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NEEPAWA **Banner & Press**

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Inside this week



Pages 10-11: Are you ready to celebrate Canada Day?

Early Deadline!

Deadline for July 3rd issue:
12 noon, Monday, June 29th

The Neepawa Banner & Press office will be closed July 1st

A fresh start for Neepawa's Water Tower

By Eoin Devereux
Neepawa Banner & Press

The Town of Neepawa has started a major piece of infrastructure maintenance, with the interior cleaning of the community's water tower. While the tower is periodically taken offline for servicing to help preserve water quality, this particular project is the largest single preservation upgrade ever done in its' 44-year history.

Manager of Operations Denis Saquet updated members of council on the project on Tuesday, June 16.

"The water tower was shut down [on Monday, June 15]. During that event, we had some low pressure indicators come up," explained Saquet. "Once we close the valve at the water tower and we're able to pressurize the system with the pumps at the plant, the pressure has improved."

Continued on Page 7

Marking 40 years of habitat conservation

Manitoba Habitat Conservancy celebrates in Minnedosa



PHOTO COURTESY OF MANITOBA HABITAT CONSERVANCY

Rick and Linda Nylen and their grandchildren pose in front of their new property sign, which was revealed at the 40th year celebration.

By Casper Wehrhahn
Neepawa Banner & Press

Manitoba Habitat Conservancy (MHC) came to Minnedosa to celebrate a major milestone last week.

On June 18, all were welcome to attend its 'Celebration of Conservation' event, which commemorated the organization's 40th year of conservancy in Manitoba. "If you ask any of our

staff, I think we'd all be quick to say that we largely feel grateful," said Evan Woelk Balzer, philanthropy and engagement officer for MHC. "The vast majority of MHC's work is done in

partnership with private landowners and partner organizations, so we really don't look back at 40 years of our own achievements, but rather 40 years of relationships and shared

conservation wins."

The event kicked off at the Minnedosa Beach Pavilion, including a catered lunch.

Continued on Page 2

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Conservation an effort that ‘spans many generations’

Continued from Page 1

Following the lunch, all were invited to the nearby Nylen conservation site (81061 Rd 101W, Minto-Odanah) for a sign unveiling and guided walk.

The activities at the Nylen site further emphasized what MHC wanted to convey— that the event, first and foremost, was a celebration of the people that chose to kickstart the Manitoba chapter alongside its earliest staff.

“The Nylen conservation site was one of the very first properties put under a conservation easement in Manitoba, and represents the beginning of a chapter where landowners can easily participate in the legal conservation of habitat on their land,” Balzer explained. “The Nylen family stand early in a long line of community members that have chosen to partner with MHC to make conservation happen across southern Manitoba.”

Balzer reported that all in attendance at the unveiling had a great time. In fact,



Pictured left: Young members of the Nylen family (grandchildren of Rick and Linda) discovering the wonders of holding a garter snake
Pictured right: MHC board member Trevor Atchison speaking at the Celebration of Conservation event at the Minnedosa Beach Pavillion, ahead of the gathering at the Nylen conservation site.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MANITOBA HABITAT CONSERVANCY

it even seemed to have a familial atmosphere.

“It felt more like a family gathering than a formal event. I can’t count the number of times someone walked up and announced something to the effect of ‘well there you are!’ while beaming at a neighbour or friend,” said Balzer. “The

biggest piece of feedback was that people were so grateful to have a chance to gather like this and celebrate the collaborative work they’ve taken part in over the years.”

Providing his own personal take-away from the 40th year celebration, Balzer stated, “it felt really

special to have community members of a wide variety of ages in the audience— from those that were there at the very beginning of MHC’s story to their grandkids catching snakes along the tour. It’s a reminder that conservation doesn’t just follow funding timelines or reporting cycles, instead it

spans many generations and communities.”

In his final comments, Balzer extended words of encouragement to anyone who may be interested in working with MHC.

“We encourage folks that might see themselves as a part of this story to reach out! Whether you have

some land that you’d like to see conserved in perpetuity or wish to support our work through a donation or partnership, we’d love to hear from you.” Balzer enthused. “We’re friendly, practical, and creative, and we can’t wait to see what comes next.”

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1976: Big Valley Guest Ranch becoming reality

By Casper Wehrhahn
Neepawa Banner & Press

**125 years ago,
Tuesday,
June 25, 1901**

Nothing in the dramatic line— either good, bad, or indifferent— had been produced in Neepawa for a long time. But we are to have something soon; and it is not to be either poor or indifferent, but uncommonly good. July 5 is the date when the Neepawa dramatic society will produce the “Old Homestead,” a very amusing comedy. W. B. St. John is stage manager and the cast includes about a score of local artists.

As a result of a mix-up on Saturday evening last, a young man named Mark Moore, was unfortunate in receiving a broken arm.

**100 years ago,
Friday,
June 25, 1926**

Arden: Some excitement is being raised again over the big black bear being seen out east of town.

Kelwood: A valuable 10-inch drive belt, 80 feet long, was stolen from the Grain Growers' Elevator last Monday night.

**75 years ago,
Thursday,
June 21, 1951**

According to records available the first Neepawa General Hospital was built in 1903-04 and officially opened May 24, 1904.

On Jan. 31, 1951, a meeting was called to

organize a Hospital Aid Society in the Franklin district. It was decided to put on a membership drive, with the result that there are 37 members active and associate. Mrs. Clare Orr was elected president and Mrs. Clarence Orr sec.-treasurer.

The joint production put on by the Ballet Club and the Drama Club Thursday night was a terrific success and people leaving the show were heard to say “A wonderful performance by two of the youngest clubs to join the ranks of recreation in Neepawa!”.

June 28— Friday, June 22, 1951 was a memorable day in the history of the Neepawa district. The official opening of the new Neepawa District Memorial Hospital was held before hundreds of persons from every section of the hospital area. Dr. J. S. Poole, of Winnipeg, a doctor here for many years, cut the ribbon attached to the main entrance doors and the ornate new building was opened to the inspection by throngs of visitors.

June 28— Kelwood: A re-organization of the Club was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. O. Hengen June 21. Officers are pres. H. Vanderoot, sec. N. Hengen, vice-pres. G. Smith. F. Tyreman was reappointed leader. J. Kuyp and V. Jones joined the club.

**50 years ago,
Thursday,
June 24, 1976**

An additional 30,000

KVA transformer being installed at the Manitoba Hydro's Terminal Station on No. 4 Highway east of Neepawa will double that station's present capacity.

The new transformer is being installed prior to the 1976-77 winter peak load period. Cement bases have already been installed and construction crews under foreman Allan Keith are erecting a new section of steel structure in preparation for the transformer and associated protection equipment to be installed this fall.

The Neepawa-Minnedosa 4-H Rally was held on June 12 at the Minnedosa Schools. Over 300 members and 17 clubs took part in the rally sponsored by the Minnedosa Agricultural Society and the Manitoba Department of Agriculture.

The Turtle River School Division No. 32 approved a resolution to discontinue halftime teaching positions in its division at its regular meeting June 27.

**20 years ago,
Monday,
June 26, 2006**

The Town of Neepawa is focussing on developing a photo bank, along with the towns of Gladstone, Carberry and Minnedosa and RMs of Rosedale, Lansdowne and North Cypress.

Neepawa economic development officer Clinton Mutch said Airscapes Aerial Photography will be taking photos of the above areas during the next two weeks.

Lisa and Dean Pottinger are celebrating the 60th anniversary of Thomas Window and Glass on Canada Day.

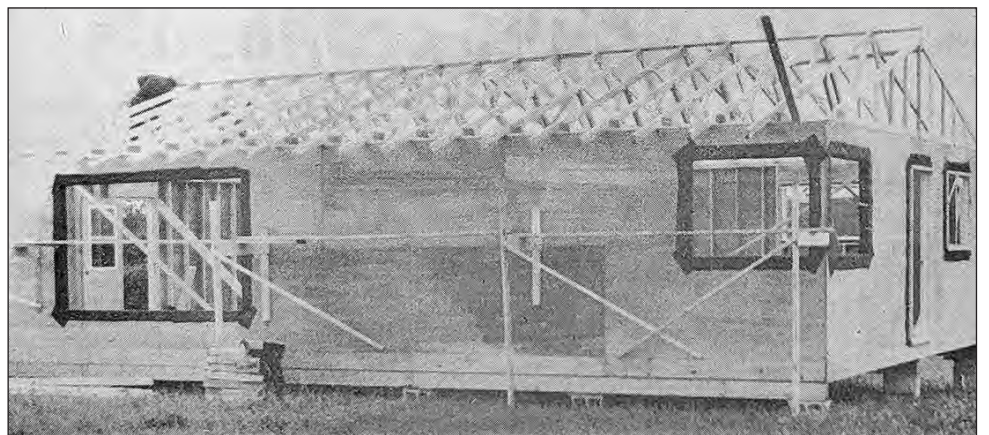


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

An attraction known as Big Valley Guest Ranch was being developed 14 miles north of Neepawa in 1976.

Pictured above: Neepawa Press reporter Joan MacDonald is seen chatting with Neil Macleod, noted as being Big Valley's number one cowboy, while Fred Denischuk talks to some other cowboys.

Pictured below: The building seen here— still under construction at the time— was to be the Big Valley tourist information office. Additionally, it was anticipated that it would also include a concession and souvenir shop. The office was situated at the junction of the Number 5 and Birnie highways.



Former Neepawa resident Brian Gray has been named coach of the year by the Winnipeg Minor Basketball Association.

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.*

**The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life; the Lord will
watch over your coming and going both
now and forevermore.**

Psalm 121:7-8 (New International Version)

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This advertisement for Economy Department Store Ltd. is from the June 24, 1976 edition of The Neepawa Press.

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Highlights of the week

Filipino Heritage Parade

June 29 at 12:30 pm | June 30 at 6:30 pm | July 3 at 1:40 pm

In the Studio: Art with Brad Mummery

July 1 at 12:30pm | July 3 at 4:30 pm | July 5 at 8:15 pm

Filipino Heritage Fashion Show

June 29 at 4:45pm | July 1 at 7pm | July 4 at 5:30pm

Bonanza over \$24,000 • Blackout over \$600
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the Superstore Lottery Kiosk in Brandon.**

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Homebodies

RITA FRIESEN



Simple pleasures...

It's been a full ten years since I left the acreage and moved into town. There is a pretty impressive list of home and yard improvements since July of 2016. Some were small projects, some really not so small. Some in the home and some outdoors. One of the first things that got changed was removing the awnings and shutters from the windows on the west side of my home. Then there was a massive water feature; I couldn't figure out how to make it work and it really isn't my style. There had been a snow stopping hedge on the north side of the driveway. It also frequently needed trimming. That is now part of my vegetable garden, the part that needs to be fenced against the neighbourhood long eared jack rabbits. Had a custom tree guy come in and remove a massive beech tree that was so close to the house that its branches were scratching the roof and seeds clogging the drains.

Oh, and then there was a fake brick raised flower shrub bed under the living room window and along the walkway. That got cleaned up and I now have a deck that I really appreciate. Oh, and a rose bush that had been damaged and the growth was all from below the graft. The tree, the water feature and the rose bush were all surrounded by those little white decorative stones...so many little white stones...

Where am I going with this? There was one more front yard scene that troubled me. The evergreen, probably planted the year the home was built, sat alone, center of a mound of brown stuff, some pine straw, some cedar chips. And under those layers, over a layer of landscape fabric, another layer of little white stones! I had no idea what I wanted to see out there, but knew that the lone tree with the brown surround wasn't cutting it! I sent a photo to one of the grands, the one that gave me the clues as to how to decorate the hearth after I got rid of the massive TV that had filled the space. There is an app - of course there is!— you enter what you have and they give you ideas of what could be. There were several options that I could choose.

The real work began when I slowly and systematically sifted through the brown stuff to remove all the little white stones. And there were many. Then I got a grand to help me move the concrete bird bath from the back yard and settle it under the tree. A start. A posting on social media connected me to free hostas. Thank you! I picked them up and got them planted. One of the suggestions was to add colour, so off to a greenhouse for a handful of annuals. The weather has been perfect for transplants. Another option is/was to add rocks — I think I will pass on more stones!

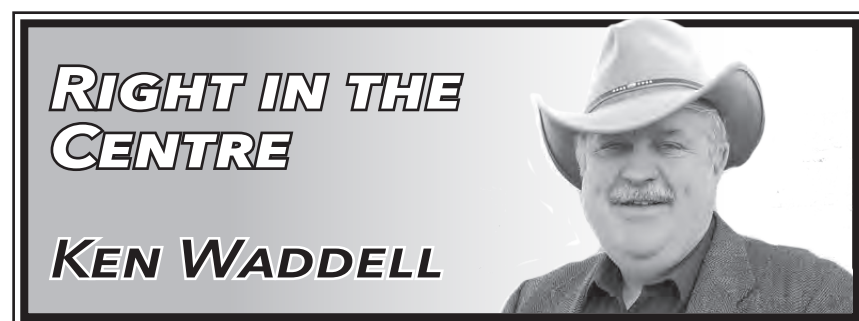
The project took time and effort. Every time I turn down my street and every time I glance out the window, my heart is content. Sometimes it truly is the simple things.

Housing crisis no surprise

There is some disturbing, but not surprising news, on the housing front. Many people can't afford to buy a home as the spread between price and income is just too high. There are many other factors as well. A lack of smaller affordable houses is one factor. The unwillingness of the construction industry to build smaller affordable housing units is another factor. Builders will tell you that they can't cover costs and make a profit by building anything less than over-the-top luxury houses. Modest style houses don't seem to cut it financially apparently.

CBC has announced that the Federal and B.C. governments plan to use up to \$3 billion to buy vacant condo units and turn them into affordable housing. These housing units are all higher end, expensive condos that aren't selling. Recent data from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation shows that as of last month, there were 4,376 completed condos sitting empty in Metro Vancouver, a 76 per cent increase from the year before.

CBC says, "B.C. is facing a glut of empty condos. Thousands of Metro Vancouver units are sitting empty and some developers are facing insolvency. Now, some housing experts are questioning a plan by the federal and provincial governments to buy some of those vacant units and turn them into affordable housing. They say it amounts to a multibillion-dollar bailout for developers who refuse to lower prices to reflect a sluggish real estate market. "How much of this is really a way of helping out the industry versus, I think, a bailout in terms of bad business decisions by some of these developers?" asked Andy Yan, an urban planner and director of Simon Fraser



University's City Program. Yan has a lot of questions about the plan by Prime Minister Mark Carney and B.C. Premier David Eby to spend up to \$3 billion to buy vacant condos in "priority growth areas" and turn them into affordable housing. Yan has crunched the numbers, with his analysis showing that a third of all condos without owners in Metro Vancouver cost over \$1 million. He questions how deep a discount the governments can get to make those units truly affordable."

The longer they are on the market, the lower the price. Without a bailout, there will be bankruptcies. The question is should our tax dollars go to developers that build houses that are too big and too expensive to start with? I think not.

We have been hearing for years now that Communist (Socialist) China has been driving their economy forward by not only over building houses but whole cities with schools, rec centres and hospitals, many of which are nearly empty. The Chinese bubble may have burst and perhaps Canada is not far behind.

There are other issues in Canada's housing industry. One is the emphasis on building garage-ma-halls, luxurious 3-4 bedroom homes with double and triple garages with every amenity known to mankind and at

prices that show a profit.

We need a total switch in housing ideas in Canada. We need smaller homes! No dammit!, every kid doesn't need their own bedroom with a Queen size bed. Building codes have gotten out of hand as well. When you drive through any town or city, there are many houses that are just fine that were built with 2 x 4s. Two-by-six is nice but it shouldn't be the law and that's just one example.

Local housing by-laws are ridiculous with rules about modular homes that are silly and restrictive. Millions of families have raised their kids in houses that only had 33 foot wide lots. People would be aghast at buying a new house today that was that narrow but that is just one of many concessions that need to be considered.

One concession that shouldn't be considered is bailing out Vancouver condo buyers. They over reached and perhaps deserve to go bankrupt. Perhaps that will signal common sense building instead of the excessive luxury being pushed at consumers.

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

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Letter: Keep tourism dollars local

Submitted
CFIB

A majority (86 per cent) of Manitoba small businesses are concerned that higher fuel costs could negatively affect the summer tourism season, according to new data from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB).

“Fuel costs have been squeezing small businesses from all sides: at the pump, across their supply chains and in their customers’ wallets. The last thing any of them need is a quiet summer,” said Brianna Solberg, CFIB’s Director for the Prairies and Northern Canada. “That’s exactly why we’re encouraging Canadians to get out and explore their communities this summer. Fuel prices may put a dampener on bigger travel plans, but local tourism is a great opportunity for small businesses and their communities.”

To help support local businesses and encourage local shopping this summer, CFIB is bringing back its #SmallBusinessEveryDay Big Thank You Contest from June 29 to July 13. The contest invites Canadians to thank their favourite small businesses for the role they

play in their communities. The Big Thank You Contest is presented by CFIB in partnership with Chase Payment Solutions, with Interac Corp. (Interac) as prize sponsor. Small business supporters can enter two weekly draws by visiting SmallBusinessEveryDay.ca and leaving a thank you message to their favourite small Canadian business.

Each week, one supporter and the business they thanked will be drawn as winners. The supporter will receive a \$1,500 cash prize to spend locally. The business will receive \$4,000 and a free one-year CFIB membership. A \$4,000 bonus prize will go to the business with the most nominations at the end of the contest, courtesy of Interac.

“Sixty-six cents of every dollar spent local, stays local,” Solberg said. “If you have a favourite spot, now is a great time to show them some love and say thank you for all they do; it’s not just the business that benefits, it’s the whole community.”

To help businesses participate, CFIB has created free digital toolkits, including printable posters and customizable social images, to promote the contest and shopping local.

Market report

By Blaine Huston
Gladstone Auction

We sold 1,077 head on Tuesday, June 23.

We had about 600 butcher cattle to start the day on a very strong market, here’s how they sold:

- D1-D2 cows \$2.30-2.56.
- D3 older cows \$1.90-2.30.
- Feeding type cows \$2.40-2.75.
- Bulls \$3.00-3.2750.

On the feeder side of things I’d call it a very strong market. We did have a lot of variety in quality and you can see that in the report.

Plainer type cattle and cattle with horns or bulls are seeing discounts.

We had 67 summer and fall calving bred cows and they sold well with sales up

to \$6,400.

We had 13 cow calf pairs with sales up to \$7,850.

Over all it was a very strong sale in Happy Rock.

We have no sale next week. We have one more sale till we break for the summer. It is on Tuesday, July 7.

Gladstone Auction Mart

Cattle Market Report
June 23, 2026

Steers	
4-500 lbs.	\$7.50 to 8.65
5-600 lbs.	\$6.45 to 7.75
6-700 lbs.	\$5.95 to 6.95
7-800 lbs.	\$5.00 to 5.97
8-900 lbs.	\$4.25 to 5.41
900+ lbs.	\$4.15 to 4.90

Heifers	
4-500 lbs.	\$6.70 to 7.78
5-600 lbs.	\$6.00 to 6.82
6-700 lbs.	\$5.10 to 5.85
7-800 lbs.	\$4.55 to 5.20
8-900 lbs.	\$3.85 to 4.75
900+ lbs.	\$3.50 to 4.27

1,077 head sold

Perspectives

HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN’S KITCHEN

Canada

Canada’s 159th birthday is fast approaching! It’s an opportunity to celebrate what it means to be Canadian. Today’s recipes celebrate the “multi pot of stew” we are as Canadians from our First Nations Peoples to the people whose forefathers came to Canada to our newest Canadians who chose Canada as their new country. They all have embraced Canada and brought with them their traditional recipes. Nothing tells Canada’s story better than its diverse cuisine. Enjoy!

Basic Bannock *Indigenous/Metis*

Bannock was first introduced to the Indigenous by the Scots and it quickly became a favorite to the Indigenous across Canada.

3 cups flour	1/3 cups butter or shortening	Add ins if desired: raisins, fresh berries, cinnamon sugar, chopped nuts etc.
1 tsp. salt		
2 Tbsp. baking powder	1 1/2 cups water	
2 Tbsp. sugar		

Mix flour, salt, baking powder and sugar together. Rub butter into the flour mixture. Add enough water into the mix to make a stiff dough. Knead dough for 3 minutes. Let rest 25-30 minutes. Make into round disks about 1/2 inch thick and fry in an oiled frying pan over medium heat. Cook Bannock till golden brown and flip to brown the other side.

To cook over an open fire on a stick; take bark of your sticks so as not to get the bitter bark taste. Make a 12” rope and twist around the stick and cook turning the stick as each side bakes until golden and crispy. Wonderful served with syrup.

From England, Bangers and mash *(Sausage, gravy and mashed potatoes)*

1/2 Tbsp oil	2 garlic cloves, minced	1/2 tsp black pepper
8 sausages	3 tbsp flour	Hot mashed potato
1 large onion, coarsely diced	2 cups beef broth	
	1/2 tsp salt	

Cook sausages: Add oil and sausages to a frying pan and cook over medium high heat. Turn occasionally until browned all over and cooked through. Remove sausages onto a plate. Turn heat down to medium. Leave about 2 tablespoons fat in the frying pan to sauté the onion and garlic. Cook for 4-5 minutes. Remove onions. Add the flour to the frying pan and mix into the remaining fat. Cook for a few minutes stirring all the while. Add the beef broth a little at a time bringing the broth to a simmer. Cook, stirring all the while for 2-3 minutes or until gravy thickens. Add more salt and pepper to taste. Add the onions and garlic to the gravy. Serve the sausage and gravy over hot mashed potatoes.

Filipino Pancit Recipe

My Filipino neighbour brought me a plate of food recently and Pancit was part of the plateful. So yummy!

8 ounces dried Bihon Noodles	1 large yellow onion, diced	1 cup snow peas
2 Tbsp. vegetable oil	2 cloves garlic, minced	Salt and black pepper to taste
1 pound chicken breasts, cut into 1/2-inch chunks	2 medium carrots, peeled and cut into matchsticks	1/2 cup soy sauce
1/2 tsp. salt	2 cups green cabbage cut into thin shreds	2 green onions, diced
		1 medium lime, cut into wedges

Heat one tablespoon oil in a large frying pan on medium-high heat until shimmering. Add chicken pieces, sprinkle on salt and cook until tender and fully cooked through. Transfer the chicken to a plate and set aside.

Add the remaining oil to the pan. Add the onion and garlic. Stir-fry until softened, about two minutes. Stir in your mixed vegetables and cook for 3-4 minutes until they’re slightly tender. Meanwhile cook the noodles. Add the cooked chicken pieces, soya sauce, desired salt and pepper and noodles to the pan. Stir-fry until combined, one to two minutes. Garnish with the green onions and serve with lime wedges.

Saskatoon matrimonial cake

You can not get more Canadian than this dessert! Many of our older folk remember going out with our parents and pails to pick saskatoons in our “secret patch”.

Middle:		
4 cups fresh or frozen saskatoons	1/2 tsp. almond flavoring	1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 cup sugar		1 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup water		3/4 cup butter
2 Tbsp. lemon juice	Base and topping:	
1 1/2 Tbsp. cornstarch	1 cup oatmeal	1/2 cup slivered almonds
	1 cup flour	

Put the saskatoons into a pot. Add the water and sugar. Bring to a gentle simmer. Mix the cornstarch with the lemon juice and add to the saskatoons, stirring all the while. It will thicken fairly quickly. Add the almond flavoring and set aside. In a bowl combine the oatmeal, flour, salt and brown sugar. With a pastry blender or your hands work the butter in until the mixture is crumbly. Add almonds. Press half of the base into a 9x9” pan. Place the Saskatoon mixture over, then sprinkle the remaining crumbs on top. Lightly press the topping down. Bake at 350°F for 30-35 minutes or until golden brown. Eat warm as a dessert or cold as squares.

Neepawa Christ Lutheran Church hosting special guests

Visiting Filipino reverend temporarily leading services, welcoming visitors

By Casper Wehrhahn
Neepawa Banner & Press

Neepawa's Christ Lutheran Church welcomed a very special guest last week. Members of the church had the pleasure of greeting Reverend Antonio del Rio Reyes and his wife, Arlene, who are visiting from the Philippines. Reverend Antonio is the president of the Lutheran Church in the Philippines.

The pair are staying in Neepawa until July 12 before going on to attend the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's national convention in Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A.

"We're so happy to have them here," said Judy Gabler, who spoke on behalf of Neepawa's Lutheran Church.

"We attended the national convention of the Lutheran Church of Canada, and then we heard from Judy that there are a lot of Filipinos here," Antonio explained. "So we came to meet them and possibly do some mission work here."

Antonio later added, "The purpose of our visit here is really exploring the possibility of having a



PHOTO BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

Rev. Antonio del Rio Reyes (left) and his wife, Arlene (right), with Judy Gabler of the Neepawa Christ Lutheran Church. Rev. Antonio and Arlene, who travelled from the Philippines, are visiting here for a few weeks.

Filipino ministry. It's for Filipinos, but not limited to Filipinos. Primarily, as I have said, but [God's word is for all]."

While Gabler and Antonio have a general desire to attract more people to the church, they also hope to draw in more of the younger generations specifically.

"As with most churches, we're getting older. We

don't have a lot of young people," said Gabler. "To sustain our church, we need something to help us grow."

Gabler noted that the Neepawa church isn't able to host weekly worship services, as it does not have its own permanent pastor. That has changed for a time, however, as Antonio is leading services during his stay in the community.

Rev. Antonio led his first service here on Sunday June 21, with three more yet to be held.

A desire to help

Rev. Antonio and Arlene are looking forward to meeting more of Neepawa's citizens, and potentially returning to revisit locations in Canada, including Neepawa, in the future.

"Actually right now,

what we are doing is we're having a survey. 'How can we be of help to the Lutheran Church of Canada, working within the Filipino community?'" Antonio explained. "Of course it's not limited, but primarily, the Filipino community— we can extend to those who are from here who are not

Filipino."

Rev. Antonio added, "After that, we can go back to the Philippines and I can share this with the leaders of our church there, make some reports, and then if, God willing, we can come back and stay here for quite some time and really do the ministry here. The work to serve the Lord here among the Filipino community, working together with our brothers and sisters of the Christ Lutheran Church here in Canada."

During their current stay here in Neepawa, Antonio and Arlene are being hosted in the parsonage right next to the Neepawa Christ Lutheran Church.

"I'm sure they wouldn't mind people dropping in to visit," said Gabler.

Antonio confirmed, adding, "Meeting some Filipinos here, I know that they gather together to ease the homesickness. They get together, share each other's problems, their needs— if we can be part of that, if we can help them, that would be great."

Ride Like Ole Memorial set for July

By Casper Wehrhahn
Neepawa Banner & Press

Minnedosa' Valley Life Recreation is inviting cyclists to participate in their very own 'olympics'. On July 25, the Ride Like Ole event is returning to the Squirrel Hills Trail Park.

Ride Like Ole began as a small memorial ride in 2021 for the late Ole Heie, a young and aspiring athlete. The memorial event later became open to the public in 2024.

During his 12 years of life, Heie grew to be known for his love of recreation and the outdoors, his talent and drive, and for how he supported and connected with others. True to Heie's spirit, Ride Like Ole welcomes riders of all abilities to participate.

"As Ole always reminded us, 'Everyone's Olympics looks different,'" said Domi-



FILE PHOTO

Pictured: Cyclists from the original memorial ride in 2021. The public events held since 2024 have been hosted at the Squirrel Hills Trail Park, with hundreds of people of all abilities participating.

nique Hampton, VLR communication chair. "Ride Like Ole is your olympics, no matter your ability."

Registrations for the event are already open for those looking to sign up early.

A total of seven different cycling events are available for participants this year.

A solo or team relay 20 lap (100k) event, 15 lap (75k) event, 10 lap event (30k), five lap event (25k), two lap event (10k), and one lap event (5k).

"Whether you come to ride one lap, push yourself for the all day 20-lap event, or any of the distances in-between, Ride Like Ole is about challenging yourself,

cheering on others, and embracing the kind of energy Ole brought into the world every single day," said Hampton.

Further information and registration can be found at Valley Life Recreation's new website, <https://valleyliferec.ca/>.

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Sidewalk repair and installation approved

By Eoin Devereux
Neepawa Banner & Press

Improvement and installation of a few sidewalks around Neepawa have been approved by Town Council. As part of the municipality's 2026 sidewalk renewal program, Chisel Construction Ltd of Neepawa, has won the tender for the upgrades.

Council awarded the

contract to Chisel for \$86,900, plus GST.

The approved work will include the installation of a new sidewalk along Main Street, extending from 51 Main St. East to the west limit of 11 Main St, as well as a new sidewalk on Commerce Street between Mountain and Second Avenue.

Interior cleaning efforts underway for 44-year-old Water Tower

Continued
from Page 1

Saquet elaborated by informing Council that contractors entered the tower on June 16 to begin pressure washing the interior, removing decades of accumulated buildup.

"The contractors were inside it and [They have] started pressure washing everything on the interior and get all that 44 years of sludge and sediment out of there," he said. "I believe this is the first time it's been physically cleaned."

During the process, some temporary pressure fluctuations were experienced, which prompted questions from council about whether residents' drinking water had been affected. Saquet said the brief drops in pres-

sure did not compromise water safety.

"Because the blips and pressure were just little blips. They were very short periods. We're fine that way," he said. "[The sediment] would have just turned up that sediment at the bottom of the pipe."

An exact timeline for the work to be completed was not shared at the Council meeting, through they are optimistic the cleaning effort will move ahead quickly.

The Neepawa Water Tower holds up to 2.18 million litres of treated water. This cleaning is expected to improve the long-term operation of the town's water system, ensure the continued delivery of safe drinking water to residents.

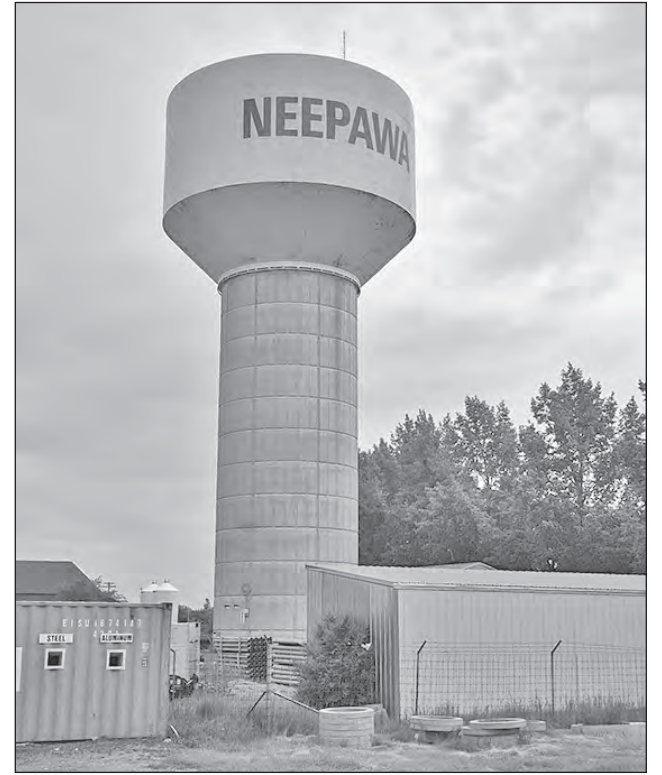


PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

The Neepawa Water Tower.

Fatal weekend rollover in R.M. of Oakview

Banner Staff
Neepawa Banner & Press

A vehicle rollover over the weekend west of Rapid City has killed one person and seriously injured another. Manitoba RCMP report that on Saturday, June 20, a vehicle with two passengers was driving on Highway 24 in the R.M. of Oakview.

Investigators believe the vehicle was travelling west when it 'struck the gravel shoulder, over-corrected

and crossed both lanes before rolling in the ditch.'

A 35-year-old man who was found inside the vehicle died of his injuries. A 39-year-old man who was ejected from the vehicle was taken to hospital in Winnipeg with serious but non-life-threatening injuries.

The cause of the collision is still under investigation.

Elks G.E.R. visited Neepawa

Dedication of two members recognized



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEEPAWA ELKS LODGE #398

Pictured: Terry Bates (left) and Jim Schmall (right) with Elks Grand Exalted Ruler Kari Senko (middle). Terry Bates and Jim Schmall were honoured with service pins in recognition of their years of dedication to the Elks Lodge.

Correction

For the June 19 edition of the Banner & Press, the article 'Penning their protest: Letter writing campaign on wind farm proposal tops 20,000', the opening of the article states 'What began as a local letter-writing campaign has grown into a regional movement, with around 20,000 people putting pen to paper to support the cause.'

In actuality, the effort assembled 20,000 letters, as some of the original letters sent to provincial officials and other representatives were CC (carbon copy). The Banner & Press apologize for the error.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Thoughts?

Send them in to us! Whether it's a letter to the editor, a thumbs up or down or just a comment to our staff, we love to hear from our readers!

news@neepawabanner.com 204-476-3401

423 Mountain Ave. Neepawa

Submitted
Neepawa Elks

Neepawa B.P.O. Elks #398 of Canada Welcomed two special guests to their meeting on June 16, held at the Elks Manor in Neepawa. Grand Exalted Ruler sister Kari Senko, of Mission, Lodge #30 of B.C., accompanied by Provincial President of the Manitoba Elks Association,

Sister Rachel Friesen from Altona Elks Lodge #447, made an official visit to the Neepawa Lodge.

Sister Kari Senko brought greetings from the National Fraternal Organization based in Regina, Sask. In her address, she stressed the importance of helping children in our communities with special emphasis on speech and hearing supported by the Elks and Royal Purple Fund For

Children.

During the meeting, she presented a 50 year membership pin to brother Terry Bates and a 65 year membership pin to brother Jim Schmall.

This year, the Manitoba Elks Association Provincial Conference will be held in Morden on June 19, 20, and 21, and the Grand Lodge National Convention will be held in Gander, NL July 14 to 16, 2026.

Barbecue raises funds for Men's Shed

Stride Credit Union fundraiser well received in Neepawa

By Eoin Devereux
Neepawa Banner & Press

Burgers and hot dogs were only a part of what was being served up at a recent fundraiser in Neepawa, as support for men's mental health was also on the menu.

Community members gathered over the lunch hour on Thursday, June 18, at our local Stride Credit Union branch for a barbecue that was raising money for the Neepawa chapter of Men's Shed Manitoba.

Patrick Callin, Manager of Member Experience for Stride, said that every year, each of their branches throughout the region choose a local non-profit to support during their summer barbecue campaign.

"Yearly, we do this type of barbecue at each one of our locations. We choose the non-profit based off of nominations put in by our staff at each location. This year, it was a unanimous decision that we support men's mental health with the Men's Shed."

Callin noted that the Neepawa event attracted a steady stream of community members throughout the afternoon. So many in fact, that there was a need to restock half-way through.

"It's going really good.



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Colin McNairnay (second from right) and several other members of Neepawa Men's Shed, pose with Patrick Callin (on far right side) of Stride Credit Union, during a recent barbecue fundraiser in Neepawa.

We even had to send one of our staff down [to a local grocery store] to get more supplies, so that's a good sign. I think it's fair to say this has been a great turnout."

Callin concluded by

expressing Stride Credit Unions' appreciation to the people of Neepawa for coming out and supporting the effort as much as they could.

Meanwhile, Colin McNairnay, who is a member of the Neepawa chapter of

things annually for various entities in the community. At first, I thought maybe if they raised \$500, we might get \$50 or something like that. Then I found out the next week that all the proceeds were for us. It's

the Men's Shed, offered thanks to Stride Credit Union for their support, adding that the fundraiser came as a welcome surprise.

"We only found out about it just over three weeks ago," McNairnay shared with the Banner & Press. "I got an email saying they do these

just so nice that a business in Neepawa recognizes the work that we do in the community and would put something like this on for us."

While the organization is known for building community projects such as benches, McNairnay said the woodworking itself is only part of the group's mission.

"We're always busy doing projects, but the projects aren't our focus. Getting together, the camaraderie and the talking, that's our focus."

As for the money that was raised from the barbecue, McNairnay said it'll go to very good use, a variety of projects currently on the go, that go back into the community.

Carberry Chamber of Commerce -

June 10 meeting report

Banner Staff
Neepawa Banner & Press

The meeting minutes for the Carberry Chamber of Commerce's June 10 meeting were released via email on June 22. The following is a summary of some of the notable items.

Beware of email fraud: The Carberry Chamber of Commerce received an email from a citizen informing them that she had received a scam email from somebody pretending to be the Carberry Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is urging everyone to be cautious, and to review tips on how to identify fraudulent emails.

The majority of email communications will come from the Carberry Chamber of Commerce's carberrychamber@gmail.com email (eventually carberrychamber@carberrychamber.ca). However, as the Chamber continues to develop and finds the need for different emails, they will ensure appropriate communication with the community to identify those emails for citizens.

When in doubt, contact

one of the Carberry Chamber's executives (Marie Bodnarchuk, president; Lisa Dobbin Waters, vice president; Amanda Dance, secretary; or Don Forbes, treasurer).

For in-depth anti-fraud tips, citizens are encouraged to review the safety email sent by the Chamber in March, which has also been included in its June 10 meeting minutes. Anti-fraud information can also be found on the Government of Canada website at <https://www.cyber.gc.ca/en/guidance/spotting-malicious-email-messages-itsap00100>.

Carberry Ag Society sponsorship: Regarding the agricultural fair and races, the Carberry Chamber of Commerce wrote a cheque for \$500 to sponsor the fireworks for the event. This was per previous approvals, and is an "automatic" item for the Chamber of Commerce.

New business
Drop in Centre: The board in front of the Drop in Centre was stated to be in need of repair. Discussions surrounding the repairs were to take place.

Chamber merch: It was reported that Tyson Boychuk is looking into pricing for Carberry Chamber branded tote bags.

Old Business
Trade show: Discussion was had around the effectiveness of the current trade show. Additionally, a trade show will not be held this year. Instead, the Chamber is exploring options such as visiting the school directly, and the possibility of attending the Brandon career symposium.

Christmas Kick-Off: The budget was presented and emails were to be sent out to the membership.

Digital marketing: The Carberry Chamber has received approval as non-profit for the website. The website itself was reported to still be a work in progress.

Health Action Committee: The HAC was reported to be working on fundraisers, merchandise to be sold, and a rummage sale. There was also a medical students visit, which reportedly went over well.

Mascot update: The Carberry Chamber reported that it was waiting

for the arrival of one of its mascots. One mascot was reported to have black mold— whether or not it could be salvaged was to be reviewed.

Around the table
• June 30 is Celebrate Canada in Wellwood. Everyone is welcomed to come out and participate.
• Free Fry day is to be held on July 16.
• The planning for the 2026 Prairie Harvest Festival was stated to be well underway.

The next Carberry Chamber of Commerce meeting is scheduled for Aug. 12 at noon in the Legion.

ATTORNEY

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Congrats, grads!



PHOTO BY BRITTANI JOYE

Congratulations to the graduates of 2026! Graduation ceremonies were held throughout the region this week, with a swathe of students marking the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. This photo is from the Neepawa grad walk which took place on Thursday, June 18. Further graduation photos will appear in a future edition.



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Festivities celebrating our 159th anniversary of Confederation are planned for across the region on Wednesday July 1.

For Neepawa, Canada Day 2026 festivities will centre around The Flats and the Lions Riverbend Park, including live music, bike parade, family-friendly activities, and a fireworks display set at dusk.

If you are looking to travel within the area, neighbouring communities like Minnedosa host extensive programming including pancake breakfasts, beach volleyball, a classic car show, and their own fireworks.

PHOTOS FROM THE BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

Happy Canada Day!

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11:00-11:30 BEACH ZUMBA
10:30-1:00 SCAVENGER HUNT
11:00 VINTAGE CAR PARADE
11:00-3:00 INDIGENOUS CULTURE & CONNECTION TENT
12:00-3:00 CAR SHOW
11:30-3:30 KIDS ZONE
3:00-4:30 CIRCUS SHOW & WORKSHOP
4:30-5:30 DIAMOND DISC DOG SHOW
5:30-7:30 FREE FAMILY BONFIRE BY THE BEACH
6:00-7:30 CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
6:00-7:30 LIVE ACOUSTIC MUSIC

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2 - 8PM BRANDON BOUNCY CASTLES - WATERSLIDE & SOCCER DARTS
ACTIVITY TENTS:
FACE PAINTING
TEMPORARY TATTOOS
CRAFTS
GAMES
4 - 8:30PM GARDEN TRACTOR TRAIN RIDES
4:30-5:30PM SOCCER KICKING SKILLS WITH HOMETOWN, BRANDON UNIVERSITY'S KATIE-RAE BYRAM - LEARN PROPER KICKING TECHNIQUES AND THEN COMPETE IN THE SOCCER DART SHOWDOWN
5:30-8:30PM FUNDRAISING BBQ - ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS FUTURE CANADA DAY EVENTS
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An eye to the sky in Neepawa

Town asked to consider participation in Dark Sky initiative

By Eoin Devereux
Neepawa Banner & Press

A new proposal is looking to establish Neepawa as a provincial leader in astronomy. The idea, brought forward recently by local photographer Jodie Baker, would see the Town establish a designated Dark Sky viewing area.

Dark Sky viewing areas are designated locations managed to protect the night sky from artificial light pollution. By restricting outdoor lighting, these areas offer clear views of stars, planets and the Aurora Borealis.

Baker suggested the HyLife Back 40 Multi-use Park as the ideal location for the viewing area, as it already offers relatively

low levels of surrounding light pollution. Ask well, the location is adjacent to the town's lagoon limiting the likelihood of future residential development.

If approved, Neepawa would become the first municipality in Manitoba to formally designate a Dark Sky viewing area.

Council considered Baker's proposal and voted to proceed with its establishment. As part of the process moving ahead, the municipality will have to look into installing dark-sky friendly outdoor lighting within the park and limiting non-essential lighting. To ensure safety and public access, the town will also examine creation of a designated pull-off area to keep vehicles off the roads during stargazing events and installing educational signage.

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Neepawa earns high praise in hosting NextGen Prairie Championship

By Eoin Devereux
Neepawa Banner & Press

The Neepawa Golf & Country Club has received rave reviews as host of Golf Canada's NextGen Prairie Championship. The 54-hole stroke play event was held from June 18 to 21, and brought Western Canada's top junior male and female golfers to our community.

Despite periods of over-cast and at times rainy weather throughout the tournament, organizers praised the course staff, volunteers and the community in general for their efforts and hospitality.

"I think this championship at Neepawa is a testament to the quality of not only the golf course, but the staff and volunteers in this community," said Golf Canada Championship Chair George McLeod. "This championship went off without a hitch, even in the rainy weather. We were under control with their help. It was phenomenal."

McLeod added that Neepawa proved smaller communities are fully capable of hosting these types of premier events.

"I think Golf Canada should take note of the



Golf Canada Tournament Director Rogan Doyle presents an award of recognition to Landon Cameron and the Neepawa Golf & Country Club (NGCC), for their tremendous effort in hosting the 2026 NextGen Prairie Championship. NGCC Superintendent Mark Kerkowich, and the entire grounds crew were also recognized by the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association for the conditions of the course.

abilities of small towns such as Neepawa. They are every bit as good as any of the larger cities, and I think that really bodes well for Neepawa and similar communities."

For Neepawa Golf & Country Club General Manager and Head Golf Professional Landon Cameron, the week was a bit of an exhausting, but at the same time rewarding experience.

"It takes a community to run events like this," Cameron said. "Our members stepped up by not only giving up their golf course for four days, but also

volunteering their time to marshal, score and help wherever needed. It was super easy to get volunteers because everybody wanted to be a part of it."

Cameron also credited Golf Canada staff and officials for helping deliver a first-class championship and said the tournament gave local golf fans an opportunity to see Canada's next generation of talent up close.

"Watching these kids play, they swing so free, and they're really good players. The future of Canadian golf that was here is looking bright."



PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX

The NextGen tournament results

As for the championship itself, it concluded with dramatic finishes in both divisions.

Ryan Mosher of Saskatoon, Sk., claimed the Junior Boys title after defeating Victoria's Luke Bernakevitch on the first playoff hole. Both golfers finished the three-round

tournament at seven-under-par 209.

In the Junior Girls division, Serin Girard of Richmond, B.C., also needed a playoff to secure the championship. Girard defeated Grace Odnokon of Saskatoon after both players completed regulation at 10-over-par 226.

The NextGen Prairie Championship is a qualifying tournament for the 2026 Canadian Junior Boys and Girls Championship, both set for August. As well as, the top three players per division also earn exemptions into the 2026 Canadian U15 Championship, set for Aug. 24 to 27 in Bath, Ontario.



PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Above left: Ryan Mosher of Saskatoon, Sk., claimed the Junior Boys title, while Serin Girard of Richmond, B.C. (above right) won the Junior Girls title, at the NextGen Prairie Championship in Neepawa.

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Neepawa Cubs drops pair to Portage

By Eoin Devereux
Neepawa Banner & Press

The Neepawa Cubs found themselves on the wrong side of the scoreboard in a pair of contests against the Portage Padres. The Cubs suffering back-to-back losses, with the first of these setbacks on Wednesday, June 17 in Portage la Prairie. In this game, the Cubs lead late, but let it slip away in a heartbreaking 10-9 defeat.

Neepawa appeared to be in control after Garret Rempel blasted a grand slam home run in the top of the fifth. Portage would reply, however, with three of their own in the bottom of the inning, to keep it close.

Going into the seventh and final inning in this Santa Clara Baseball League (SCBL) game, the Cubs held on to a 9-6 advantage. The Padres, however, mounted a dramatic comeback, scoring four runs in their final at-bat. Tanner Boyle delivered the game-winning single to complete the rally and hand Neepawa the one-run loss.

Tristan Chandler picked up the victory for Portage after throwing two innings of relief. He took over for starter Chad Melnic.

The two clubs met again on Friday, June 19 in Neepawa, where the Padres completed the two-game sweep with a 4-1 victory. Portage

pitchers Zac Evanochko and Kade Maryniuk combined to limit the Cubs to just four hits on the evening.

Brad Wilson accounted for half of Neepawa's offence, collecting two hits and driving in the Cubs' lone run. Taylor Fletcher and Ryan Gower recorded the team's other hits.

The pair of losses drops Neepawa to 6-3-1 on the season, good for third place in the Santa Clara standings. Meanwhile, Portage improved to 7-2-1, and have moved into a tie for first place with the Plumas Pirates.

Santa Clara Baseball League						
	G	W	L	T	Win %	Games Back
Plumas Pirates	11	7	3	1	.682	-
Portage Padres	11	7	3	1	.682	-
Neepawa Cubs	10	6	3	1	.650	0.5
Austin A's	9	4	4	1	.500	2.0
Minnedosa Mavericks	10	3	7	0	.300	4.0
Carberry Royals	9	0	7	2	.111	5.5
	AB	H	RBI	SB	HR	Avg
Connor Braun (Pluma)	37	16	6	5	0	.432
Chad Melnic (Portage)	35	15	9	4	2	.429
Ryan Benson (Neepawa)	38	16	14	6	1	.421
Tyler Olson (Portage)	40	15	11	1	1	.375
Austin Taylor (Minnedosa)	38	13	6	4	0	.342

Minimum 35 at bats AB: At Bats. H: Hits. RBI: Runs Batted in. SB: Stolen Bases. HR: Home runs. Avg: Batting Average.

Plumas Pirates start to stumble down the stretch

By Austin Lewis
Freelance Writer

The Plumas Pirates were back on the road to start their season series against the A's, as Game one was located in Austin Field. This was also the first time the Pirates started a season series on the road.

Rylan Denbow started off on the mound in the bottom first inning, and the A's struck first with a deep hit to centerfield followed off with a home

run in the bottom third inning for a 2-0 lead. At the second half of baseball, the Pirates and the A's traded home runs in the fourth and fifth inning. Carter Schettler's first home run of the season tied the game at two, The A's scored a leadoff home run in the bottom fourth for a 3-2 lead, and DJ Meloney tied the game at three with his first career home run. After a back and forth home run derby in the fourth and fifth inning, and a few 3-and-outs, the

A's finished out the final two innings with a walkoff single to left field for the 4-3 victory.

The series shifted to the Plumas Ball Grounds for game two. With Riley McBride as the starting pitcher, the Pirates looked to split the series with the A's after a walkoff loss. Once again, the Austin A's struck first with two singles to centerfield which led to two scoring doubles in the top second inning. Shortly after, the Pirates cut the A's lead in half with Dean

Rosling's deep single to midfield which resulted in McBride's scoring run. It was now 2-1 A's after three innings.

In the final two innings, the A's extend the lead to 3-1 with a groundout which resulted with a scoring run, and a double down the middle of the field resulted in a scoring double for a 4-1 lead for the A's. The Pirates looked to spark a comeback as Nathan Braun scored on a stolen base, and DJ Meloney's single

to centerfield resulted in Luke Decorby's scoring run.

Unfortunately it was not enough to complete the comeback, as the Plumas Pirates dropped to the A's once again by a score of 4-3. That loss officially ties the Pirates for first place in the Santa Clara Baseball League standings with the Portage Padres. It is also the first time this season the Pirates lost back-to-back games.



PHOTO BY AUSTIN LEWIS
D.J.Meloney rounds the bases for Plumas, during one of their recent games against the Austin A's

Neepawa Titans hire Kris Menard as Assistant G.M.

By Eoin Devereux
Neepawa Banner & Press

The Neepawa Titans have announced the hiring of Kris Menard to the role of Director of Player Personnel and Assistant General Manager.

Menard will be bringing extensive hockey knowledge with him to Neepawa, as he has years of scouting experience at multiple levels.

A native of Northern Manitoba, Menard's hockey resume started with a tenure as Team President of the AAA Norman Northstars. Other roles he's filled through the years range from scout to Director of Player Personnel and Team Governor for the OCN Blizzard between 2019 to 2023

Most recently, Menard has served as the General

Manager of the Fort Garry/Fort Rouge Twins (2023-24) and Stonewall Jets (2024-2026) of the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League. As well, Menard does have experience already with the Titans, as he has been a regional scout with the team for three years.

Menard shared with the Banner & Press that he is eager to take on an expanded role within the organization.

"To say I'm excited to take on this bigger role would be an understatement," said Menard. "The opportunity to work with and learn from Ken Pearson the past three seasons as a scout has provided me the insight on what it means to be a proud Neepawa Titan and together we will continue to take steps to build

a strong program that the community can be proud of on and off the ice."

In a social media release initially confirming the Menard's hiring as Assistant G.M., Neepawa Titans Head Coach/General Manager Ken Pearson explained that Kris will oversee player recruitment and personnel management.

"We are excited for Kris," said Pearson. "His experience, work ethic, and eye for talent are all very important to us."

The Neepawa Titans' training camp is expected to open in late August in Minnedosa with their preseason games following immediately in Minnedosa and Neepawa in early September.

Neepawa Titans add new name to coaching staff

Banner Staff
Neepawa Banner & Press

There's a new voice being added behind the bench of the Neepawa Titans, as the team has announced the hiring of Keelan Saworski as an Associate Coach.

The 28-year-old, originally from Regina, SK, will be bringing a combination of playing experience, along with an expertise in coaching and sports management to the organization.

Saworski played two seasons of ACHA Division I hockey at Davenport University, while also earning a Bachelor of Sports Management degree. Before his collegiate career, he established himself within the junior hockey ranks,

serving as captain of the Fernie Ghostriders of the Kootenay International Junior Hockey League (KIJHL). During his time in the KIJHL, Saworski also earned Rookie of the Year honours.

His transition into coaching has seen him spend the past two seasons in Michigan, honing his leadership skills in the Grand Rapids Amateur Hockey Association.

In a social media post announcing the hiring, the Titans organization said Keelan's array of experience made him an attractive addition to the coaching staff. Saworski, meanwhile, expressed excitement about going the program.

"I wanted to come coach the Neepawa Titans be-

cause of the organization's commitment to developing young athletes both on and off the ice," said Saworski. "The opportunity to help players grow, compete at a high level, and contribute to a strong hockey culture in Neepawa is something I am passionate about and excited to be a part of."

NEEPAWA

Games start at 7:00 p.m.
at the Neepawa Fair Grounds
Friday, July 1
vs. Minnedosa Mavericks

Area students participate in 'moving toward Truth and Reconciliation'

Author Christy Fenton provided three-day educational session at NMS

By Casper Wehrhahn
Neepawa Banner & Press

The Neepawa Middle School welcomed an award-winning guest this month. From June 10 to 12, author Christy Jordan Fenton was on the scene providing special presentations and creative writing workshops. The three-day event was a joint collaboration of the Beautiful Plains School Division, Neepawa Middle School, and the Beautiful Plains Teachers Association utilizing educational funds focussed on Indigenous education.

"The goal was to invite a special guest who could teach about important topics of the Indigenous peoples of Canada in a creative and grade appropriate environment that included the school community," said Michelle Kolbe, event co-organizer and Indigenous Voice and Action Chair for the Beautiful Plains Teachers Association.

Fenton is known for the books titled 'Fatty Legs', 'A Stranger at Home', 'When I was Eight', and 'Not My Girl'. In addition to her writing, she is also recog-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NEEPAWA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Pictured here are a couple scenes from the workshops provided by author Christy Fenton (shown interacting with students in the photo at left) at the Neepawa Middle School earlier this month. Students engaged in a variety of creative writing exercises.

nized by her advocacy in relation to reconciliation, and her "trauma-informed, decolonizing, strengths-based approaches to exploring residential school history, cultural reclamation and reclaiming personal narratives as medicine".

Fenton's late mother, Olemaun Margaret Pokiak-Fenton, was an Inuvialuk woman who attended an Arctic residential school in the 1940s. Christy Fenton is

also a member of the Yellow Thunder ceremonial family of the Kainai Blackfoot.

A positive student response

"This event was important for students because they were able to participate in moving towards Truth and Reconciliation through learning about the life experiences of Olemaun Margaret Pokiak-Fenton," said Kolbe.

Kolbe added, "We were able to share our learning community and have guests attend the assembly at NMS to share this opportunity. JM Young School attended in person and the Riverbend Colony School also attended online."

Both the assembly and the creative writing workshops received a positive response from students.

"Students really enjoyed the workshops," said Kolbe.

"They really enjoyed the assembly and the story cards— and another student I spoke to said it was really interesting."

Grade eight teacher Nora Heschuk shared a similar statement, adding, "My students said that they enjoyed hearing Christy's stories and appreciated meeting her, and taking part in the writing activity."

Providing a final comment, Kolbe further em-

phasized the importance of educational opportunities such as this.

"I think it is really important for students to have exposure to learn about important Canadian topics, Truth and Reconciliation, lived-experiences and how young people can learn to talk about their own self-identity in an empowered way," said Kolbe.

New Nursery School partnership is kinda 'Hippy'

Submitted
Neepawa Banner & Press

Representatives of the Neepawa Nursery School and Neepawa and Area Immigrant Settlement Services (NAISS) recently gathered together for a celebratory photo.

The special occasion was the start of collaborations between the Nee-

pawa Nursery School and NAISS's Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY).

HIPPY is a preschool weekly home visiting program, which began in Neepawa in 2022. Since then, it has been providing educational materials

and books to its newcomer clients.

The Neepawa Nursery School, which has been providing education to the community's children since the 1970's, stated, "We look forward to partnering with the HIPPY program to ensure that the children of our community continue to learn and grow to the fullest of their

capabilities by accessing the resources available at the HIPPY program and by attending the Neepawa Nursery school."

This partnership is to help promote each organization's services, and strengthen their shared commitment to early childhood education and kindergarten readiness.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEEPAWA AND AREA IMMIGRANT SETTLEMENT SERVICES

Pictured: Norma Forsman (NAISS board member), Susan Pulach (Neepawa Nursery School director), Raydah Jo Cadion (HIPPY/CNC coordinator), and Marilyn Crewe (NAISS board chairperson).

WEEKLY NEWS

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Notice

A Bible Quote NKJV Revelation 21:8 ... But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

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

Notice

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings currently being held at 342 Mountain Ave, Neepawa, Thursdays at 7 pm, at the Minnedosa Town Hall basement. 204-856-9072 or Debbi 204-352-4065

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

Notice

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

JULY 3RD CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE MONDAY NOON
 Cancellations and corrections only within business hours and corresponding deadlines.

Notice

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 Rent

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

Coming Events

Advertise your coming event here! Show the date, place, time and prices. Ad at this size in the Neepawa Banner & Press Coming Events word section will only cost \$20 Call us at 204-476-3401 or email us at print@neepawabanner.com

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

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Michelin Alloy Tires w/rims, size 225/60R 18, 2 Primacy A/S, tread 8/32, 2 Premier A/S tread 6/32, Contact 204-834-2817 leave message. \$850.

Coming Events

PAC NEEPAWA Kids Camp!

For all kids going into Gr. 1-6
 Prairie Alliance Church Neepawa
 July 27-31 • 9am-12pm • \$35
 Register at mypac.tv/neepawa

Auction Sales

Online Timed Auction for The Estate of Mr Henry Slezak Brookdale MB

Register and Bid: www.gilbertgauthierauctions.com

Online Bidding will start to close: July 2 at 5:00 pm (Closing 2 lots at a time)

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NEEPAWA Banner & Press

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Notice



NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION Municipality Of McCreary

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

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

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

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

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

at the Municipality of McCreary office, 432 First Avenue, during the regular hours of business.

To obtain a registration form contact the SEO at the email or telephone number listed below.

Lorilee Ryzner
 Senior Election Official (SEO)
 Municipality of McCreary
 Box 338 McCreary, MB R0J 1B0
 Phone: 204-835-2309
 Email: municipality@mccreary.ca
 Dated at McCreary, MB on April 24, 2026.

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Obituary



Colin C. Chapman

Always Remembered

May 4, 1932
 - July 1, 2024



Funeral service for **Robert (Bob) Wilson**

will be held on
 July 11, 2026,
 at 1 p.m.
 at the
 Carberry United Church.

Lunch to follow.



Bud Jackson

Lyle Robert Jackson, or as everyone knows him "Bud" passed away peacefully on June 8th, at the age of 87. He was born on November 8, 1938, to the late Hormidas and Myrtle (nee Glover) Jackson. He grew up on the family farm with his parents and sister Lois.

Bud worked on the family farm helping his parents, until he took it over. In addition to farming, he also worked in the mines in northern Manitoba and at Agassiz Ski Hill.

Growing up in McCreary, Bud took his schooling at Rosemont School. He had fond memories of growing up in McCreary, attending school and spending time with family and friends.

Bud was always up for a coffee and conversation. You could often find him in town for coffee or visiting friends and family. He had a keen memory for history and people he met and would also tell you stories about both.

He was predeceased by his parents, sister Lois, brother-in-law Sid Barnes, as well as many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He leaves to mourn his niece Laurie Ayers, nephew Sidney Barnes, great niece Amelia and great nephews Michael, Josh, Sidney, and Tanner, as well as many cousins.

Thank you to Dr. Paradis and the staff at the McCreary Personal Care Home for the great care he received while living there.

Thank you to Norma Windle for officiating the service, to Wendy Williams for providing the music and to Jody Fletcher for the lunch.

Funeral Service was held on Monday, June 15, 2026 at 2:00 pm from Knox United Church in McCreary, MB. Interment followed in McCreary Municipal Cemetery in McCreary, MB.

Should friends so desire, donations in memory of Bud may be made to McCreary-Alonsa Personal Care home or a Charity of One's Choice.

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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

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Hog Receiving Barn Worker (NOC85100)

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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
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- Able to effectively communicate in English
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- Permanent full-time employment (74-80 hours per bi-weekly)
- PM Shift Premium
- Full training, with genuine opportunities for career progression
- Employee Referral program - \$500!
- Free parking
- Company events
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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

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Neepawa Middle School hosts 'Family Fun Night'



PHOTOS BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

The Neepawa Middle School hosted a family fun night on Thursday, June 18, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. All were welcome to attend and enjoy live music, face painting (pictured right), and more. Pictured above: There are a plethora of student entertainers included in the lineup on Thursday. Top right: One of the other available forms of entertainment was balloon objects. Swords were a popular request from the youth, though there were indeed some balloon animals and flowers as well

From ye old newspaper: 1955 NCI basketball team



NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

Pictured here is the Neepawa Collegiate Institute basketball team from 1955. The photo was featured as a 'throwback' item in the Mar. 16, 1978 Neepawa Press. Perhaps the readers of this week's paper will recognize some of the individuals seen here! See the details below for their names.

Front row, left to right: Harry Toy, Merv Brown, Cecil Pittman, Merv Pilkey, and Richard Harris.

Second row: John Adamack, coach; Don Whitmore, Bob Cleland, Bruce Levenick, Bob Allan, Ed Yakachuk, and Mike Tataryn, manager.

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Gloria Fulford earns first place in national Quilts of Valour Canada Contest

By Nicole Young
Quilts of Valour

Note: Nicole Young is the Team 7 and Manitoba Regional Coordinator for Quilts of Valour - Canadian Society.

The Quilts of Valour Canada Society is proud to congratulate Gloria Fulford on her outstanding achievement in the 20th Anniversary Complete Quilt Contest. Gloria's beautiful quilt captured the hearts of voters from across Canada, earning first place in the national online voting competition and securing its place as one of the featured quilts displayed at Quilt Canada 2026 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The contest was held as part of Quilts of Valour Canada's 20th Anniversary celebration, themed "20 Years of Hugs From A Grateful Nation." Quilters from across the country were invited to submit quilts meeting Quilts of Valour specifications. Following online public voting, twenty quilts were selected to represent the organization at Quilt Canada 2026, where they were showcased in a special concurrent exhibit celebrating two decades of

service and gratitude. Among the many remarkable entries, Gloria Fulford's quilt rose to the top, receiving the highest number of votes nationwide. This accomplishment reflects not only Gloria's exceptional quilting talent and craftsmanship, but also her dedication to the spirit and mission of Quilts of Valour Canada.

A representation of gratitude

Gloria's winning quilt embodies the care, comfort, and appreciation that are at the heart of every Quilt of Valour. Her work stood out among entries from coast to coast and served as a shining example of the creativity, skill, and compassion found within the Quilts of Valour community.

Having her quilt displayed at Quilt Canada 2026 is a tremendous honour and allowed thousands of visitors to experience firsthand the artistry and meaning behind Quilts of Valour. Following the exhibition, the quilt will continue its journey of service when it is presented to a Canadian Armed Forces veteran, bringing warmth

and comfort to someone who has sacrificed for our nation.

About Quilts of Valour Canada Society

Founded in 2006 and established as a national registered charity in 2009, the Quilts of Valour Canada Society was created with a simple but powerful purpose: to recognize injured and ill Canadian Armed Forces members and veterans for their service and sacrifice. The organization presents handmade quilts as tangible expressions of gratitude, comfort, and support.

Often described as "a hug from a grateful nation," each Quilt of Valour is lovingly created by volunteers who donate their time, talent, and resources to honour Canada's military members, past and present. These quilts provide comfort to veterans coping with both visible and invisible injuries and serve as lasting reminders that their service is appreciated and remembered.

Today, thousands of volunteers across Canada contribute to this remarkable mission, creating and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured: Gloria Fulford, of Gladstone, is seen here alongside her award winning quilt. Fulford is a member of the Pin and Pals Quilt Guild.

presenting quilts that symbolize respect, gratitude, and compassion.

Congratulations, Gloria!

On behalf of Quilts of Valour Canada, fellow quilters, volunteers, veterans, and supporters across

the country, congratulations to Gloria Fulford on this well-deserved achievement. Winning first place in a national competition is an extraordinary accomplishment, and her quilt serves as a beautiful representation of the generosity, dedication, and patriotism that define

Quilts of Valour Canada. Thank you, Gloria, for helping to celebrate 20 Years of Hugs From A Grateful Nation and for continuing to make a difference—one stitch, one quilt, and one veteran at a time.

Arena tear-down progressing steadily

PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX

The deconstruction process on Minnedosa's old arena is moving along at a steady pace. The photos shown here by Neepawa Banner & Press photographer Eoin Devereux show the facility as it appeared on June 20.

The demolition process is estimated to be approximately 50 per cent complete.



Youth learn valuable farm safety lessons at Rolling River



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

A Colony Farm Safety event was hosted at Rolling Acres Colony on June 12, with 320 students from 13 colony schools participating. The day started with a prayer and was followed by a keynote speech from Genji Maendel- the father of a 15-year-old son who lost a foot in a grain auger.

A dedication to loved ones who lost their life to farm accidents was also held, with two candles lit and kept burning all day in memory of Kayla Waldner, age 12, of Riverside Colony; and David Kleinsasser, age 55, of Westview Colony. Waldner accidentally lost her life in 2023. Kleinsasser passed six months ago due to a farm related incident.

The safety presentations had a wide range of topics, with sessions bearing a primary focus on farming. Shown here are just a couple scenes from the eventful, and educational, day.

Pictured left: Ron Wallman, a teacher at Goodhope Colony School, talked about ATV safety.

Pictured right: Richardson Pioneer representatives emphasized dust awareness with the youth.

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