically forces drivers to make a U-turn instead of turning left. These intersections are new to Canada, but they have been extensively built in the United States. The other original options that had been under consideration were:

- **A Widened Median Intersection:** This option will see the westbound lane relocated farther north, creating a wider median between the east and west lanes of about 66 metres.
- **A Split Intersection:** This option is similar to a Widened Median, but is even wider. (166 metres).

In his interview with Golden West Broadcasting, Kinew stated that the province will begin developing new proposals for the high-traffic rural intersection, but that these original concepts could be under consideration once again, depending on the new budget and potential land acquisition.



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### Fighting for safety

The RCUT proposal has drawn significant backlash within the community of

Carberry due to concerns about its impact on large farm equipment, emergency vehicles, and school buses. Because of those

concerns, rural residents mobilized to oppose the proposal, in the form of a rally and petition.

Jordan Dickson, who is one of the people that helped organize the local protests, said they’re pleased with the decision and looking forward to seeing what the province does next.

“Our group that organized the RCUT opposition rally and petition is very excited that the province listened to local residents and scrapped the option. We are hopeful that the province will do their due diligence this time in listening to locals and conducting traffic counts during the busy harvest season,” said Dickson. “We will keep fighting for safety and look forward to see what the province does next.”



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# End of an era in Neepawa

## Neepawa Lions Club formally disbands

**Submitted**  
NEEPAWA LIONS CLUB

The Neepawa Lions Club is officially announcing the conclusion of its services in Neepawa.

The club's final order of business occurred on June 30, 2025.

At the final meeting of the Neepawa Lions Club, the remaining members dispersed the club's bank account by making donations to the following community groups:

- Neepawa and Area Collegiate: graduation scholarships for the next 10 years.
- Neepawa Salvation Army: for the community kitchen program.
- Touchwood Park Association: for the accessibility playground equipment project.
- Beautiful Plains Museum.
- Neepawa Habitat for Humanity: for the 2025 new home project.
- Beautiful Plains Historical Archives Society.

Over the past few months, club members collected, sorted and delivered the historical documents to the Historical Archives Society so that the club's legacy could be preserved.

The Lions Club members also met with the Neepawa Town Council and arrangements were finalized to transfer the ownership of the Stoney Creek School to the Town of Neepawa. The school was designated as a Heritage building in 2017. The school is located at the Neepawa Riverbend Park.

It is with regrets that the Neepawa Lions had to conclude its services in Neepawa and Area. We simply failed to recruit new members to keep the club functioning.

The club obtained its Charter from Lions Clubs

International in 1938. Its contributions to Neepawa and Area has been enormous over its 87 years legacy. The club members gave countless hours to the local projects, volunteering at fund raising events as well as labor hours in the construction of buildings, parks and sporting facilities. Funds were raised to support non-profit organizations, school bands and scholarships and athletic events for all age groups. Funds were given to organizations serving individuals with disabilities and to persons requiring medical assistance for expense coverage.

In addition, the Neepawa Lions Club also fulfilled its obligations in supporting countless programs under the sponsorship of the Lions Club International Foundation. These projects took a number of club members to places around the world where funds raised in Neepawa helped people in need. The collection of recycled eye glasses by the Lions Club is an important part of sight restoration for people in third world countries. This collection of glasses will continue in Neepawa.

Club members have prepared and presented the names of the club's Charter Members, names of all of the Past Presidents and the names of all four hundred and three members from 1938 to 2025. These lists are being preserved by the Beautiful Plains Archives.

In closing, on behalf of all the current and past Neepawa Lions Club's members, we wish to express our thanks to all the area citizens, current and past, the Town of Neepawa and the neighbouring municipalities who supported every club's fund raising events and volunteered assistance to the club over its past eighty-seven years.

# Not her first rodeo: Rrain Prior takes Rotary Club reins

**By Joshua Jackson**  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

It's been ten years since Rrain Prior was last in the captain's seat of Neepawa's Rotary Club.

The Rotarian was the first female president of the local organization exactly one decade ago, and is eager to return to this position.

"(My first presidency) was meaningful to me. It was also the hook they used to get me to do it (the first time) because there's no election, you just get tapped on the shoulder, like, 'will you be president,'" she said. "When I came in, I did a big speech on the history of women in Rotary because women weren't even allowed into Rotary Clubs until the late 80s."

The president also grew up knowing Rotary and held a special place for the organization in her heart because she was a Rotary Exchange student during high school. And was sent to the Philippines.

"This was long before we had any Filipino immigration in Neepawa, so it has come in handy having had that year-long experience. Rotary sponsored me, and I stayed with Rotary families there," said Prior. "After having that experience as a young person and being sponsored to do these incredible things, you want to give that back and make that happen for other people."

Prior has two main goals for her term as president. One of them is to restart the long-term exchange program.

"I would love to see someone go out from Neepawa and host a student (here) in the fall of 2026. This means (we'll be) looking for a host family and working with the school to make sure they'll accept the student," she said. "You have to do a lot of paperwork at least a year ahead of this whole thing happening. That is one of my big goals for this year, and I've been telling everyone that because I'm excited."

Prior noted that her other goal is much less interesting to the public, but is integral to the foundation



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Rrain Prior was raised at Neepawa but spent several years away, including one year in the Philippines. Rrain has many years experience in journalism, community leadership and is long-time member of the Neepawa Rotary Club. She is the former Director of Arts Forward and chairs the local library board.

of the Rotary Club. She plans to consolidate all the feedback they've received from club members over the years to create a three-year roadmap.

The club plans to focus on local projects because there's so much need in the community for various things. She pointed to the Rotary Club donating to the new hospital, daycares, recreation facilities, and parks.

"As the community grows, it needs more and different things. This used to be a community that stayed a static size, and now, this is a community that is growing through young families and birth rate, so the needs are kind of in those areas where we can contribute to a lot of those scholarships for students."

Prior also lauded the

Rotary's new Satellite Club and is thrilled to watch its growth.

"There's a big growth within the club, and the satellite Club, [who has younger members], they have a different perspective on what the town needs. They've been working hard and donating things to places around town, like pool chairs to the Neepawa Pool."

The club president said there's a lot to be excited about for Rotary this year, as fellow Neepawa Rotarian Wayne Jacobsen is the District 5550 Governor. And Neepawa will be hosting the district conference.

"District 5550 is Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Northern Ontario. It's a big thing, people come from all over for this conference, so that is a big project for the

club this year," she said. "This conference brings tourists to our town, and there are huge spin-off opportunities there, and we're looping in things like walking tours, using the golf course, shopping trips for spouses who are coming along, or activities for kids. There are a lot of opportunities for us to partner with local organizations."

Prior noted that there are many projects they plan on doing this year and have a lot on the go. She said they are always keen to add new members, and encourages you to check out their Facebook page for all of the latest club information.

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# Painting Music at ArtsForward

By Casper Wehrhahn  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

There's a new interactive experience at ArtsForward. Until Aug. 29, the Neepawa arts and culture centre is home to the exhibit titled 'Painting Music'. This display was a joint collaboration between Neepawa artists Gwen Baryla and Shannon Desjardins. Baryla is well known in the community for her acrylic works, and Desjardins for her oil-based works.

At a meet and greet held last Wednesday, it was shared that the idea for this exhibit came from an unexpected spark.

"I was talking about doing this eagle painting," said Desjardins, referencing one of the pieces on display. "And the whole time I had this song (Up Where We Belong) stuck in my head. I told Gwen about it and she said..."

"Let's do an exhibit on it," Baryla exclaimed.

As a result, and fitting



Pictured left: Neepawa artists Shannon Desjardins and Gwen Baryla. Work from these two artists is currently being featured at ArtsForward in Neepawa.

Pictured right: A portion of a painting by Desjardins. This was the painting she was working on which led to the discussion that inspired the "Painting Music" exhibit. It is titled 'Up Where We Belong', after the song by Jennifer Warnes and Joe Cocker.



PHOTO BY CASPER WEHRHAHN, ART BY SHANNON DESJARDINS AND GWEN BARYLA

with the title, each piece in Painting Music has a song associated with it. This extends from the title, to a QR code visitors can scan to listen to the relevant song. Each song paired with a painting, is the song that

the artists listened to while making their art.

While some pieces came to be with the idea for them being formed first, and the music following, many also were made in the opposite order. That is, hearing the song first and forming an idea based on the music.

Some pieces on display are also works in progress and will be added to later on. An example of this is the works from a painting exercise Baryla and Desjardins have been doing for Elton John's 'Yellow Brick Road'. People are encouraged to visit the exhibit at ArtsForward to see the progress made on these pieces thus far, as well as enjoy the exhibit as a whole.

When asked about their personal favourites featured in Painting Music, Baryla and Desjardins each had a unique answer.

"I don't have a particular attachment once I'm done a piece—once it's done, it's done," said Desjardins. "But I really enjoy the process, so in terms of painting, I've really loved Yellow Brick Road."

"Which is interesting—I'm the opposite. I have

a hard time letting them go," Baryla noted. "For me, my favourite was Kiss. It was a revelation for me—I loved the techniques and processes for painting it."

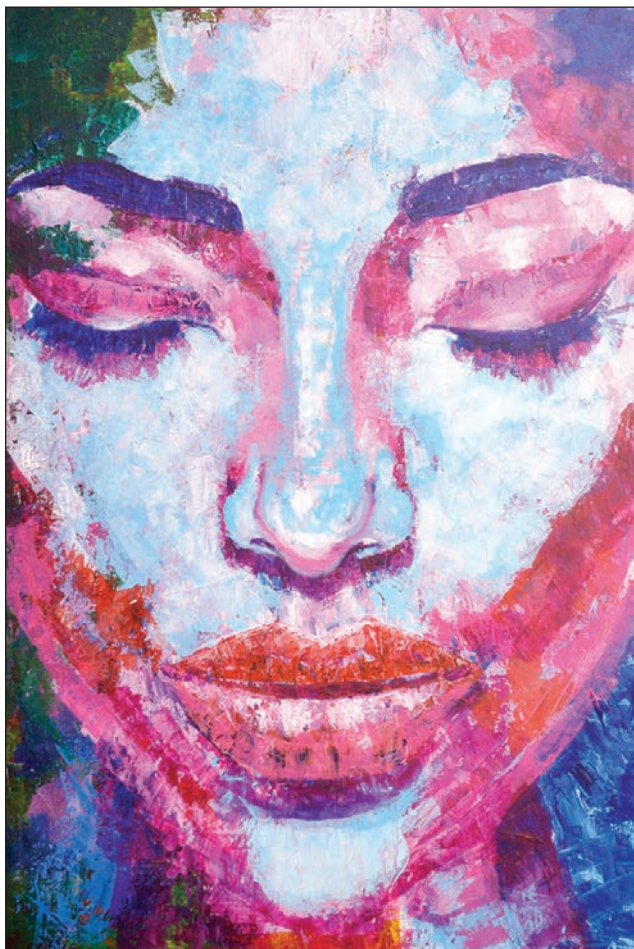
The pair also noted that sometimes artwork that

is a work in progress may take hours, months or even longer to fully finish.

"Sometimes a painting can take years to complete," said Baryla. "You can get stuck and sometimes you just need to take it down,

stick it in a corner and look at it for a while. Then later on it will suddenly just come to you."

Desjardins agreed, adding, "Sometimes you do the most painting without a brush in your hand."



Pictured above: 'Kiss', painted by Gwen Baryla. The painting was titled after a song of the same name by Prince.

The works on this page are just two of the many on display at ArtsForward.

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# 4-H FAT STOCK SHOW & SALE

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The members, leaders and families of the Erickson, Neepawa and Rapid City 4-H Beef Clubs wish to extend sincere appreciation to all of the buyers and bidders for their outstanding support of our 2025 4-H Beef Inter-Club Sale, held in Neepawa on Wednesday, July 2.

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**Photographer:** Laura Horner, Prairie Pistol Designs; **Show Clerks:** Halle Finlay & April Willis; **Caterer:** Cut-Rite Meats (Heather Lavich), Carberry;  
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The winner of our Progressive 50/50 Draw was Sean Smith (Clanman Jersey) Erickson.



## Erickson, Neepawa & Rapid City Clubs 4-H Fat Stock Show Results

Forty 4-H members from the Erickson, Neepawa & Rapid City 4-H clubs enthusiastically joined in person for their interclub show and sale on July 2, 2025.

### Senior Grooming

1. Kendra Hinsburg (R); 2. Sveinna Bjarnarson (N); 3. Keegan Dyke (N); 4. Quinn Sawchuk (N); 5. Easton Paterson (E); 6. Signe Erven (E); 7. Zane Finlay (R)

**Senior Grooming Champion (Sponsored by Neepawa Vet Clinic & Beautiful Plains Ag Society):** Kendra Hinsburg

### Intermediate Grooming

1. Kate Hinsburg (R); 2. Averi Jury (N); 3. Summer Sawchuk (N); 4. Kaleb Brown (R); 5. Morgan Dyke (N); 6. Rebecca Baraniuk (E); 7. Ava Raddysh (N)

**Intermediate Grooming Champion (Sponsored by Porrock Repair Service):** Kate Hinsburg (R)

### Junior Grooming Split 1:

1. Breelee Bootsman (R); 2. Kooper Jury (N); 3. Thomas Baraniuk (E); 4. Mary Jane Wilson (N)

### Junior Grooming Split 2:

1. Chet Woychysyn (E); 2. Rachelle Madill (N); 3. Blaer Boulton (R); 4. Sadie Sawchuk (N); 5. Raelynn Gemby (E)

**Junior Grooming Champion (Sponsored by Lois Thompson-Hudon Memorial FCC Neepawa):** Breelee Bootsman (R)

**Cloverbud Grooming Split 1:** 1. Leo Kostenchuk (E); 2. Willo Wilson (N); 3. Colter Kostenchuk (E); 4. Oaklyn Jury (N)

**Cloverbud Grooming Split 2:** 1. Ensley Bootsman (R); 2. Benson Bootsman (R); 3. Kashon van Meijl (R); 4. Brant Woychysyn (E); 5. Aspen Emerson (N); 6. Lakelyn Brown (R); 7. Benny Wilson (N);

**Cloverbud Grooming Split 3:** 1. Elijah Ginter (E); 2. Swayzie Bootsman (R); 3. Owen Marchant (N); 4. Braxton Usuiner (R); 5. Hannah Tibbett (N); 6. Ryler van Meijl (R)

**Cloverbud Grooming Champion (Sponsored by Erickson 4-H Beef Club):** Ensley Bootsman (R)

**Senior Showmanship (Sponsored by Rapid City 4-H Beef Club):** 1. Sveinna Bjarnarson (N); 2. Kendra Hinsburg (R); 3. Quinn Sawchuk (N); 4. Keegan Dyke (N); 5. Easton Paterson (E); 6. Signe Erven (E); 7. Zane Finlay (R)

**Intermediate Showmanship (Sponsored by Petro-Canada Farm Center, operated by Mar-Dee Enterprises, Neepawa):** 1. Kate Hinsburg (R); 2. Averi Jury (N); 3. Summer Sawchuk (N); 4. Ava Raddysh (N); 5. Morgan Dyke (N); 6. Rebecca Baraniuk (E); 7. Kaleb Brown (R)

### Junior Showmanship Split 1:

1. Breelee Bootsman (R); 2. Kooper Jury (N); 3. Thomas Baraniuk (E); 4. Mary Jane Wilson (N)

### Junior Showmanship Split 2:

1. Sadie Sawchuk (N); 2. Rachelle Madill (N); 3. Chet Woychysyn (E); 4. Blaer Boulton (R); 5. Raelynn Gemby (E)

**Junior Showmanship Champion (Archie McNair Memorial Trophy – Beautiful Plains Ag Society):** Sadie Sawchuk (N)

**Cloverbud Showmanship Split 1:** 1. Oaklyn Jury (N); 2. Willo Wilson (N); 3. Colter Kostenchuk (E); 4. Leo Kostenchuk (E)

**Cloverbud Showmanship Split 2:** 1. Benson Bootsman (R); 2. Ensley Bootsman (R); 3. Aspen Emerson (N); 4. Kashon van Meijl (R); 5. Brant Woychysyn (E); 6. Benny Wilson (N); 7. Lakelyn Brown (R)

**Cloverbud Showmanship Split 3:** 1. Swayzie Bootsman (R); 2. Owen Marchant (N); 3. Elijah Ginter (E); 4. Ryler van Meijl (R); 5. Hannah Tibbett (N); 6. Braxton Usuiner (R)

**Cloverbud Showmanship: (Penno's Machining & Manufacturing Ltd):** Benson Bootsman (R)

**Overall Champion Showperson:** Kate Hinsburg (R)

**Group of Three Competition (Sponsored by Neepawa 4-H Fat Stock Association)**

**Steers:** 1. Neepawa; 2. Rapid City; 3. Erickson  
**Heifers:** 1. Rapid City; 2. Neepawa; 3. Erickson  
**Team Grooming Competition (Sponsored by Greenbush Angus & Hardrock Land & Cattle Co. Ltd.) Judged by Carson Baker, Cora Baker & Madisyn Robertson:** 1. Averi Jury (N), Chet Woychysyn (E), Benson Bootsman (R), Hannah Tibbett (N); 2. Kendra Hinsburg (R), Rachelle Madill (N), Mary Jane Wilson (N), Aspen Emerson (N); 3. Sveinna Bjarnarson (N), Raelynn Gemby (E),

Kashon van Meijl (R), Kooper Jury (N); 4. Easton Paterson (E), Owen Marchant (N), Willo Wilson (N), Braxton Usuiner (R); 5. Keegan Dyke (N), Thomas Baraniuk (E), Benny Wilson (N), Swayzie Bootsman (R); 6. Kate Hinsburg (R), Elijah Ginter (E), Ryler van Meijl (R), Rebecca Baraniuk (E); 7. Quinn Sawchuk (N), Blaer Boulton (R), Lakelyn Brown (R), Ensley Bootsman (R); 8. Morgan Dyke (N), Leo Kostenchuk (E), Colter Kostenchuk (E), Kaleb Brown (R); 9. Signe Erven (E), Breelee Bootsman (R), Oaklyn Jury (N), Summer Sawchuk (N); 10. Zane Finlay (R), Ava Raddysh (N), Brant Woychysyn (R), Sadie Sawchuk (N)

**Beginning Beef Project (Sponsored by D & G Enterprises, Franklin, Joey & Kendra Bootsman & Family and Stride Credit Union)**

**Champion:** Brant Woychysyn (E)

**Reserve Champion:** Leo Kostenchuk (E)

3. Willo Wilson (N); 4. Colter Kostenchuk (E); 5. Oaklyn Jury (N)

**Angus Yearling Heifers (Sponsored by Brookside Angus – Derrick Pilatic, Brookdale & Stride Credit Union) Split 1:** 1. Elijah Ginter (E); 2. Keegan Dyke (N); 3. Breelee Bootsman (R); 4. Ensley Bootsman (R); 5. Hannah Tibbett (N); 6. Ava Raddysh (N)

**Split 2:** 1. Kate Hinsburg (R); 2. Benson Bootsman (R); 3. Swayzie Bootsman (R); 4. Brant Woychysyn (E); 5. Morgan Dyke (N); 6. Blaer Boulton (R); 7. Rachelle Madill (N)

**Champion:** Elijah Ginter (E)

**Reserve Champion:** Kate Hinsburg (R)

**Simmental Yearling Heifers (Sponsored by Neepawa Veterinary Clinic Ltd. & Stride Credit Union)**

**Split 1:** 1. Colter Kostenchuk (E); 2. Kaleb Bootsman (R); 3. Ryler van Meijl (R); 4. Rebecca Baraniuk (E); 5. Raelynn Gemby (E); 6. Benny Wilson (N)

**Split 2:** 1. Summer Sawchuk (N); 2. Quinn Sawchuk (N); 3. Owen Marchant (N); 4. Zane Finlay (R); 5. Sadie Sawchuk (N); 6. Lakelyn Brown (R); 7. Kashon van Meijl (R)

**Champion:** Summer Sawchuk (N)

**Reserve Champion:** Quinn Sawchuk (N)

**All Other Breeds Yearling Heifers (Sponsored by Midnight Metalworks, Minnedosa & Stride Credit Union)**

**Champion:** Averi Jury (N)

**Reserve Champion:** Kendra Hinsburg (R)

3. Mary Jane Wilson (N); 4. Aspen Emerson (N)

**4-H Progeny Female Class (Sponsored by McManus Simmentals & Stride Credit Union)**

**Champion:** Sveinna Bjarnarson (N)

**Reserve Champion:** Kate Hinsburg (R)

3. Summer Sawchuk (N); 4. Chet Woychysyn (E)

**Best Homegrown Yearling Heifer (Sponsored by Chicken Chef, Neepawa & KCH Cattle Co.):** Elijah Ginter (E)

**Grand Champion Yearling Heifer (Sponsored by Clare Larson Memorial, donated by Erickson 4-H Club; Neepawa Banner & Press; Stride Credit Union Neepawa):** Elijah Ginter (E)

**Reserve Grand Champion Yearling Heifer**

**(Gladstone Veterinary Clinic & Stride Credit Union – Neepawa):** Kate Hinsburg (R)

**Two-Year Old Females with own calf at foot**

**(Hedley Livestock & Stride Credit Union, Minnagro) Champion:** Kendra Hinsburg (R)

**Reserve Champion:** Kate Hinsburg (R)

3. Chet Woychysyn (E); 4. Quinn Sawchuk (N); 5. Averi Jury (N)

**Supreme Champion Female Class: Champion**

**(JAS Red Angus – Neepawa & Stride Credit Union):** Kendra Hinsburg (R)

**Reserve Champion (JMB Charolais – Brookdale & Stride Credit Union):** Kate Hinsburg (R)

**Keystone Simmental Association Award**

**(presented to the highest gaining Simmental influence steer):** Ryler van Meijl at 3.53 lbs per day

**Market Steer Classes (Stride Credit Union)**

**Split 1 (1117 – 1219 lbs)** 1. Summer Sawchuk (N); 2. Sveinna Bjarnarson (N); 3. Keegan Dyke (N); 4. Colter Kostenchuk (E); 5. Braxton Usuiner (R)

**Split 2 (1223 – 1279 lbs)** 1. Chet Woychysyn (E); 2. Easton Paterson (E); 3. Breelee Bootsman (R); 4. Signe Erven (E); 5. Morgan Dyke (N); 6. Aspen Emerson (N)

**Split 3 (1304 – 1389 lbs)** 1. Quinn Sawchuk (N); 2. Kooper Jury (N); 3. Sadie Sawchuk (N); 4. Kendra Hinsburg (R); 5. Thomas Baraniuk (E); 6. Rebecca Baraniuk (E); 7. Zane Finlay (R)

**Split 4 (1425 – 1579 lbs)** 1. Kate Hinsburg (R); 2. Averi Jury (N); 3. Ryler van Meijl (R); 4. Owen Marchant (N); 5. Rachelle Madill (N); 6. Benson Bootsman (R)

**Progeny Steer Class (steers born to a former 4-H heifer project – 1034 lbs to 1364 lbs):** 1. Sveinna Bjarnarson (N); 2. Zane Finlay (R); 3. Easton Paterson (E)

**Best Homegrown Steer Class (Hardrock Land & Cattle Co. Ltd):** Kate Hinsburg (R)

**Grand Champion Market Steer (Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op Ltd., Neepawa Banner & Press, & Stride Credit Union – Neepawa):** Kate Hinsburg (R)

**Reserve Grand Champion Market Steer (Heartland Livestock Services Brandon & Stride Credit Union – Neepawa):** Quinn Sawchuk (N)

**Stall Competition:** 1. Rapid City; 2. Erickson; 3. Neepawa



Supreme Champion Female & Champion Two-Year Old Female  
Kendra Hinsburg, Rapid City



Reserve Champion Female & Reserve Champion Two-Year Old  
Kate Hinsburg, Rapid City



Team Grooming Champions  
Averi Jury, Chet Woychysyn, Benson Bootsman & Hannah Tibbett



Grand Champion Yearling Heifer & Best Homegrown Heifer  
Elijah Ginter, Erickson



# The Lily Nook continues to flourish in Neepawa

## Local business celebrating 30 years and a new location

By Joshua Jackson  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

When you think of the Neepawa, one of the first things that likely comes to mind is lilies, and that's mostly in part due to the Lily Nook.

Owned by Nigel, Mimi, and Joyce Strohman, the Nook began to blossom after Nigel and his father, Barrie, decided to change hobbies and explore their love of the genus liliaceae, turning the hobby into a thriving mail-order business.

With 30 years in the game, the Lily Nook continues to bloom and grow. Their operation has laid some new roots in 2025 after relocating to their growing field five miles (eight kilometres) south of Neepawa on Hwy #5.

The Neepawa Banner & Press sat down with Nigel Strohman to talk about the Lily Nook's legacy.

**Congratulations on the new location! What are the key benefits or opportunities that this move to your growing fields presents for The Lily Nook?**

There is only one location to manage now, which makes it so much easier. There is no more back and forth. We are on the same road, only 2 1/2 miles further than our old location.

**What does reaching this 30-year milestone mean to the Lily Nook?**

We are very grateful to make it to 30 years. Some years, we've had good growing conditions, and some years, we've had struggles, such as losing my mentor, my dad, the COVID-19 pandemic, and equipment malfunctions. Thanks to the support from our loyal customers, we are still here.

**How has the vision for the Lily Nook evolved from its beginning to the thriving mail-order business it is today?**

We always strive to provide healthy bulbs true to the name, which has helped grow our brand. It has been more hands-on with customer phone calls and requests. Tourism has helped grow our business during the off-season. When



People wanting to find The Lily Nook at its new location along Highway #5 South can still recognize the turn-off by its memorable sign (left). The business has moved to the location of its grow fields, where the owners grow and care for a wide variety of lilies, such as the one shown above.



PHOTO BY JOSHUA JACKSON

people come to view the lilies, we also promote our website and social media, which has helped broaden our audience.

**What has been The Lily Nook's overall contribution to the lily industry and the wider gardening community over the past three decades?**

I've been involved with the Manitoba Lily Society and the North American Lily Society. We have spread new varieties of lilies throughout North America and our region. We have been fortunate to be an exclusive distributor of Dr. Wilbert Ronald Cultivars, which are leading-edge today. We were also one of the first lily companies to list interdivisional hybrid lilies.

**What are some of the most memorable moments or challenges The Lily Nook has faced and overcome in its 30-year**

**history?**

Seeing our father receive the Slate MacDaniel award (given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the North American Lily Society). When Neepawa embraced Eleanor Nicholson's vision for the Lily Festival, the parades were a highlight for our family. We would decorate a float and hand out lilies to East View Lodge residents to put a smile on their faces. Also trying to back seven tour buses into parking spots at the Lily Nook with cars lining the driveway and the highway!

**How has lily breeding evolved over the past 30 years, and how has The Lily Nook stayed at the forefront of these advancements?**

We are always looking for new products. We've been flying to Holland over the years to source more varieties.



PHOTO BY JOSHUA JACKSON

Nigel (left) Mimi (right) and Joyce (not pictured) Strohman's creation of the Lily Nook continues to bloom and thrive in their new location five miles (eight kilometres) south of Neepawa on Hwy 5.

**sion for The Lily Nook?**

We are hoping to find a buyer who will keep The Lily Nook in the area, as we have many customers who travel to purchase here in person. Many of our customers come to visit us from the Saskatchewan and Winnipeg areas. We are open to leasing the land here. It's a great seasonal business.

**What kind of future are you hoping for Lily Nook's legacy?**

We hope someone will continue this legacy that my father started. There is plenty of potential to grow and expand the business further.

**What message do you have for your customers and the community as the Lily Nook marks its 30th anniversary?**

Thank you for all of your support and friendships over the years. It has made the endeavour of the Lily Nook worthwhile.

**With over 1,500 named varieties grown, how do you manage such a diverse collection, and what goes into selecting new varieties for your annual catalogue?**

We have a catalogue and have assigned a numbering system to each lily. When selecting new lilies, we look

for new stock and unique varieties, different colours, and high bud counts.

**The announcement of the opening of your new location mentioned the possibility of selling your well-established business. Can you speak about the long-term vi-**

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Field Day 2025

August 6, 2025

9:30 AM

Registration and Coffee at MCDC Onsite  
Sponsored by Simplot Canada (II) Limited.

Simplot

10:00 AM

Crop Diversification & Potato Rotational Options

Noon

Free Lunch  
Sponsored by McCain Foods Canada

McCain

1:15 PM

BMPs in Potato Applied Research

Manitoba Crop Diversification Centre (MCDC)

Manitoba Horticulture Productivity Enhancement Centre (MHPEC)

KEYSTONE POTATO PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

FREE EVENT

North-East Corner of Highway No. 1 & 5, Carberry, MB



# Daxx Turner appreciates his chance to compete

## Former NACI track athlete looking forward to World University Games

By Eoin Devereux  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Daxx Turner has always been in search of that next challenge, when it comes to his athletics career. From his standout performances right here at home in Neepawa, to his record setting efforts at national events, Daxx has been taking his abilities to that next level. Turner now has his chance to test his talents on the international stage, as he will be competing at the FISU Summer World University Games in Germany.

But before jetting off to Europe for this opportunity, Daxx returned home to visit with family and friends, as well as give back to the community that helped mold his character. On Thursday, July 10, Turner spent the day interacting with the youngsters at the Neepawa & Area Summer

Day Camp. After that there was a meet and greet for the community to wish him well. The Banner & Press was able to get a few moments with Daxx, to discuss what participating in the World University Games meant for him, personally.

"I'm very excited to be able to represent the country. This is a dream I have been working towards for a long time and though it's taken a while to get here, maybe a bit longer than I had hoped, to be able to compete at an event the size of [the World University Games], it's something I'm proud of," stated Turner. "I'm grateful to be where I am right now and I'm very lucky."



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Daxx Turner will soon be headed to Germany to compete in the World University Games.

Turner's specialty is the triple-jump, an event he has excelled at through the years. Not only is he the University of Manitoba's record holder in the triple jump, but also a four time Canada West Champion.

Turner holds the U18, U20 and senior outdoor triple jump records in Manitoba, and he also holds the U18 and U20 indoor records.

Other accolades include a gold medal at the 2024 U SPORTS Nationals, and

a silver at this past year's championship. Turner also had an amazing performance at last summer's Olympic Trials, earning silver in the triple jump with a leap of 16.14m, which set a new provincial record.

But now, Turner will face the best in the world in Germany. A few years ago, Daxx would have looked at this competition in a different way, perhaps placing more pressure on himself than

was necessary. But Turner explained to the Banner & Press that some challenges in his training the past year, along with other challenges away from the track, have made him finally reevaluate his mindset.

"My indoor season didn't go as planned, and I was dealing with some stuff external to the track that got in the way of training. Previous years, I would have put a lot of pressure on myself, but I've been able to switch the perspective," noted Turner.

Through the strength and support from his parents and coaches, Daxx changed his ideology, and is putting less pressure on himself for 'perfection'. That shift has aided in his return to form and to looking at this latest opportunity with a renewed appreciation.

"My track career, in a lot of ways, hasn't gone exactly to plan, but I think I'm okay with that. Maybe it took me a while to be okay with that, but I'm grateful for where I am right now."

# Neepawa Cubs sweep Austin A's; Mavs/Royals tied

By Joshua Jackson  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

It's playoff time in the Santa Clara Baseball League as four teams vie to face either the Plumas Pirates or Portage Padres in the semi-finals.

The regular season, which came down to the wire, saw the Neepawa Cubs capture third place in the league after putting on a dominant showing, thumping the Carberry Royals 12-0.

The Portage Padres would clinch their fourth consecutive first-place SCBL title with an 11-3-1 record, while the Plumas Pirates took second place with a 10-4-1 record.

Neepawa's first playoff game in the best-of-three series against the Austin A's was originally scheduled for Friday, July 11, but due to rain, it was played on Monday.

In the first playoff game, the Austin A's would start strong by putting up a run, but Neepawa would strike back in the bottom of the second, capitalizing on an



PHOTO BY JOSHUA JACKSON

Neepawa Cubs #9, Brad Murray lays out to tag an Austin A's player during game one of the Santa Clara Baseball League Semi Finals. The Cubs would end up winning game one 12-8, and would sweep the best of three series. The Cubs will start the semi-finals against the Plumas Pirates on July 25.

Austin error to take the lead 4-1.

At the bottom of the third, the Cubs would continue to command the plate, adding three more to grab a 7-1 lead.

The A's mounted a comeback, starting at the top

of the sixth. Austin would load the bases with zero outs, and would score two off of a deep hit to left, then would add another two runs, making it an 8-5 game for the Cubs.

Neepawa would fire back to secure their lead

after the Cubs scored three runs off two doubles, making it 12-5. The A's would do their best to mount a seventh inning comeback, scoring three runs, but it wouldn't be enough as the Cubs took game one of the series, outlasting the Austin

A's 12-8.

Game two between the Cubs and A's was hosted on Tuesday, July 15, in Neepawa. The Cubs pummeled the Austin squad 6-1, and have punched their ticket to the semi-finals against the Plumas Pirates.

**Mavericks  
and Royals**

**go to extra innings**

In the Carberry Minnedosa series, the Minnedosa Mavericks would take game one of the best-of-three quarter finals 9-4 over Carberry. In game two, the Carberry Royals would even the playing field after a 10-6 victory in extra innings. Tory Scott was the extra-inning hero for the Royals, hitting a grand slam with runners starting on first and second in extra innings. The series is tied one game apiece, with game three taking place on Wednesday, July 23.

The semi-final round for the Santa Clara Baseball League starts Friday, July 25.

The focus for the Neepawa Cubs and Carberry Royals now shifts to the Manitoba Senior A Baseball Provincials taking place in Carberry from July 18-20, where the Royals and Cubs will vie for the provincial title.



# '[We] knew this was something that Ole really would have loved'

**Continued from Page 1**

The updates undertaken over the past five years have included the addition of:

- 9km of new singletrack added to the existing 7km of ski/hiking trails, with trail entrance portals, trail maps and comprehensive trail way finding signage;
- New trail optimized for biking, hiking, trail running, etc;
- New trail highlights (Ex: Richardson Family Trails);
- A pavilion, formally known as the Sunrise Credit Union Pavillion;
- Bike racks;
- Saputo Nature Playground;
- Ole Heie Skillz Park; and much more.

To accomplish all of the new developments and additions to the Squirrel Hills Trail Park, over 4,000 hours of volunteer effort was poured forth. Approximately 1,000 of those hours was for board meetings alone.

**True labor of love**

"As one of the founding members of [Valley Life Recreation], I just want to say that throughout this entire trail expansion process, I have been humbled time and time again with the level of commitment and enthusiasm, ideas and leadership [my fellow Valley Life Recreation board



PHOTOS BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

Rob and Leigh Heie, parents of the late Ole Heie, were welcomed to participate in and be recognized at the grand opening ceremonies of the Squirrel Hills Trail Park on July 12. Valley Life Recreation board members shared a round of heartfelt hugs with the pair (seen above) before presenting them with a plaque. The plaque was in recognition of their support and efforts, as well as Ole's. Pictured right: A pair of bikers using a portion of the Ole Heie Skillz Park.



members] have brought to make this project come to life," said Timothy Frikoda. "It's been a true labour of love."

During the opening ceremonies, a Metis flag was presented by Les Metis Local to the Valley Life Recreation Board. This flag is also intended to be flown at the new trailhead in the near future, complimenting some of the trailheads existing features which provide recognition to the Metis peoples and hearken back to Minnedosa's roots.

"For the Metis people, we believe so strongly in

our youth... That's why, right now, this grand opening for our youth— every youth— it's so important. With our youth, you're our future," said Barbara Fleury, a member of Les Metis Local. "Keep physical— it gives you good mental health. And that is so important."

Additional speeches were given by government dignitaries, members of Valley Life Recreation and supporting groups, and presentations made to acknowledge key supporters. A portion of these proceedings included the presentation of a certificate from

Member of Parliament Dan Mazer in recognition of Valley Life Rec's many hours of hard work.

**A living tribute**

A particularly special and emotional moment came, however, with the recognition of the late Ole Heie. Ole was a huge supporter of the Squirrel Hills Trail Park and held a major love for running, biking and the outdoors. He was well known not just for his talent and drive, but for how he supported and connected with others.

Ole had known there were plans to further develop Squirrel Hills, and held immense enthusiasm for what it would mean for the community. Sadly, he passed in July of 2021 just two days before the plans were announced.

To honour Ole, to recognize his family's support and to formally open the Ole Heie Skillz Park, his

parents Leigh and Rob were presented with a plaque following a round of hugs from the Valley Life Recreation Board.

"I really don't know what to say. No family wants to have to do something in memory of their child. Let's be honest— nobody should ever have to. But we are extremely grateful that we get to, especially in this way... Rob and I knew that this was something that Ole really would have loved to get behind," said Leigh. "...This whole project, this is more than just a bike park. It's more than just a trail park. And this over here (gestures to the Skillz Park) I've been watching it the whole time we've been sitting here and there has not been a single second that someone has not been on that. And Ole would just be beside himself, excited. This is a living, breathing tribute to Ole in a place that's very special to him."

Leigh added later, "We are so incredibly grateful to this crew at Valley Life Rec, the community of Minnedosa, Government of Manitoba, all of the volunteers and funders who have helped turn grief and sorrow into something truly beautiful. A space where joy, community, and the true spirit of Ole can live on."

Thanks is given from Valley Life Recreation to all who helped make the big Squirrel Hills Trail Park dream possible.

*Note: An additional bit of information of interest to readers of the Neepawa Banner & Press is that the Squirrel Hills Trail Park sprawls across three different land ownerships. Part of the land is owned by the Town of Minnedosa, another part is Crown Land, and the third portion is privately owned land that was contributed by the owner for the expansion project. (This was also acknowledged during the grand opening.)*



Above: The Saputo Nature Playground was popular with youth- and some adults- both for rest and for play!



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### Personal

Crisis Pregnancy Centre Winnipeg: Need to talk? Call our free helpline, 1-800-665-0570 or contact our Westman office: 204-727-616

### Notice

Alanon meetings currently being held at 342 Mountain Ave, Neepawa - Old Co-op Store. Tuesdays at 7 pm. Call 204-841-2192

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

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

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

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

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

### For Sale or Rent

Storage vans (semi trailers) for rent or sale. Anderson's 204-385-2685, 204-385-2997 Gladstone

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Apartment for rent. Bri-Mont apartments, 331 Mountain Avenue. Phone 204-841-4419

Quiet 55+ 1200 sq ft apartment located at 236 Mountain Ave Neepawa. Includes fridge, stove, parking and snow removal. No smoking. No pets. One apartment available Aug 1, one available Sept 1. 204-967-2157 or cell 204-476-4682

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Meyers Auctions & Appraisals. Call Brad at 368-2333. www.meyersauctions.com

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### Obituary

#### Jean Evelyn Erickson (née Reid)

October 12, 1931 – June 17, 2025



Jean Evelyn Erickson passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at the age of 93, at the Neepawa & District Hospital.

Jean was predeceased by her beloved husband, Melvin. She is lovingly remembered by her daughter, Linda Stinchcombe (partner Mike Kufflick); her grandchildren, Doug Stinchcombe and Kristin (Nate) Andrews; and her great-grandchildren, Parker and Taylor Andrews. Jean was also predeceased by her son-in-law Mike Stinchcombe.

Born on October 12, 1931, in Minot, Manitoba, Jean was the daughter of John and May Reid. She was one of four siblings and was predeceased by her brothers Gordon (Judy) Reid and Jim Reid. She is survived by her brother Dave (Marylou) Reid and Jim's wife June.

Jean and Melvin met in 1948 and made their home in Onanole, Manitoba. Jean was a devoted member of the United Church. She volunteered with the WI, Red Cross, and with the church teaching Sunday school. She found great joy in singing with the Onanole United Church Choir. After moving to Neepawa, she continued her love of music by joining the Neepawa United Church Choir and volunteered in the community where she formed many cherished friendships.

A Celebration of Life Tea in Jean's honor was held on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at Arts Forward, Neepawa. A private graveside service for immediate family took place in Erickson.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the caregivers at Kinsmen Kourts II, home care staff, medical professionals, and dear friends who surrounded Jean with love and compassion.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Jean's memory may be made to Neepawa and Area Palliative Care.

Jean lived life with such grace, kindness, and love. She touched the lives of many and will be deeply missed.

Condolences may be shared with the family at www.raefsa.ca. Rae's Funeral Service of Shoal Lake were in care of arrangements.

### In Memory

In Memory

#### BILLY FERGUSON

November 1954 - July 2024

It's been a year since we last talked. Not an easy year, one filled with whys and how comes. I hope your foot is better and everything is good. Myself and all your friends we miss your advice, all the jobs you did and the many rides you gave, but most of all your presence at coffee. Your jobs here were no where near done, but we will carry on for you the best we can.

Forever Remembered  
Doug

### For Sale

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### Notice

#### Municipality of Glenella - Lansdowne PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 194 of the Municipal Act, that the Auditor's Financial Report for the year 2024, together with the related financial Statements have been deposited in the office of the Municipality of Glenella - Lansdowne, and is available for inspection by any person during regular business hours, who at his own expense, may take a copy thereof or extracts therefrom.

Dated at Glenella, Manitoba this 11th day of July, 2025

Wendy Wutzke, BSc., CMMA  
Chief Administrative Office  
Municipality of Glenella-Lansdowne  
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### Help Wanted



**HyLIFE**  
FOODS

#### Hog Receiving Barn Worker (NOC85100)

##### 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 5 positions.

**The current starting wage is \$19.25/hour with incremental increases to \$20.55/hour based on tenure**

##### 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
- Comprehensive Benefits package – health coverage, dental plan, vision care, long-term disability, and pension plan
- Permanent full-time employment (74-80 hours per bi-weekly)
- PM Shift Premium
- Full training, with genuine opportunities for career progression
- Employee Referral program - \$500!
- Free parking
- Company events
- And more!!!!

##### Your duties may 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.

##### Ways to apply:

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

**For inquiries contact:** Phone: 204.476.3393

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

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

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



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@HyLife



**HyLIFE**  
FOODS

#### 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 \$16.45/hour with incremental increases to \$24.60/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
- Comprehensive Benefits package – health coverage, dental plan, vision care, long-term disability, and pension plan
- Permanent full-time employment (74-80 hours per bi-weekly)
- PM Shift Premium
- Full training, with genuine opportunities for career progression
- Employee Referral program - \$500!
- Free parking
- Company events
- And more!!!!

##### Your duties may include:

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

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

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

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

##### Ways to apply:

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

**For inquiries contact:** Phone: 204.476.3393

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



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



Help Wanted



HyLife

FOODS

Industrial Plant Cleaner (NOC 65312)

**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 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:**

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

**Your duties may include:**

- Cleaning and sanitizing butcher and slaughter production areas and everything in between to ensure top-quality food safety standards.
- Operating cleaning equipment like high-pressure hoses to clean production equipment.
- Using cleaning chemicals with respect and following Material Safety Data Sheets.
- Ensuring all Quality Assurance checks are performed.
- Maintaining a safe, clean, and organized work area throughout the facility.
- Collaborating as a team to meet tight deadlines, ensuring production floors operate on time

**We are looking for people who are:**

- Fit and capable of working in a physically demanding role. Capable of bending, lifting, and climbing.
- Available to work an 8-hour Night Shift from Monday-Friday, between 11:15 PM to 9:00 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.

**Ways to apply:**

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

**For inquiries contact:** Phone: 204.476.3393

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**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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Office Administrator

Competition: #2025-26-19

Location: Neepawa, MB

Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) has an exciting opportunity for you to be a part of a team that values building relationships, enables change, and supports the agriculture industry in Manitoba. Come join our team as we offer an engaging work environment, competitive pay, a comprehensive benefits package (including pension plan), and we encourage a healthy work-life balance.

Under the direction of the Client Service Manager, the Office Administrator is responsible for clerical and administrative functions in support of MASC and Manitoba Agriculture programs in a service centre. This position also provides client intake in support of the Client Service Representative.

**MASC values excellence, integrity, and accountability.** We strive to enhance existing products and develop new products, transform service delivery to enrich the client experience, pursue customer driven organizational change, and maximize performance, engagement, and development of all employees.

**MASC has five core competencies: communication, decision making, initiative & innovation, leadership, and organization.** Competencies relate to every position at MASC and along with the technical requirements, are included in the qualifications for all positions at MASC.

**ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:**

- A certificate in a related discipline or a combination of education and related office experience may be considered.
- Experience performing clerical/administrative support duties including reception related duties, processing cheques, preparing bank deposits, tracking and distribution of documents, and file maintenance.
- Experience in data entry and processing correspondence.
- Experience interpreting and explaining programs, policies, procedures, and regulations.
- Ability to provide customer service.
- Ability to maintain accuracy and pay attention to detail.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality.
- Experience using Microsoft Office 365 (SharePoint, OneDrive, Excel, Word, Outlook) in a cloud-based environment.
- General knowledge of the agriculture industry.

**DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Experience in agriculture is an asset.
- Ability to communicate verbally in both official languages (French and English), is an asset.

**CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:**

- Must be legally entitled to work in Canada.
- Must possess a valid driver's licence, access to a vehicle, and the ability to travel within the Province of Manitoba.

**SALARY:**

\$47,264 – \$55,567 per annum

**CLOSING DATE:**

July 25, 2025

**COMPETITION:**

#2025-26-19

**HOW TO APPLY:**

To be considered for this competition you must submit your application (Cover Letter, Resume, and any other required documents) directly online.

**If you are interested in this position, visit our website [www.masc.mb.ca](http://www.masc.mb.ca) and apply online.**

**For competition or accommodation inquires only:**

**EMAIL:** [hr@masc.mb.ca](mailto:hr@masc.mb.ca)

**NOTE:** We will not accept applications of any kind sent directly to this email. Only applications submitted online directly to the competition (as noted above) will be considered.

*We believe diversity strengthens our ability to provide excellent customer service in a positive work environment. We encourage all to apply. Only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.*



[www.masc.mb.ca](http://www.masc.mb.ca)



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# MCNA

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#### Position: Resource Teacher

Assignment: 1.0 FTE, Permanent  
School: Gladstone Elementary School  
Start Date: September 2, 2025

#### Position: Music Teacher

Assignment: 0.50 FTE, Permanent  
Location: PCSD Colony Schools  
Start Date: September 2, 2025

#### Position: Itinerant Teacher - North

Assignment: 1.0 FTE, Term  
Location: Gladstone, Langruth and Plumus Schools  
Start Date: September 2, 2025  
End Date: June 30, 2026

#### Position: Itinerant Teacher - South

Assignment: 1.0 FTE, Term  
Location: Austin, MacGregor and Colony Schools  
Start Date: September 2, 2025  
End Date: June 30, 2026

Interested candidates are to submit a cover letter and resume, along with three (3) references by email to:

Human Resources  
Pine Creek School Division  
Box 420 Gladstone, MB R0J 0T0  
Email: hr@pcsdonline.ca



### R.M. of Minto-Odanah Seasonal Equipment Operator/Laborer

The Rural Municipality of Minto-Odanah is accepting applications for a Seasonal Equipment Operator/Laborer. This position is full time seasonal. Duties to include operation of various municipal equipment and other general duties as assigned.

A Class 3 driver's license would be an asset.

Resume will be received until the position is filled.

Only those individuals selected for an interview will be contacted.

Submit applications to:

R.M. of Minto-Odanah – Seasonal Equipment Operator/Laborer  
49 Main St., Box 1197, Minnedosa, MB R0J 1E0  
Fax: (204) 867-1937  
Email: admin@mintoadanah.ca



### Truck Driver Wanted

Location: T.I.C. Parts & Service – Neepawa, MB  
Position: Full-Time Truck Driver  
Start Date: July 2025

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Minimum 5 years of driving experience preferred  
Ability to complete logbooks and safety checks

#### How to Apply:

Send your resume to Darrell.L@ticparts.com  
Call us at 204-476-0716  
Or stop by in person at  
T.I.C. Parts & Service 220 MB-5 North, Neepawa, MB

# Rapid City Porkfest a feast for the palate and the eyes

By Ken Waddell

NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Rapid City's 3rd Annual Porkfest on July 12 sponsored by the Rapid City Wildlife Association (RCWA) was blessed with fine weather, good attendance, a great pork supper, cardboard boat races and a really good car show. As the sun beat down on festival goers and the breezes wafted across the lake, cardboard boat builders vied to be the race winners.

To qualify, the boats must be made of only cardboard and tape. Most of the boats made it over the finish line as they floated back to shore but a few sank. Fortunately for the boaters whose crafts sank, the water at Rapid City beach was shallow on July 12 and it was warm too.

Rapid City Beach is home to many events throughout the summer including a Farmers' Market every second Thursday. At the market, local groups take turns putting on a fund-raising supper.

Jaimie Richter of the RCWA said, "We had an amazing turnout for our 3rd annual Porkfest! Once again, the cardboard boat races were a hit for both the contestants and spectators. Everyone had fun. We had almost 30 classic cars, a handful of motorcycles, and one person even brought their antique tractor down."



PHOTO BY KEN WADDELL

One of the many very fine automobiles at the Rapid City Porkfest car show was this 1953 Chevy truck. It is owned by John McNairey of Alexander and it used to be a fire truck at McCreary, Manitoba. McNairey pretty much re-built the truck and used a second truck as a donor of the extra cab so it is now a crew cab with a dump box on the back. In addition to being a car collector, McNairey is the president of the Commonwealth Air Training Plan (CATP) Museum in Brandon. He has lots of stories about the museum and is currently hoping to get a new hangar built to house the various airplanes and equipment at the CATP museum.

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# Dance Camp youth take centre stage in Neepawa



PHOTOS BY CASPER WEHRHAHN  
Youth who participated in the Sienna Summer Dance Camp at ArtsForward throughout the past week put on a final performance on Thursday, July 10. Due to weather conditions, the show was moved to the Roxy Theatre. A total of 50 youth took part in the program, and six dances were performed on stage.

## Neepawa students top youth cardboard boat race



Neepawa Middle School students, Tyson and Clayton were the winners of youth division of the Rapid City Wildlife Association cardboard boat race 2025. Their very square craft, not once but twice took to the water and handily won the finals.

PHOTO BY CHRISTINE WADDELL

## Brandon Food Rescue brings affordable groceries to Neepawa Salvation Army



PHOTO FROM NEEPAWA SALVATION ARMY

The Neepawa Salvation Army recently hosted the Brandon Food Rescue Grocery Store, an organization bringing a new approach to food security by providing rescued food at a low price, on Sunday, July 13. For \$10, patrons could take all of the potatoes they wanted, plus the Food Rescue Grocery Store had lots of other items available to buy.



NEEPAWA

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# Saturday fun at the Minnedosa Museum



PHOTOS BY CASPER WEHRHAHN  
The Minnedosa Museum and Heritage Village hosted its second annual Farmer's Festival on Saturday, July 12. Activities for the day included the perusal of the many historic buildings on site, viewing of farm equipment from various years, music, games and more.



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