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Inside this week




Page 6: PMH provides updates on new hospital

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A dignified and welcoming space

Neepawa Salvation Army soft-opens new Community Services facility

By Casper Wehrhahn  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Neepawa's Salvation Army has been getting comfortable in its latest expansion over the past few months. Officially dubbed 'Neepawa Community Services', the extension is located directly beside the Salvation Army Thrift Store, on the east side of the former Co-op building. The new Community Services Building includes the food bank services, a warehouse room for food bank supplies, a multi-purpose space, kitchen, and a reception area.

"It was really important for us to have your first impression walking in being that it is warm and welcoming," said Community Ministries Director Amanda Naughton-Gale. "Folks can come in, they can have a coffee, they can sit down and just hang out if they want to. And we have people who do that. They feel comfortable enough to come in and sit and relax."



The exterior of the Neepawa Salvation Army's new Neepawa Community Services extension. An April grand opening is planned.

PHOTO BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

Naughton-Gale added, "And I think the move here from the Thrift Store environment is huge. It gives so much more dignity to our clients, a lot more privacy... the feeling of confidential-

ity. Because in the Thrift Store, you kind of feel like you're in the middle of the chaos and kind of prying public eyes, 'why are you here, and what are you talking to Amanda for?'. On this side, anybody here is probably availing themselves of the same services, so you don't feel like you're 'in the fish bowl'."

Renovations for the space began approximately two years ago, with Neepawa Community Services' soft opening taking place in November of 2025. The priority at that time was shifting over and organizing the grocery-style food bank, with the rest of the space filling out gradually. Naughton-Gale also noted that the shifting of services was completed with minimal disruption.

**Continued on Page 8**

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[stridecu.ca](http://stridecu.ca)



**Stride**

CREDIT UNION



# 'Let's make 2026 our biggest event yet!'

## Curling for a Cure prepares to host first-ever banquet and seventh annual event

By Casper Wehrhahn  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

It may seem hard to believe, but February is already right around the corner. With the impending change of months, curlers in the area are getting ready to 'hurry hard' on the ice for a home-grown charitable initiative. This is the seventh annual Curling for a Cure, and the second in its major 10 year donation commitment to Neepawa.

### A chance to connect

Kicking off this initiative early for 2026, the organization is hosting its first ever Curling for a Cure banquet. The banquet will be hosted at Brews Brothers in Neepawa on Feb. 6, at 6:30 p.m. and includes a live auction.

"For us this was a chance to get the Neepawa Community a little more involved in curling for a cure. With donating half our profits there every year, we thought it would be fun to do an event there, share the story of our event and get to meet some people in the community," said Chad Yanchycki, Curling for a Cure event organizer. "We have some amazing prizes for our live auction which we are excited about!"

One hundred per cent of proceeds from both the banquet in Neepawa and the main event in Minnedosa will be donated. Funds will be split 50/50 between the Neepawa Cancer Care Program and the Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Group.

Spots for the banquet are limited, with 60 tickets up for sale.

Yanchycki noted that while ticket sales have been slower than expected, the team is hoping for a successful event with the potential to host more in the future.

"I encourage people to come out and support the



FILE PHOTO

Pictured: A scene from the 2025 Curling for a Cure event. The sport-based fundraiser, founded in Minnedosa, has received mounting support year over year from both Minnedosa and the surrounding area.

event. Last year, we donated a little over \$20,000 to the Neepawa Community Cancer Care Program which helped purchase a new fleet of treatment chairs," said Yanchycki. "That's our goal every year, is to get that amount or more. We'd love to make this [banquet] something we do every year, but we gotta make sure it's well attended and successful first!"

Further information on the banquet can be found on Curling for a Cure's social media, and tickets can be purchased by contacting Chad Yanchycki via [curlingforacure@gmail.com](mailto:curlingforacure@gmail.com) or 204-871-3344.

### Curling for a Cure's biggest event yet

The organizing committee certainly has its hands full. One week later, from Feb. 12 through 15, the main event—Curling for a Cure—will be hosted at the Minnedosa Curling Club.

With these dates fast approaching, Yanchycki highlighted the organizing team's enthusiasm heading

into 2026.

"We feel great! We are very excited for it. We've been sold out since last February with a waiting list of teams," Yanchycki enthused, noting that the sell-out occurred within mere hours of the 2026 event's launch.

Curling for a Cure has been a 24 team event for the past several years. That number has been increased to 32 teams for 2026, making it the charitable organization's largest event yet.

"It was incredible to sell out as fast as we did, but it's a testament to how much fun Curling for a Cure is and the amazing group of people that support it every year," said Yanchycki. "I feel we have truly built an amazing community of people around this event who pencil it in to come back every year. It's a lot of fun and something that we are so proud of."

Yanchycki stressed that all are welcome to attend and support the event. The games are all open for public viewing, and additional ways to contribute to Curling for a Cure will also be

available at the venue.

"We have amazing prizes that people are going to want to come check out, bid on, and come out to support," said Yanchycki.

He added, "We also have live entertainment on Friday night from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. We encourage everyone to come check it out, even if not curling!"

Curling events will kick off at 5:00 p.m. on Friday (three draws), 8:00 a.m. on Saturday (ending around 10:00 p.m.), and 9:00 a.m. on Sunday. Sunday will also feature a horserace draw to the button, and the final draw will take place around 6:30 p.m. following a cheque presentation.

Sharing a final comment, Yanchycki extended a word of gratitude on behalf of Curling for a Cure, stating, "We just want to thank everyone for the continued support. To the people who attend, the people who curl, the businesses that sponsor and donate... Without all these amazing people and business none of this would be possible. Let's make 2026 our biggest event yet!"

## Neepawa firefighters sound alarm on false calls

By Joshua Jackson  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Firefighters in Neepawa are frustrated, as the number of false calls they're receiving has started to become a nuisance.

Fire Chief Yves Guillas noted the bulk of false calls stem from alarm systems and individuals not calling in time to report the false alarms.

According to the Town of Neepawa, a false alarm is a notification of an alarm to emergency services when the responding authority finds no evidence of a fire or criminal offence.

The town and fire department stressed that when a false alarm goes off at your business or residence, and all is okay, you need to call your alarm company (or 911)

The Fire Chief noted you have around a three-minute grace period from when the alarm sounds to when they respond to the call, and urges you to call in to cancel.

He adds that they won't send out a firetruck without a minimum of six firefighters per truck, and said it is a waste of taxpayers' money when they receive so many false alarms.

Last year, the department responded to 93 calls, 39 per cent of which were attributed to alarm calls, many of which were false.

He adds it's frustrating that repeat offenders still cause false alarms and has threatened to start dropping the hammer and issuing \$1,000 fines to repeat offenders who continue to not report false alarms.

The Fire Chief also mentioned that of the 10 calls they've received in 2026, two of those calls were false alarms, which occurred on the same night.

Guillas noted that responding to these false alarms has brought down the fire crew's morale as they start to lose interest when the bulk of the calls are false.

The fire department urges you to maintain your alarm systems, ensure they are functioning, and talk to your security company to familiarize yourself with the design and usage. Businesses should also train staff on the proper operation of their alarms so incidents can be avoided. You are also recommended to limit the number of people who have keys and access to your facilities. The Neepawa Fire Department said educating the public is important, and they are trying to spread awareness and educate the public on this issue.



**Don't be late!**

**Our production team needs time to book, build and proof all the ads for the Banner & Press. Our advertising deadline is Tuesday at noon, so if you don't have your ad booked before then, don't expect to see it in the next paper!**

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



# Looking Back

## 1976: Neepawa curling team headed to Flin Flon

By Casper Wehrhahn  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

**125 years ago,  
Tuesday,  
January 22, 1901**

Freeland: Jas. Attwood, of Nesbitt, brother of Geo. Attwood of this place, was up here looking for land. He intends moving here in the near future.

Some time ago, the Press took up the question of a hospital for Neepawa. Considering that such an institution is a requirement of the town we published recently information as to how the hospitals at Morden and Portage la Prairie were conducted. We also published the views of Neepawa's medical men on the question...

Hon. Jno. Davidson said the advisability of a hospital here had long been recognized.

Jno. E. Munroe of Eden received on Saturday from Winnipeg, one of Edison's largest sized phonographs and 262 records. Mr. Munroe being fond of music is highly elated. The records are of the highest class. The Neepawa band boys are invited to go out and

have a musical treat. Mr. Munroe may give some concerts, which would no doubt be highly appreciated.

**100 years ago,  
Friday,  
January 22, 1926**

Glenella: Roy McFadden, an old time resident of the district, and now collector for the Massey Harris Co., visited his wife and family for a few days.

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

The final games of the Neepawa Ladies' bonspiel Friday night attracted a capacity crowd to the curling club rink. Mrs. Harold Link's Birnie rink won the bonspiel's Grand Challenge event, winning the final game from Mrs. W.R. Cosgrove's Gladstone rink.

A twin-engined RCAF Dakota aircraft on Saturday landed at the Neepawa Airport with a contingent of Royal Canadian Air Cadets from Rivers. Five minutes later it took off for Rivers with 15 cadets from Neepawa.

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

A series of motions, coupled with an amendment and a split vote, disrupted the usually smooth-running meeting of the Beautiful Plains School Division Board Tuesday night, in a dispute over the rate of salary deduction for three division teachers.

The teachers, Richard Hanke, Jim Schmall and Bill Fraser, recently won the right to represent the local zone in the British Consols playdowns to be held at Flin Flon in February. They then approached the Board asking that they be allowed to attend the playdowns and that they not be deducted at 1/200 of their salary for each day absent.

Action in the Neepawa ladies' bonspiel concluded Sunday with the Joan MacDonald rink from Gladstone emerging with top honors as the Grand Aggregate winners.

The MacDonald foursome captured the Murray event to win one of the bonspiel's major events and then downed the Lorna Cawston rink of Kelwood, winners of the Zeke event, to take the aggregate title.

McCreary: A second meeting was held recently to further discuss establishing a Meals on Wheels program in McCreary.

There were seven people in attendance representing six organizations. One organization has already agreed to provide volunteer drivers to deliver the meals.

The McCreary hospital will be participating in this program by providing the meals.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

The Neepawa rink of Jim Schmall, Rich Hanke, Bill Sumner and Bill Fraser captured the consol spot for the zone in January of 1976, defeating Gord McGonigal of Shilo. This win had them set to go off to Flin Flon to compete in February for the right to represent Manitoba in the Brier championship, which was to be held in Regina that year.

Glenella: A grand total of 2,375 persons filed through the doors of the Glenella arena over the three-day period of January 16, 17 and 18, to see some exciting hockey action as Fort Gary-Fort Rouge Twins captured the championship event in the Pee Wee division and Stonewall departed with the top honors in the Atom division of Glenella's Fifth Annual Minor Hockey Tournament.

**20 years ago,  
Monday,  
January 23, 2006**

One year after the town hiked water rates in a move to a user-pay service, the utility has reduced, but not eliminated its debt, the chairman of the Utilities Committee said.

Except for a couple of minor fender benders, no major accidents were reported in the Neepawa area following last week's

freezing rain.

Neepawa RCMP are searching for a dangerous dog—ordered destroyed earlier this month—after its disappearance from the local pound.

Electronic warnings built into video lottery terminals to help people control their gambling aren't working, according to a new report.

The Neepawa Hawks have been named one of 13 winners of the Future Team Canada contest, which is conducted across the country by Hockey

Canada, recognizes teams for their effort, good sportsmanship and team spirit.

*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.*

**Dear brothers, is your life  
full of difficulties and temptations?  
Then be happy, for when the way is rough,  
your patience has a chance to grow.**

James 1:2-3 (The Living Bible)

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NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES



This is a small portion of an ad inserted by the Neepawa Williams Tom-boy store in the Jan. 22, 1976 edition of The Neepawa Press.

**PINE CREEK SCHOOL DIVISION  
RECRUITMENT JOB FAIR AND  
TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT**

**Date and Time:** February 3, 2026 5:00-7:00 PM

**Location:** Gladstone Elementary School Gym  
116 Morris St, Gladstone, Manitoba

Please visit our website for more information at  
[www.pinecreeksd.mb.ca](http://www.pinecreeksd.mb.ca)



**Roxy theatres**

291 Hamilton St, Neepawa, MB  
[www.neepawaroxxy.ca](http://www.neepawaroxxy.ca) (204) 476-3716

---

**January 23 & 24 • SHOWTIME: 7:30 pm**

**Anaconda**

A group of friends are going through a mid-life crisis. They decide to remake a favorite movie from their youth but encounter unexpected events when they enter the jungle. PG

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**January 30 & 31 • SHOWTIME: 7:30 pm**

**Sing Song Blue**

Host your birthday party at the Roxy! • [www.facebook.com/neepawaroxxy](http://www.facebook.com/neepawaroxxy)





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online at [www.nactv.tv](http://www.nactv.tv) • [nactv@wgcwave.ca](mailto:nactv@wgcwave.ca) • 204-476-2639

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**Highlights of the week**

**Coffee Chat: Chamber of Commerce**  
Jan. 27 at 6:30 pm | Jan. 29 at 8pm | Feb. 1 at 2pm

**Chris Waddell's Quilt Show**  
Jan. 26 at 12:30 pm | Jan. 28 at 8pm | Feb. 1 at 8:15 pm

**NMS Winter Concert**  
Jan. 26 at 5pm | Jan. 28 at 12:30 pm | Jan. 30 at 9pm

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**BIGGER BINGO**  
Wednesday nights at 7 P.M.

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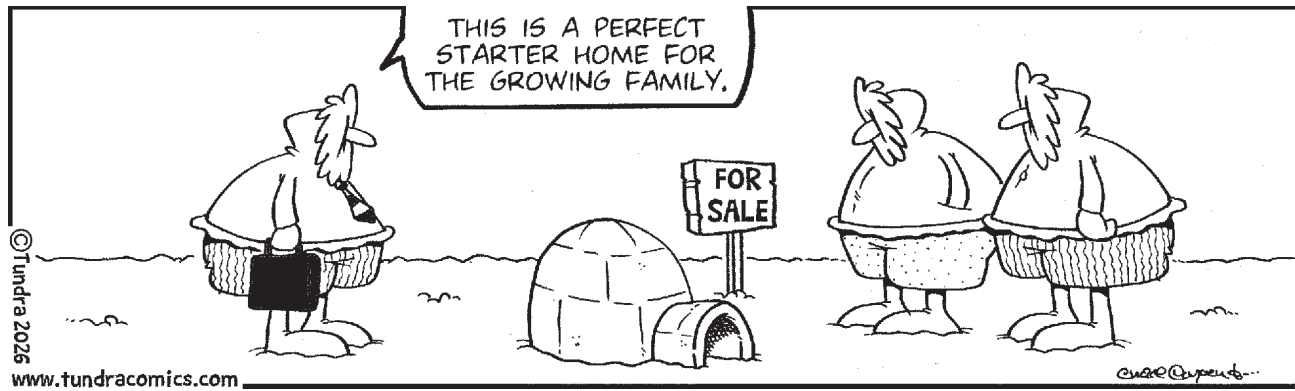
Visit [nactv.tv](http://nactv.tv) for exact amounts. For more info call 204-476-2639.  
LGCA 6052-MB-45955

**Bingo packages are available at NACTV Office, Touchwood Park, Neepawa Legion, Harris Pharmacy, Frontier Trading in Minnedosa and at the Superstore Lottery Kiosk in Brandon.**



# Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



## Let us picture your community

This week I am writing about an important item for our towns and villages, all the communities that make up the coverage area of our three newspapers, the Rivers Banner, the Virden Empire-Advance and the Neepawa Banner & Press. If you only read a few of this week's lines, please pass on this information to all your friends, family members, co-workers and your customers. Combined, the three papers are distributed to over 50 towns and villages, free of charge.

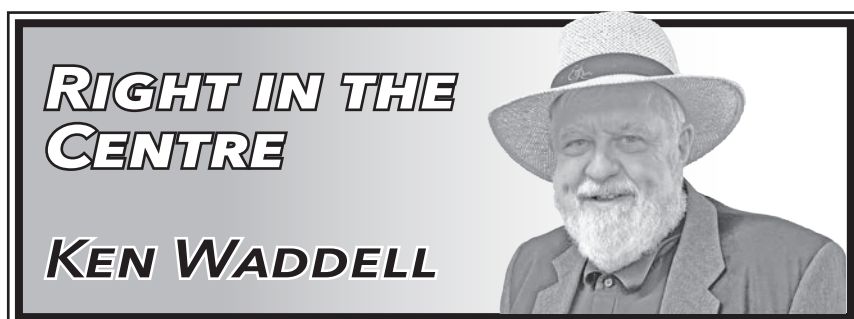
To do a better job of coverage of all 50 communities, we need your help. In days gone by, newspapers would be able to have a reporter or photographer at many events within the area. But those 50 communities involves a driving distance well over 120 miles from one end to the other. We can't be everywhere, it's impossible, so here's what I'm asking. When you are at events, hockey games or tournaments for an example, please send us a picture or ask someone who is taking pictures to send us a photo. Here's the emails to use:

[kwaddell@neepawabanner.com](mailto:kwaddell@neepawabanner.com)

[riversbanner@outlook.com](mailto:riversbanner@outlook.com)

[virdenempireadvance@outlook.com](mailto:virdenempireadvance@outlook.com)

We would especially like to have photos of youth and community activities, such as winners of hockey tournaments or action shots. If you are in charge of minor hockey in your community, we would really like to hear from you with pictures from games or tournaments and team pics. We really like team pictures of all sports. Bonspiel winners are good too. Please include the



names of those in the picture.

Photography has come a long way during our years of the newspaper business. We used to take pictures with a film camera, develop them in a dark room or drive them to a photo developer.

There used to be developers in several towns. For black and white pictures, we had our own dark room.

That all changed over 25 years ago when we bought our first digital camera. That was a huge breakthrough and I still have that first camera. It was a dandy. Then everybody got digital cameras and then cell phones became pretty good cameras. Nearly everybody has a cell phone today and they do take pretty good pictures.

That said, there are some suggestions. Try to square the photo up and don't cut off peoples heads, shoot the picture with the sun or a main source of light behind you. A bright sunny window in the background can really mess up a pretty good photo. A big enemy of a good photo are hats, especially ball caps and cowboy hats. A lot of good looking faces have been hidden in the shadows of a favourite cap or hat.

Take a few shots as it's inevitable that someone in the picture will have their eyes closed.

We want to show off as much as we can about what is happening in

your community and you can help very directly by sending us photos at the above emails.

At the risk of repeating myself, we simply can't be in all our towns and villages, but we do want to give as much coverage as we can. My wife and I have been at this business off and on now for nearly 60 years, full time for almost 37 years. We want to do as much as we can to keep your papers full of news and photos and you can help us and our staff to keep your local paper strong.

Our circulation numbers are very good at over 12,000 for the three papers combined and over 4,000 online.

And the best news, it's free, BUT we do need ads to keep things going. Advertising is our main source of income, and we do appreciate our customers very much.

In a world of turmoil, and with so much false information flying around, the local paper is the best source of reliable and accountable news about what matters the most to us all.

*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



## 'Just a little more time...'

Gabrielle Roy captured many of my thoughts and musings in "The Road Past Altamont". The first section revealed a young girl's relationship with her grandmother, addressing aging, loss of abilities, and yes, death. We examine impressions, emotions and human relationships in every section of the book. In the second portion, the young girl forges a relationship with an elderly man in the neighbourhood. It would be fair to say they become kindred spirits, understanding each other, having time for each other, as the world at large spins on. She is eight, often unwell and rather frail; he is eighty four, independent and rather frail. During a prairie heat wave they slip away for a day at the shore of Lake Winnipeg, taking time to share thoughts and sip deep of the cup of communing with each other, the vast changing lake and the ever restless clouded sky.

Sitting together, the old man in a black suit, and the young girl in her Sunday dress with ribbons in her hair, they draw the stares of the swirling crowds. They are oblivious to all but the present. The shared thoughts go deeper. They speak of aging and death. "And, he continued, it's sad to die young. Because one hasn't had time to learn and love enough...but when one is old, it's natural." The phrase, 'learned enough...loved enough' catches the attention of the young aspiring writer. "Ah! Because you have learned and loved enough on this side?" After a pause the wise one replies "Learned enough...Loved enough...I don't know. Perhaps one has never learned and loved enough. I would like just a little more time. I suppose one would always like just a little more time."

Those words echoed through my being. I, who am thankfully well in body, mind and spirit, desire a lot more time. I can't imagine that I have learned and loved enough! The lass dreams of travel. The elder recalls his travels. I am caught betwixt, I dream and I recall.

The dreaming and recalling does not apply solely to travel. All aspects of life and living are encompassed in this tension. I have learned much from life; hard lessons, scaring lessons, sacred lessons, life changing lessons and so many lessons of loving. Love for self has been the most challenging lesson for me. I find it easy to love others, and I find it essential for me to love the Creator and Sustainer of all life, of my life. This call to love myself is threatened by every memory of past folly and there are many! It is eroded by my perceived list of failures and 'not enoughs'. My perception of personal value is influenced by my early years, where hard work, good grades, practical achievements were the benchmark for personal value. That's my perception. I was not a stellar scholar, a natural beauty or a gifted artist, but, by golly, I could work hard...

I would like a little more time. There are books I wish to read, places I wish to visit, skills I wish to develop. And, ah, no and...There are people to love. Generations. Past. Present. Future.

**NEEPAWA Banner & Press**

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Subscription Rates in Canada 1 Year: \$86.00 (including taxes) Online subscription \$36.00

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

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

AD DEADLINE: TUESDAY NOON PRIOR TO ISSUE DATE

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Circulation as of May 2024: 7,275

News Media Canada  
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Funded by the Government of Canada  
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Thumbs up, thumbs down

A BIG Thumbs up to Neil Strohschein for his 25+ years of the Faithfully Yours articles. His common sense and Biblically based comments about dealing with life issues was always kindly written and thought provoking.

Muriel Game  
Neepawa, MB



Ranking the quality of the natural ice surfaces I've skated on this season.

- 1.a: Brookdale
- 1.b: Wellwood
- 1.c: Koko Platz (Portage la Prairie)
- 1.d: East End Community Centre (Brandon)
- 2: The Skating Oval (Brandon)
- 3: Lake Irwin



...10: The Flats  
Jim Krzyzaniak  
Neepawa, MB

Editor's note: This submission is not a thumbs down per se, as the efforts of the Town staff are appreciated. It is simply an acknowledgement that the upkeep to make the skating experience is different from location to location.

Gun owners have until March 31 to express interest in gun compensation

By The Canadian Press  
SUBMITTED BY RCMP MEDIA

The period for gun owners to declare interest in a federal program offering compensation for turning in or permanently deactivating their guns begins today.

Since May 2020, Ottawa has outlawed about 2,500 types of guns, including the AR-15, on the basis they belong only on the battlefield.

Public Safety Canada says firearm licence holders will be notified of the declaration period, which lasts through to March 31, and how they can take part

In the spring, owners whose declarations are ap-

proved will be invited to finalize their claims and schedule appointments to turn in their guns to the RCMP, local police or a mobile collection unit.

The government says compensation will be determined primarily on a first-come, first-served basis.

Firearm rights advocates and the federal Conservatives have denounced the program as a poor use of taxpayer dollars that targets law-abiding gun owners.

Prohibited firearms and devices must be disposed of — or permanently deactivated — by the end of an amnesty period on Oct. 30.

Public Safety Minister

Gary Anandasangaree said over the weekend that the deadlines are real and should be heeded.

The government says anyone found in possession of a banned firearm or device after the amnesty period could face criminal prosecution.

Owners of banned guns who do not take part in the program can also comply with the law by deactivating their firearms at their own expense, turning them in to local police for no compensation, or exporting them if they hold an export permit.

This report by The Canadian Press was first published Jan. 19, 2026.

HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

Tofu 101

Welcome to the world of plant protein. Don't have a clue what to do with those tubs of tofu at the grocery store? Here's help.

Tofu, originating in China, is made of condensed soy milk that's pressed into solid white blocks in a process similar to cheese making. Often used as a meat substitute, tofu is high in protein but low in fat, sodium, and carbohydrates. Tofu is extremely versatile, and while it doesn't have a ton of flavour on its own, it takes on flavours of whatever you cook it with absorbing seasoning and sauces. Tofu isn't one-size-fits-all. It comes in a variety of textures, each suited to different cooking methods and dishes. Extra-firm tofu is extremely firm. This means it doesn't soak up flavours as easily as medium or firm tofu. To enhance its taste, you can marinate extra-firm tofu before using. It can be fried, grilled, or used as a meat substitute in a stir-fry. Firm tofu can be barbecued, mashed, baked, fried, scrambled and in a salad. One of the best ways to cook tofu is in an air fryer. Roll the pieces of tofu in cornstarch for a maximum crunch and texture. Slightly crispy outside with a soft yet chewy inside, it's perfect for any dish. Soft tofu is used in blended foods like salad dressings, dips, and soups. Silken tofu is an undrained, unpressed Japanese-style tofu. It has the highest water content of all tofu types. It is also used in blended foods, like smoothies and puddings.

Tofu peanut stew

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 454g package extra-firm tofu, drained        | 1 tsp. cornstarch                    |
| 2 Tbsp. oil such as canola or avocado, divided | 2 cups water or vegetable broth      |
| 1 large onion, diced                           | 1 cup canned diced tomatoes, drained |
| 3 cloves garlic, minced                        | 1/2 cup crunchy peanut butter        |
| 1 tsp. minced ginger                           | 2 Tbsp. lime juice                   |
| 1 tsp. curry powder                            | 4 cups baby spinach leaves           |
|  | noodles of your choice               |

Cut tofu into 1/2-inch cubes. Over medium heat, in a large frying pan heat 1 tablespoon of the oil until hot. Sauté the tofu on two sides until lightly browned, 3-4 minutes. Remove from the pan. With the remaining oil sauté the onion until lightly browned. Add the garlic, ginger and curry and sauté for 30 seconds. Add the cornstarch to the water. Stir in the tomatoes, peanut butter, lime juice and water and simmer for 5-7 minutes. Stir in the spinach and the tofu and cook for two minutes more. To prepare noodle bowl: Cook noodles in boiling water according to package directions. Drain the noodles. Serve the stew over cooked noodles.

Tofu lettuce tacos

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 454g extra firm tofu, drained | 1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes or to taste |
| 2 Tbsp. oil of choice           | 12 medium butter lettuce leaves        |
| 3 cloves garlic, minced         | 1 avocado, diced                       |
| 1 tsp. chili powder             | 1/4 cup cilantro leaves, chopped       |
| 1/2 cup orange juice            | 2 cups shredded cabbage                |
| 1/2 tsp. salt                   | 1 cup crumbled tortilla chips          |

Cut the tofu into 1/2 inch cubes and blot with a paper towel. In a large nonstick frying pan heat 1 tablespoon of the oil. Sauté the tofu on two sides until lightly browned, 3-4 minutes. Remove from the pan. Sauté the garlic in the remaining 1 tablespoon of oil for 30 seconds. Add the chili powder, orange juice, salt and pepper flake. Simmer for 3-4 minutes. Return tofu to the pan and stir to coat with the sauce. Serve in the lettuce leaves with the avocado, cilantro, cabbage and tortilla chips.

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# Neepawa's Health Centre on track for early 2027

## Regional leaders receive update from Prairie Mountain Health on new hospital

By Eoin Devereux  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Neepawa's new hospital appears to be progressing right on schedule. On Friday, Jan. 16, a group of local government and business leaders sat down with representatives of Prairie Mountain Health (PMH). The gathering was a chance for locals to learn the latest on the \$127 million project.

Prairie Mountain CEO Treena Slate told those assembled that the construction remained on schedule. In an interview with the Brandon Sun earlier this year, Slate had previously acknowledged that the new hospital has hit 75 per cent completion.

As for the hiring of new medical, administrative and support staff, Slate noted that the plan remains to staff the facility in a phased approach.

"Thinking about re-

cruitment to fill all those positions to support all these new beds that will eventually be opening. We will be opening in a phased approach, so not all the beds are going to open all at once. We're basically a one room schoolhouse right now, and so, we'll be moving into this new fancy hospital that's going to have separate units and that's going to require more manpower," said Slate. "So, a lot of work is being put into that and focus, and I think we've made really promising headway."

The new hospital, once running at full capacity, will have 50 per cent more staff than the current Health Centre.

As for how the transition will work, Prairie Mountain Health is planning a phased opening in order to

make the shift from the old building to the new one, as seamless as possible. The first phase will have all the current services move into the new hospital. Then, phase two focuses on expanded capacity, including the additional beds and hemodialysis unit.

### Questions from the crowd

While Slate and the rest of the group from Prairie Mountain Health did discuss some of the technical aspects of the build, this gathering was more about locals getting a chance to ask their questions and get a response.

One individual asked for clarification on the size of the new facility, in comparison to the old location. It was noted that the building and surrounding land are on a 39-acre site, roughly four times the size of the existing Health

Centre's footprint within the community.

Another question was related to the purchase of a C.T. Scanner, which uses X-ray techniques to create detailed images of the body. Neepawa will not have a C.T. Scanner, and the individual asked why that was. Slate noted that cost of the machine, combined with the salaries for specialists to operate it, does not make it a viable local purchase for now.

"There was analysis done to see how busy it would be and the population it would serve. For now, it would overlap the geographic area with [existing C.T. scanners in] Portage la Prairie, Brandon and Dauphin," stated Slate. "But the real concern is the operating dollars to keep it going. Because you need several, probably four techs to run a C.T. Scan seven days a week, or even five days

a week into the evening, with people on call. Those costs [year-over-year] are not minor."

Manitoba currently has 22 C.T. units across the province, though Brandon has been promised another scanner in the near future. Slate noted that new machine did have a residual impact on Neepawa.

The questioner did comment that they hope the Prairie Mountain will keep an eye on the cost associated with transporting people to these other locations over the next few years.

### What about the old hospital?

Another notable inquiry brought up was related to the usage or sale of the existing Health Centre building and property. For now, there is no plan in place for the facility, as the attention is squarely on

getting the new hospital up and running.

"We don't have any rush to figure out what we're doing with the old facility. We are starting to put some thought into that. We're at the pondering stage of that," explained Slate.

As for the official opening, Prairie Mountain Health still expects to welcome its' first patients in early 2027.

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# Cattle market report

By Blaine Huston  
GLADSTONE AUCTION

The weather outside was cold, but the market was hot here on Tuesday, Jan. 20. We sold 1,275 head here in Happy Rock.

We had 180 butcher cattle to start the day, and here's how they sold.

- D1-D2 cows \$2.15-2.30.
- D3 older cows \$1.70-2.00.
- Young feeding type cows \$2.20-2.45.
- Bulls \$2.20-2.4050.

Here are some market highlights from yesterday's sale:

- Three charolais steers weighing 870 pounds bring \$5.00 a pound (\$4,350 a head).
- Nine red and black steers come in the ring weighing 777 pounds and cash in at \$5.29 a pound (\$4,109 per head).
- Twenty-three Black steers weighing 679 pounds stamp there ticket at \$5.88 a pound (\$3,994 a head).

On the Hiefer side of things:

- Ten red and black yearling heifers weighing 960 pounds bring \$4.24 per

pound (\$4,071 per head).

- Ten red and black exotic heifers weigh 736 pounds and fetch \$5.02 per pound (\$3,692 per head).

- 30 black hides heifers come in the ring weighing 472 pounds and bring \$6.70 a pound (\$3,160 per head).

Plainer type cattle are still seeing some discounts.

As you can see we had a very strong market on Tuesday in Happyrock.

Our next sale is next feeder and butcher sale is Tuesday, Jan. 27.

### Gladstone Auction Mart

Cattle Market Report  
Jan. 20, 2026

#### Steers

|            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| 3-400 lbs. | \$8.20 to 9.50 |
| 4-500 lbs. | \$7.25 to 8.37 |
| 5-600 lbs. | \$6.30 to 7.35 |
| 6-700 lbs. | \$5.10 to 6.34 |
| 7-800 lbs. | \$4.60 to 5.80 |
| 8-900 lbs. | \$4.15 to 5.23 |

#### Heifers

|            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| 3-400 lbs. | \$6.80 to 7.80 |
| 4-500 lbs. | \$6.40 to 7.29 |
| 5-600 lbs. | \$5.40 to 6.42 |
| 6-700 lbs. | \$4.40 to 5.60 |
| 7-800 lbs. | \$4.00 to 5.15 |
| 8-900 lbs. | \$4.10 to 4.66 |

1,275 head sold

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# 'People really came through for us'

## Neepawa Community Services Christmas Hamper program aided 217 families and individuals

By Casper Wehrhahn  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The 2025 winter season was a busy one for Neepawa's own Salvation Army/Community Services. Community Ministries Director Amanda Naughton-Gale shared that a grand total of 217 families and individuals were aided by its annual Christmas Hamper Campaign in Neepawa, Gladstone and McCreary.

Since clients can still access the food bank services over the holidays, the Christmas Hamper program has been modernized in recent years. Recipients are provided with a gift card based on the size of the family for use at a local store (Ex: Co-op, Jun's Foods), and gift options to choose from for their kids and themselves. Youth aged 13 to 17 also get a gift card.

Through this format, the gift cards received by the parents/individuals act as a bonus which can be used as is seen fit by the recipient. For example, purchasing additional supplies that are needed, or acquiring additional ingredients to have that special Christmas meal.

Overall, it is also designed to provide its recipients with more choice and dignity when utilizing the service.

### A closer look at the numbers

"McCreary is a new addition; we started our food bank up there in April, and this is the first year that we took the hamper applications for McCreary," said Naughton-Gale. "They did a really great job of raising

funds and things like that to cover their gift cards, and they've been doing that style for a while as well up there. We supported them with toys and administration. There were 23 families up there that we assisted."

Gladstone has an increase of 10 households from the 2024 Christmas program period, serving a total of 34 families in 2025. On the flipside, Neepawa saw a bit of a decrease, shifting from 187 hampers in 2024 to 159 hampers for 2025.

"Here in Neepawa, we were down from the previous year, and that's maybe a good sign," said Naughton-Gale. "However, I feel maybe a bit of that is perhaps because the HyLife union had just gotten their payouts— their signing bonus and retro-active pay— so people maybe felt they weren't as financially strapped at the time."

### Books a big hit as youth gifts

All together, the hampers rung up at \$27,420 for the charitable organization. Those costs were covered by the kettle campaign, which raised approximate-

ly \$10,000, and additional community donations.

"We received close to \$50,000 in community donations as well, so that definitely helped pay for our Christmas event," said Naughton-Gale. "And then [those community donations] help to sustain what we do here for programs—the food bank, or any of those other kinds of things."

Naughton-Gale added, "And we were so blessed that we didn't need to purchase any toys. The community just stepped up with every toy drive that was happening. People really came through for us. When we said 'we're targeting this kind of age range', people really rose to that. It was great. The community met the need, for sure."

In regards to gifts for the kids, Naughton-Gale reported that books were a big draw for the parents of the recipient families.

"Books were huge this year, and we really encourage parents to take a book for their kids," said Naughton-Gale.

Thanks is given to all who supported Neepawa Community Services' programming.

# Gladstone-based bakery celebrates first anniversary

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Judi Parker (pictured), owner of the bakery known as "Follow the Crumbs" in Gladstone, celebrated the one year anniversary of her business recently.

Located in the former Gladstone Bakery & Eatery, Parker first opened the bakery's doors in January of 2025. While this was Parker's first full year with Follow the Crumbs as a storefront business, she has had experience baking for markets since 2022.

In the January 2025 interview, the bakery's opening it was proclaimed to truly be her "dream come true".



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# 'We want to be good community partners'

## Neepawa Community Services shares future ideas, grand opening plans

*Continued from  
Page 1*

"We do food bank services Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays, so one week [during the move] we didn't do food bank on Thursday, and pushed everybody to the beginning of that week, or the end of the other week," Naughton-Gale explained. "So we didn't do the food bank the following week on Tuesday and Wednesday. So there was maybe a little bit of a delay, but I don't think anybody really noticed. We met all the needs that we needed to."

### More choice

While the grocery shopping style of food bank services isn't new to Neepawa's Salvation Army or its clients, the expansion has allowed for improvements such as increased capacity, and a better layout. A portion of these changes is also credited to the new glass front cooler and glass front freezer the food bank features, allowing clients to see what's available without digging through a chest freezer.

"It's easier to see what we have, as opposed to the other space where we kind of jam packed as much in as we possibly could into a smaller space," said Naughton-Gale. "And we can stock it a lot better. Everything that we have on the shelf is what we have, and anything that is extra is on top or in our warehouse area. But there's a facing of every single thing so folks can really see what we do have, which gives a lot more choice."

Since the soft opening of Neepawa Community Services, Naughton-Gale shared that the early response has been wonderful, not just from clients, but also the broader public.

"They're so happy— it just feels comfortable, it feels welcoming... They're very impressed with how the food bank looks and the comments that we got out of the first time people see it, 'Oh my god it's like a store!'. So it really validated what we were looking for— a dignified space that was warm and welcoming, that clients feel safe and welcomed in," said



PHOTOS BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

Pictured left: A partial view of the Salvation Army's Neepawa Community Services reception area. The area typically includes an assortment of furniture. Those items were relocated to the space's multi-purpose area for a Chamber of Commerce event at the time of these photographs. Pictured right: This photo shows a portion of the new food bank services layout, which also includes a fridge and freezer. The food bank's statistics show an average of 62 households and 158 individuals aided per month.

Naughton-Gale.

The extra capacity in the warehouse has also aided in storing extra food.

"[For example], if we get in 13 cases of blueberries, and we know they aren't going to last, we now have the capacity to freeze those," said Naughton-Gale. "Our kitchen space, too, is another tool in our toolkit to do things for the food bank for sure."

### A community fixture

While the kitchen allows the Community Services team to process food supplies for use in the food bank, the team is aiming for more in addition to that. While the certification process isn't quite finished yet, it will become a certified community kitchen and able to be used as a community asset. These programming opportunities would be open to both clients and the community as a whole.

"I feel that was one of the key factors of what we were doing in this renovation and expansion. That community kitchen will allow us to do programming in-house," said Naughton-Gale. "We could do 'learn to cook' classes, or collective kitchens, 'lunch and learn's... all sorts of things, whether we put those on or partner with other community organizations to help facilitate that."

Naughton-Gale added, "This is a community space, so we want to be good community partners. Eventually, the kitchen will

be available for rent for businesses, for organizations, that sort of thing. For example, if you're doing a chili cook-off, or if you're selling things to the public and you need a certified kitchen, we can definitely avail."

The multipurpose space is also planned to act as a community fixture. Naughton-Gale noted that

it could be used for meetings, or for programming and pop-up resource opportunities for all members of the public.

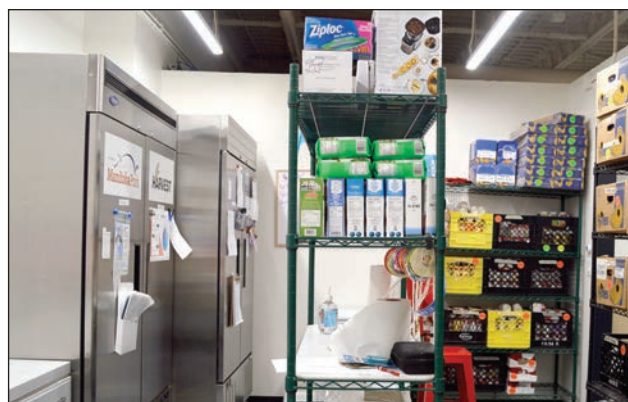
"For example, maybe the Women's Resource Centre would like to come in on a given day— similar to Services Canada, or EIA, and those types of agencies," said Naughton-Gale. "Maybe there's tax clinics

or financial literacy sessions. It's endless what can happen in our space. It is small, but sometimes that's all you're really targeting, is that eight to 12 people."

With the new space, Neepawa Community Services is also looking at incorporating a sponsorship program in order to increase its operating funds. The organization has set a goal of increasing their funding by raising approximately \$100,000 over the next five years through collaborations with individuals, local businesses and organizations.


"Any businesses who would like to pledge a commitment, talk to me and we can discuss how that looks," said Naughton-Gale. "And if anyone wants to see what we do and maybe get involved, please get in touch. All of our funding received stays local."

Currently, a grand opening is being planned for April, with all welcome to attend. An open house will be held that day, providing people with the opportunity to tour the facilities and become more personally acquainted with the organization's programming.



These photos show a portion of the space's new food bank warehouse and multi-purpose space.





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# A new home for Neepawa's Rock'n Animal House



PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Neepawa's local pet haven has a new place to call home, as Rock'n Animal House has relocated to 154 Main Street E. After a few weeks of renovations to the former Best Choice Auto building, Animal House opened to the public on Monday, Jan. 12. While the space inside is relatively equivalent to their former location, this new building does offer a more open concept in regard to the space for its main products. Its' proximity to the #16 Highway and access to parking are also reasons for the shift. Congrats to Rock'n Animal House.

## Worried about Virden water? Make the next right decision

By Anne Davison  
Virden Empire Advance

*Publisher's Note: The following is an opinion column by Anne Davison of the Virden Empire-Advance. Virden has faced some challenges with its water supply over the years and is investing in upgrades. We thought it might be of interest to our local readership. —KW*

While the Town of Virden grapples with arsenic level in the water at about 2.5 times drinking water standards, just how worried should town residents be about consuming the water?

Is it a testing issue, or a real health concern?

In the short term – a year or several – for most people the level of arsenic in Virden water is unlikely to be a health threat.

It's one among other sources of arsenic that most of us consume, unknowingly. Rice, cruciferous vegetables (broccoli and Brussel sprouts take up minerals more than most vegetables), dark meat (ex. salmon, tuna or sword fish) beer and wine are among those. Alcohol and arsenic can potentiate each other's toxic effects.

Virden will find a solution to reduce the arsenic. Perhaps mistakes have been made in the past, such as not getting in on the RM of Wallace municipal water service back 15 or so years

ago. Good old hindsight!

However, I believe that Virden will do the next right thing. Citizens can keep their eye on that and ask for information. Pay attention.

To provide perspective, inorganic (mineral) arsenic is naturally occurring and can be found across Canada and world-wide. In places, sparkling clear water actually carries up to 80 times the 'safe' level.

CBC did a story on Moreton's Harbour where one family's well test came back at 80 times the safe limit. They'd been drinking it for 15 years. It was a horrible discovery and although they didn't feel deathly ill, the mother of the family reported exhaustion that she couldn't pin down.

But that's not here. Virden's supply is about 2.5 times the limit. It's not really high. The medical/scientific prediction is that over a lifetime (70 years) of use this level of arsenic could be carcinogenic.

Virden's return to a former aquifer – their only immediate choice – now provides water that's been consumed here for decades.

Over 15 years ago, with an increased ability to test for arsenic down to 0.01ppm, Virden had

trouble removing the stubborn mineral to meet that standard.

Was the population noticeably more ill than other their neighbours? I don't know, but one Virden person told me that his mother, in her 90s at the time, drank the water all her life.

Well, there's a multitude of factors that affect an individual's health. Worry is one of them.

Pregnant mothers and families with infants are advised to use bottled water.

For those who want to set worry aside, there are water filters that can remove arsenic, along with other contaminants.

That would be me. I have used a special water filter system most of my life.

Canada.ca gives general health information: "Buy an in-home water treatment device that can reduce the level of arsenic."

It's an investment up front, but how many bottles and jugs of water would it save, not to mention trips to get the stuff?

Canadian information from B.C. [www.healthlink-bc.ca/](http://www.healthlink-bc.ca/) explains that treatments to remove arsenic include reverse osmosis filters, distillation and some specialized media filters.

Chlorination and mech-

anical filters do not remove arsenic from water. Water filter jugs you can pick up at the store will NOT remove arsenic. Research it.

iSpring (Amazon) makes

an under the sink reverse osmosis system that also re-mineralizes the water. This American product has NSF accreditation. (Re-mineralization is very

important.)

Certification assures that a device works as the manufacturer or distributor claims.

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## NACI Tigers wins thriller over Swan Valley



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

NACI Tigers goaltender Harley Smith-Bellisle prepares to stop a shot in the second period.

**By Eoin Devereux**  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The Neepawa Area Collegiate Institute (NACI) Tigers picked up a huge win over the weekend, besting the Swan Valley Tigers 3-2. The victory should be a huge confidence builder for Neepawa, as Swan Valley had come into the game with a near perfect regular season record (17-1-0-1).

As for the action itself, Neepawa opened the scoring near the midway mark of the opening period, as Luke Nicholson scored his 10th of the year. Zach Plett assisted on the effort. This goal came off of a power-play.

Swan Valley answered back early in the second, but NACI retook the lead with another marker late in the period. It was Ian Foster scoring with just under four minutes left in the middle frame. Like the Tiger's first

goal, this one was picked up on a power-play. Nicholson was credited with an assist.

The game clinching goal came early in the third, when Nicholson benefited from an opportunity off a pass from Foster, to score his second of the evening. Swan Valley answered back with a goal less than a minute later, but couldn't track down the equalizer before the final buzzer, giving NACI (11-4-0-1) the 3-2 win. Harley Smith-Bellisle picked up the win in net for Neepawa, facing 44 shots on goal.

The next games for the Neepawa Tigers include a pair versus the Major Pratt Trojans (10-5-0-1) on Jan. 22 and 23. NACI will then face the Crocus Plains Plainsmen (3-13-2) at the Yellowhead Centre on Sunday, Jan. 25. Start time is set for 6:30 p.m.



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

## Farmers fall to league leaders

**By Joshua Jackson**  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The Neepawa Farmers were hoping to play spoiler on Saturday night as the undefeated Killarney Shamrocks came to town in Saturday night action in the Tiger Hills Hockey League (THHL).

So far, Killarney has a perfect 14-0 record in THHL action. The Shamrocks would get the lone goal in the first period, before Bret Levandoski would strike on the power play in the second period, assisted by Garrett Rempel and Kyle McDonald, to even the score. The Farmers would build a 2-1 lead after Rylan Bray would assist Connor Braun for a Neepawa lead. The Shamrocks would pot one half-way through the second to tie up the game.

Luck would be with Killarney after striking just three minutes apart in the third period. Neepawa would try to make a late comeback courtesy of Connor Braun, but would end up dropping the game against the league leaders 4-3.

Neepawa currently sits eighth out of 14 teams in the THHL standings with seven wins, seven losses, and one overtime loss for a total of 15 points.

The Farmers hit the road for a Jan. 21 game against Deloraine, and will face the Bombers in Minnedosa on Jan. 24. The next Neepawa Farmers home game takes place on Jan. 31, when the MacGregor Wild come to town.



Neepawa Farmers Kyle McDonald (top photo) and Ethan Winters (bottom photo), both make heads-up defensive plays against the Killarney Shamrocks on Jan. 17. The Farmers put up a valiant effort, but fell to the league leading Shamrocks 4-3. The Farmers next home game takes place on Jan. 31, when the MacGregor Wild come to town.

PHOTOS BY JOSHUA JACKSON



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MJHL Standings

| Western Division           | G  | W  | L  | OTL | SOL | Pts |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Virden Oil Capitals        | 33 | 21 | 10 | 2   | 0   | 44  |
| Dauphin Kings              | 38 | 21 | 16 | 1   | 0   | 43  |
| Neepawa Titans             | 38 | 21 | 16 | 0   | 1   | 43  |
| Waywayseecappo Wolverines  | 39 | 17 | 20 | 1   | 1   | 36  |
| Swan Valley Stampeders     | 34 | 8  | 22 | 3   | 1   | 20  |
| Northern Manitoba Blizzard | 33 | 6  | 23 | 2   | 2   | 16  |
| Eastern Division           | G  | W  | L  | OTL | SOL | Pts |
| Niverville Nighthawks      | 37 | 34 | 2  | 1   | 0   | 69  |
| Stienbach Pistons          | 36 | 27 | 8  | 1   | 0   | 55  |
| Portage Terriers           | 35 | 25 | 9  | 1   | 0   | 51  |
| Winkler Flyers             | 37 | 21 | 13 | 1   | 2   | 45  |
| Selkirk Steelers           | 38 | 18 | 18 | 2   | 0   | 38  |
| Winnipeg Blues             | 35 | 10 | 23 | 3   | 0   | 23  |
| Winnipeg Monarchs          | 38 | 7  | 31 | 0   | 0   | 14  |

Game results

**Friday, Jan. 17**  
**Nor Man 6-5 Neepawa**

**First Period**  
09:21 NMB K. Huang (9)  
ASST: D. Westmann (1)

**Second Period**  
00:34 NMB T. Sidor (7)  
ASST: I. Tomchuk (13), J. Fogle (17)  
03:07 NMB K. Huang (10) PP  
ASST: J. Fogle (18)  
05:22 NPA D. Andries (2) PP  
ASST: O. Durigan (17), L. Paquette (23)  
06:17 NMB L. Lorenz (5) SH  
ASST: I. Tomchak (14)  
09:22 NMB J. Whitrow (6)  
ASST: S. Quayle (2), O. Wilkinson (9)  
10:41 NPA R. Heaphy (2)  
ASST: A. McIntosh (7), T. Lewis (8)  
17:10 NMB L. Lorenz (6)  
ASST: D. Monias (9), J. Adlys (10)

**Third Period**  
07:12 NPA O. Durigan (3)  
ASST: J. Clark (17), C. Kasprick (20)  
19:00 NPA T. Lewis (9)  
ASST: J. Clark (18)  
19:54 NPA D. Andries (3)  
ASST: L. Paquette (24)

**Scoring** 1 2 3 Total PP  
NPA 0 2 3 5 1/7  
NMB 1 5 0 6 1/4

**Goaltender**  
NPA - Z. Burleigh - (L) 31/37 saves  
NMB - K. Kelln - (W) 31/36 saves  
Attendance: 312 - Roy Johnston Arena

MJHL Player Stats

| Leading scorers (MJHL)  | G  | A  | Pts |
|-------------------------|----|----|-----|
| 1. Hayden Wheddon (NIV) | 19 | 40 | 59  |
| 2. Adam Vigfusson (NIV) | 23 | 33 | 56  |
| 3. Nik Gudmundson (WKR) | 23 | 32 | 55  |
| 4. Rhett Platt (POR)    | 20 | 31 | 51  |
| 5. Merik Boles (NIV)    | 18 | 31 | 49  |

Club 55 Bowling Minnedosa

**Jan. 15, 2026: Ladies' High Single:** Carole LeBoutillier 218. **Ladies' High Triple:** Judy Gabler 501. **Men's High Single & Triple:** Russ Taylor 194 & 501. **Other Good Scores:** Laurie Kohinski 168; Darrell Gabler 155, 164; Caroline Harding 155, 164, 158; Vivian Oswald 160, 151; Chuck Morden 160, 162; Judy Gabler 180, 190; Eleanor Scott 158; Frank Porada 181; Russ Taylor 163; Carole LeBoutillier 161.

Sports

# Neepawa Titans making plans for their future in Minnedosa

By Eoin Devereux  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The Neepawa Titans are taking their annual Spring Camp on the road this year. The Junior 'A' Hockey Club has confirmed that its annual ID Development Camp will be held in Minnedosa at the Sunrise Credit Union Centre from Apr. 10 to 12.

Titans head coach and general manager Ken Pearson noted that the camp serves as a major recruiting and evaluation opportunity for the team. He added that the club expects a strong turnout of young players eager to showcase their skills.

"We're planning to host approximately 60-80 prospects at this year's camp," Pearson explained. "It's a

good number for us. It allows our staff to properly evaluate players on and off the ice, while still keeping the pace competitive and organized."

Moving the camp to Minnedosa marks a big change from previous years, as it has usually been held in the Yellowhead Centre in Neepawa. The shift is due to the potential of the ice being completely removed from the 53 year old facility by that time of the spring.

But Pearson views the new location as more than a simple change of scenery. "We're really excited about the opportunity to hold the camp in Minnedosa," he said. "It's a great hockey community with excellent facilities, and we think it's important for

our organization to continue building connections throughout the region. Bringing the camp to a new location also gives prospects a fresh environment, which can be a positive experience for everyone involved."

Pearson acknowledges that relocating an event of this size does require a little extra planning, but he believes the benefits outweigh any added work.

"Any time you move an event like this, there are always logistical details to work through. Travel, accommodations, scheduling, but nothing that we're not comfortable managing," he said. "On the positive side, it gives us a chance to grow our footprint, engage a new community and showcase

our program in a different setting. We believe it's a win for the prospects, the organization, and the hockey community in Minnedosa."

The three-day camp will include fitness testing, on-ice practices, scrimmages and information sessions introducing the young hopefuls to the expectations of Junior A hockey. Meanwhile, Titans staff will use the weekend to identify potential recruits for the upcoming season.

Pearson said the Titans organization is eager to see what this new group of hopefuls will bring to Minnedosa.

Details on registration and schedules are available on the team's website and social media.

# Neepawa Titans captain named an MJHL Star of the Week

By Joshua Jackson  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Neepawa's Titans captain and hometown product Cooper Kasprick has been named one of the MJHL Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Stars of the week.

Kasprick racked up six points, four goals, and two assists, to get him the honours.

Kasprick started his hot streak at home against the Swan Valley Stampeders. The captain would score two goals in the first period and got the go-ahead empty net goal to secure the hat-trick and 4-1 victory against the Stamps.

Kasprick and the Titans would voyage to Northern Manitoba for a pair of back-to-back games against the Northern Manitoba Blizzard, where he continued his point production. Kasprick would contribute an

assist in the 6-5 loss for the Titans, before adding a goal and an assist the next day in a 7-4 victory for the Titans.

So far this season, the captain is third in points among Titans players, registering 14 goals, 21 assists, for 35 points in 38 games for Neepawa.

The other stars for this week were Winkler Flyers forward Niklas Gudmundson (*Three goals and four assists in two games*) and Virden Oil Capitals goaltender Braxton Burdeny (*two wins with a 1.00 goals against average and 0.962 save percentage*)



PHOTO BY KALEE HAASBEEK USED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE MJHL  
Neepawa Titans forward and team captain Cooper Kasprick.

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## Neepawa Titans Junior "A" Hockey team

**vs. Waywayseecappo**  
January 23  
Yellowhead Centre - 7:30pm

**vs. Winnipeg Monarchs**  
January 30  
Yellowhead Centre - 7:30pm

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



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**Rose Labuik**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved mom Rose Labuik on January 11, 2026 at the young age of 103. A celebration of life is being planned for beginning of June, details to follow at a later date. We would like to thank the staff at Country Meadows Personal Care Home for the excellent care they provided. We love you mom and miss you. We are comforted by knowing you are with dad, your other family & friends, and in the loving arms of Jesus.



**Robert (Bob) Wilson**

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Robert (Bob) Wilson on Dec 11, 2025 at the age of 90 in the Carberry Personal Care Home.

Bob was born on July 3, 1935 in Neepawa, Manitoba to Arthur and Jennie (Evelyn) Wilson, the 3rd of 5 children.

He lived his early adult life working in the Community Pastures near Neepawa before moving to High River Alberta. While in Alberta, he guided hunting trips in the rugged Rocky Mountains at Spray Lakes near Canmore. As a skillful artisan he was able to express his talents as a saddle maker for Eamor's Custom Saddlery. He crafted numerous rodeo trophy saddles including the 'Stampede Saddle'. This saddle was in over 40 consecutive parades and won 39 first place ribbons in the Medicine Hat and Calgary stampede parades. This saddle is now on display at the Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre in Medicine Hat. In addition to his accolades, the late Prince Phillip rode one of his saddles while visiting the Douglas Lake Cattle Ranch in British Columbia. A horse was gifted to the Prince and it was said that the saddle accompanied it. He was a proud rodeo champion competing in bull riding, calf roping, barrel racing and also rode as an outrider in chuckwagon races at the Calgary Stampede.

In 1963 he moved back to Wellwood Manitoba and operated the family farm raising beef cattle, operating a dairy and growing grain. In 1964 he married Myrtle Byram and raised their family of three girls. As an entrepreneur he started R.W. Saddlery which he operated from the homestead. Bob also worked as a heavy duty mechanic and drove the school bus for the Beautiful Plains School Division. Bob was known for his love of conversation, he loved to tell and hear entertaining and funny stories. He always had a smile and engaged with anyone making friends wherever he went. He had a deep passion for music and possessed the unique talent to expertly play any instrument he picked up. He and his wife played music with the Carberry Rangers before forming his own band. They loved to play music as often as possible especially for dances and many other events held within the community. He also enjoyed competing in fiddle contests around the province. He could build or craft anything that his brilliant mind could think of from music instruments, tools, or parts to repair machinery. He loved helping neighbours and friends with any and all problems that they brought to him and no matter the level of difficulty he would find a solution.

He lived a full and enriched life, always interested in new adventures like woodworking, ornamental metal work, cross country skiing, painting pictures, square dancing, camping, fishing, and riding his motorcycle while sometimes pulling a canoe with a trailer that he had crafted. He broke horses to ride and drive; he enjoyed many years of trail riding with friends and family at the Spruce Woods Equestrian Park, the farm property, as well as different trails around the province.

Robert (Bob) Wilson is survived by Myrtle Wilson, his wife of 61 years, his daughters Cindy (Darryl) , Sherri (Mark) and Sheila (Jeremy), as well as 7 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. He also leaves behind his brother Donavon Wilson (Christel) and family as well as sister-in-law Geraldine Wilson and family.

Bob was predeceased by his Mother Jennie (Evelyn), his Father Arthur Wilson, sisters Winona Wilson, Joan McLean and brother Gerald Wilson.

Bob was a man of great courage who faced every challenge without fear. His motto was "Never a day goes by that you can't learn something new or improve something."

He will be deeply missed and will forever hold a special place in our hearts.

Service to be held at a later date.

**Obituary**

**Alexander (Alex) William Poroski**



On Saturday, January 17, 2026, Alexander (Alex) William Poroski, beloved husband and father, passed away at the age of 83 and 10 months. Alex was predeceased by his daughter Janis, parents Bill and Ann, parents in law Mac and Lillie Sadowski, and infant brother Terry. He is survived by his wife Frances

(Fran) and son Neil. Alex is also survived by brothers: Don (Eileen), Larry (Rose), Richard (Shirley). Sadowski in laws: Marlene (Mel Fischer), Joyce Rempel, Colin, Gail (Bill Clarke). He will be remembered by many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Alex grew up in Plumas MB and went on to Winnipeg to start his career, first at Winnipeg Transit and then Federated Co-op. On a blustery day in October, 1966, he married Fran, and so started their 59-year journey together. In 1971 he graduated from the University of Manitoba with a degree in Commerce (Honours). During that summer Alex and Fran had many adventures on their road trip to Mexico City and up the west coast of the United States. His career in computer system sales took us to Toronto, Winnipeg, Sherwood Park AB, and back to Winnipeg. In 2011 we made the circle complete and settled back in Plumas.

Alex enjoyed the outdoors, hunting in the Sandilands with Colin, camping with the family, gardening, and yard work. Respecting his wishes, there will be no service. He will be interred at Thompson in the Park Cemetery beside his daughter Janis. If friends so desire donations can be made to the St Amant Centre (Winnipeg), Manitoba Cancer Society, or a charity of your choice. Clarke's Funeral Home in care of arrangements.

**Mary Anne Popien**



Mary Anne Popien formerly of Neepawa, MB passed away peacefully with family at her side on January 10, 2026 at the Carberry Personal Care Home at the age of 95.

Mary was born on December 24, 1930 to Stephan and Annie Zayachkowski at Alvena, Saskatchewan. Mom attended school in Alvena until Grade 7 at which time between no rain, poor crops and the grasshoppers destroying what was left of the crops the family was forced to pack up all their belongings and move to Prud'homme. Mom graduated in 1950 completing her Grade 12. In attempts to secure a job mom applied to an ad in the newspaper which was asking graduated students to come and teach in Manitoba schools. Mom applied and was hired within a week. Mom taught at Empire School then was required to attend Normal School to obtain her teaching certificate which she did so successfully. She was then asked to return to teach at Empire School. Because the school was in need of equipment mom organized a dance to raise money for this. It was at this dance where mom met dad (Benn Popien) and they were married in January 1954. They had 5 children; Bernadette (Robbin), Frank (Lynn), Greg (Linda), Louise (John) and Denise. Mom enjoyed many hobbies which included sewing, cooking, baking, art/painting and travelling. Mom's painting achievements were a great source of pride to her. Traveling was important to her as it allowed her time with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren who lived in Alberta and B.C. The family close by had the advantage of seeing and being with Grandma on a regular basis and enjoying her cooking and baking with many family gatherings. Mom's faith was a source of strength for her and she never missed any special celebration of faith with the grandchildren or great grandchildren nor did mom miss an opportunity to tell her family how important God and faith was!

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to the staff at the Carberry Personal Care Home, Sneath-Strlichuk Funeral Services and St. Augustine's Church.

The funeral service will be held at St. Augustine's Church, Brandon, MB on Friday January 16, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Lunch and fellowship to follow and interment at the Neepawa Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Augustine's Church.

**Personal**

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**Notice**

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

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

**Engagement**

**Brad & Laurel Lough**  
of Plumas, MB

and  
**Diane Cramer**  
of Shoal Lake, MB  
are excited to announce the upcoming wedding of

**Camille Lough  
& Blake Cramer**

A summer wedding is planned.



**Notice**

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**Notice**

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

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**Thank You**

The family of the late Alice Peech would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone for the love and support during our time of grief. Thank you for the cards, flowers, food and donations to Country Meadows PCH. We will miss our mother everyday for the rest of our lives. Thank you Brian James at Whites Funeral Home for your guidance and ongoing support. We would like to acknowledge Father Jay Korban for officiating such a beautiful send off for our blessed Mom. Thank you to all the Legion ladies auxiliary for providing such a wonderful lunch.



The family of Robert (Bob) Wilson wish to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to all those who sent food, plants, cards, text messages, phone calls, visited and planted a tree in his memory. Thank you to the nurses, healthcare aids, handi-van drivers and auxiliary staff at the Carberry Health Centre and Personal Care Home for care provided during his 4 1/2 years. Thank you to everyone who visited Bob during his stay in the care home, and special thank you to NP Sherie Wray for attending to his medical needs. Thank you to White's Funeral Home for their compassion and guidance during a difficult time. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is appreciated and will not be forgotten.

**Obituary**

**Georgeen Smith**



On Friday January 9, 2026 our family said good bye to our mother and grandmother. Georgeen was a person who centered her whole life on celebrating her family and loving each one unconditionally.

Georgeen was a cherished mother and grandmother and will be deeply missed by Kyle (Sherry) and grandson Torrin, Myrna (Jamie) and grandchildren Lara and Callan, Roxanna (Tyler) and grandchildren Adriana and Cole. Georgeen leaves behind her close family: sister-in-law Angela Smith, nieces and nephews Ken (Holly), Keith, Marie (Bruce), Barb (Mark) and their children and grandchildren who she enjoyed so much. Georgeen was predeceased by her mother and father Ken and Ella Crew, her husband of 49 years Lawrence, her twin sister Doreen (John), her brother Frank, her sister-in-law Gail (Gordon), and her brother-in-law Rodney.

Georgeen and her twin sister Doreen were born in the Wattsview District of Birtle, Manitoba to Ken and Ella Crew on June 30, 1945. They were the younger sisters of brother Frank. The girls were a celebrated arrival, and they were quite the novelty amongst family and friends. Georgeen was raised as a member of the Birtle Baptist Church. Georgeen, Doreen, and cousins attended the Baptist Church Camp for many years and created fond memories. Her family was very active in the church and many of her childhood memories are of gathering with other families after church on Sundays and hosting church picnics at their farmyard outside of Birtle. It was here that Georgeen learned her baseball skills which often caught the grandchildren by surprise in later years.

Post high school, Georgeen moved to Brandon, Manitoba and boarded with friends while working at Foster Brothers Accounting as an Accounting Clerk. After working in Brandon for awhile, Georgeen longed to be closer to home and took a job at Shoal Lake Royal Bank as a Teller/ Clerk. Georgeen was later able to land a job at the Birtle Hospital as a Medical Records Receptionist. She enjoyed this job very much and made many good friends. It was during these years in Birtle that she met Lawrence. On October 18, 1975 Georgeen and Lawrence were married in the Baptist Church in Birtle, Manitoba, with her maid of honour Doreen at her side. It was a celebrated event for Ken and Ella as they were so excited to host a wedding for their daughter.

Georgeen and Lawrence moved to Foxwarren, Manitoba to the Smith Family Farm and this is where she resided and raised her three children for many years. While Georgeen was busy raising her kids, and volunteering to help with school functions, she also enjoyed membership in a few local groups. She was an active member of the Red Cross, the Local Emergency Measures Committee and the local branch of the Rebekahs. Lawrence and Georgeen

attended the Binscarth Christian Assembly for many years where they enjoyed singing and fellowship. Georgeen cultivated many friendships within the church that lasted a lifetime. Georgeen spent several years working in a couple of restaurants in the area and although it was hard work, she enjoyed the fun times with her co-workers.

In 2004 Lawrence and Georgeen decided to make the move to Neepawa to be closer to medical facilities and to be near to family. Grandma Georgeen loved her grandchildren and could be called upon at a minute's notice to sit and read stories, do puzzles and make endless piles of coloring papers. In later years she just chatted and visited with them and would ask many questions about their lives. Grandma Georgeen was always most interested in hearing everything the family had going on.

Georgeen had enjoyable years in Neepawa as a member of the Baptist Church where she volunteered as a baby minder for Mom's morning out. She enjoyed many years of ladies' groups, Sunday picnics, dinners with friends and many other social activities. Georgeen liked to Floor Shuffle and was a board member for the Seniors Group, a member of the Red Hat Club and simply enjoyed coffee and lunches with many special friends at the restaurants in Neepawa.

Georgeen was diagnosed with lupus in her early adult years. Not a lot was known about this disease at the time. She had years of very poor health as she struggled to navigate a health care system that was just learning about lupus and autoimmune diseases. In 2010, Georgeen was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease which quickly took hold of her and eventually took away her ability to function well at home. In 2018, Georgeen made the very difficult decision to move to a long-term care facility as it was becoming increasingly challenging to function without daily nursing care. Georgeen made new friends at her home at Country Meadows and Lawrence visited her faithfully every afternoon. They embraced their new way of life and made very dear friends with several other couples at the Care Home. The grandchildren adapted to life with Grandma and Grandpa living apart and enjoyed visiting them in each of their homes. Life at the care home was challenging and lonely for residents for several years during covid as rules ebbed and flowed. Georgeen became an expert at Facetime and watching videos of grandchildren's sports and other activities on her ipad.

Georgeen will be remembered by her family for her unfailing, loving interest in her grandchildren and her deep loyalty to her family and friends. Georgeen will be sadly missed at Country Meadows and our family would like to express their appreciation for the care and compassion that so many nurses, staff, and fellow residents have shown to her in her years there.

A Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at the Neepawa First Baptist Church.

*White's Funeral Home in care of arrangements.*

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The current starting wage is \$22.20/hour with incremental increases to \$23.55/hour based on tenure as per our Collective Agreement

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- Able to effectively communicate in English
- At least 18 years old to meet the minimum age requirement

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- 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!
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- 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

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For inquiries contact: Phone: 204.476.3393

HyLife has an accommodation process for employees with disabilities. If you require a specific accommodation during your employment because of a disability, please contact [Jobs@hylife.com](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.

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Industrial Butcher (NOC 94141)

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The current starting wage is \$17.45/hour with incremental increases to \$25.60/hour based on tenure as per our Collective Agreement

Quick Facts:

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

What we can offer you:

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

Your duties may include:

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

We are looking for people who are:

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

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

Ways to apply:

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

For inquiries contact: Phone: 204.476.3393

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

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

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



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Turn-Key Livestock Farm  
157.55 acres and renovated home.

- 60 acres tame grass, 60 acres ready to seed.
- corrals, calving area, 40' x 50' quonset, creek & yard.
- Move-in ready 2296 sq. ft. home, highway access, municipal water.

Call Ken & Joanne Oswald at 204-841-3720

Help Wanted



Best Western Plus Neepawa  
is currently accepting applications for  
Part-Time Front Desk, Housekeeping  
& Maintenance positions

Previous experience is an asset but not required.

If you are reliable, friendly, and a team player, we would love to hear from you.

Apply by email: [resumes@bwplusneepawa.ca](mailto:resumes@bwplusneepawa.ca)

Minnedosa Veterinary Services District Board  
is seeking

Construction Management Services

Overseeing the expansion and renovation of the current Minnedosa Vet Clinic, to be liaison between the contractors and the board for the duration of the project.

We require regular progress reporting and attendance at monthly board meetings.

Please include salary expectations in your application.

Send letters of interest to

Minnedosa Vet Board  
Box 2204, Minnedosa, MB  
[minnedosavetboard@gmail.com](mailto:minnedosavetboard@gmail.com)

Deadline is 5:00pm February 6, 2026

Senior Election Official (SEO)  
MUNICIPALITY OF WESTLAKE-GLADSTONE

Position Description:

Applications are being accepted for the position of Senior Election Official (SEO) for the Municipality of WestLake-Gladstone's 2026 General Municipal Election.

The SEO is responsible for the overall municipal election process and must be able to interpret and understand all aspects of legislation pertaining to the municipal election process and provide consistent advice to their election officials and to the public.

Duties will include:

- Appointing an assistant SEO and other election officials as required
- Establishing and maintaining the voters list
- Giving public notice of nominations
- Receiving and verifying the nominations
- Establishing and equipping the voting stations
- Giving public notice of elections
- Printing the ballots
- Overseeing all aspects of the election-on-election day and
- All other duties as established in The Municipal Councils and School Board Elections Act.

In the years when a general election is not required, the SEO will be responsible to update and maintain the voters list and to conduct a by-election, if required.

The successful applicant must have computer experience, effective communication, and interpersonal skills. Previous election experience would be considered an asset. Applicant must be willing to attend election training sessions.

The letter of interest from applicants will be accepted until 4 p.m. January 30th, 2026 or until a suitable candidate is chosen, and can be delivered or mailed to:

Municipality of WestLake-Gladstone  
Box 150 Gladstone, MB R0J 0T0  
Email: [cao@westlake-gladstone.ca](mailto:cao@westlake-gladstone.ca)

We appreciate your interest in the position, however, only those applicants considered for an interview will be contacted.

Thank you for  
reading the Neepawa  
Banner & Press



CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE  
TUESDAY NOON  
Cancellations and corrections  
only within business hours  
and corresponding deadlines.



# Erickson 4-H Club supports area initiatives



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERICKSON 4-H CLUB  
The Erickson 4-H Club made donations to two area initiatives last year.

Above: \$250 was presented from the club to Steve Langston for the Leda Lake Eco Park.  
Right: Club members presented Colleen Woychyshyn (vice president of The Little Valley Jamboree Committee) with \$750 from their member total Market Streer Project Sales.



## Notice

Public Utilities Board

Régie des services publics

NOTICE OF APPLICATION  
TOWN OF CARBERRY  
REVISED WASTEWATER RATES  
CARBERRY WASTEWATER UTILITY

January 9, 2026

The Town of Carberry (Town) has applied to the Public Utilities Board (Board) for revised wastewater rates for Carberry Utility (Utility) as set out in By-law No. 20/2025, read the first time on October 28, 2025. Rates were last revised in 2021 in Board Order No. 87/21.

The current and proposed rates are as follows:

|                                    | By-Law 9/2021 | By-Law 20/2025 |
|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Annual Wastewater Rates (per unit) | \$148.53      | \$155.21       |

By-Law 20/2025 also proposes to add the following Type and Unit allocated, and the addition of clauses (a) to (c):

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Abattoir                     | 2.0 |
| Drive-In Restaurant          | 1.0 |
| Commercial Multiple          |     |
| - First commercial           | 1.0 |
| - Each additional commercial | 0.5 |

(a) That any residence with more than one suite shall use apartment rate.  
(b) Any use in conjunction with another use with a rate specification shall be subject to the total of both rates: i.e. Laundromats and Commercials, Garage and Cafés, etc.  
(c) Duplexes shall be deemed as two single-family dwellings.

Details of the Town's application are available for review at the Town's office or the Public Utilities Board's office. Any questions concerning the application for revised rates, or the operation of the Utility, should be sent directly to the Town.

If you have concerns/comments regarding the Town of Carberry's application for wastewater rates, please go to [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca) and provide your comment. *Please note all comments will be forwarded to the Town*

Questions or comments should be sent on or before **February 23, 2026**.

The Public Utilities Board is the provincial regulatory agency that reviews and approves rates for water and wastewater utilities in Manitoba, with the exception of the City of Winnipeg. The Board's review process involves:

- the Utility filing a rate application to the Board,
- a public notification of proposed rate changes,
- the Board's review of the application through a public hearing or paper review process, and
- the issuance of an Order which outlines the Board's decision on the rate application and the rates to be charged.

The Manitoba Ombudsman has privacy guidelines for administrative tribunals. The Board is mindful of its obligations under those guidelines. Its decisions in respect of the application being considered will be sensitive to the guidelines. Personal information will not be disclosed unless it is appropriate and necessary to do so. However, the Board advises participants that these proceedings are public and that as a result, personal information protections are reduced.

The Board will then decide whether any further notice is required and whether to proceed with a public hearing or paper review process. All concerns received by the Board will be considered in the Board's decision on rates to be charged.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IN CONSIDERING THIS APPLICATION, THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD MAY OR MAY NOT FIND IT NECESSARY TO DETERMINE RATES DIFFERENT FROM THOSE APPLIED FOR BY THE APPLICANT.

Note: All proceedings will be conducted in accordance with the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure, which the Board may vary in order to constrain regulatory costs. The Rules are available at [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca).

Jennifer Dubois, CPA, CMA, CTAJ  
Associate Secretary  
Manitoba Public Utilities Board  
JD/dc

# Award winning country music comes to Neepawa

## Submitted KALEIDOSCOPE CONCERTS

An amazing country music duo, The Abrams, will bring their high-energy show to the Kaleidoscope Concert series on Friday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m at Arts Forward.

Lead by brothers James and John, The Abrams are known for their explosive live show and impeccable musicianship, honed over two decades of playing to audiences around the world. Performing together since John was 11 and James was 9, The Abrams have performed for enthralled audiences on four continents, both as headliners and opening shows for artists including John Hammond, Feist, Dean Brody, The Dixie Chicks, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and Luke Combs. They were winners of the 2022 Award for Duo/Group of the Year at the CMA Ontario Awards.



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
The Abrams will appear at ArtsForward in Neepawa on Friday, Jan. 30.

The Abrams are the fourth generation in a line of songwriters, performers and recording artists who instilled in them the ability to tell stories that speak to the hearts of their fans. They are as authentic as it gets. There is nothing to hide here - no smoke and mirrors - just good honest music.

Be sure to get your tickets early for this fantastic evening of music. Advance tickets are \$25 for adults, available at Arts Forward or online at Eventbrite. If the event is not sold out, tickets will be \$30 at the door. Tickets for students under 18 are \$5 at the door. Beverages will be available for purchase. This event is made possible thanks to the Beautiful Plains Community Foundation's 30 Days of Giving event, and the Manitoba Arts Council.

## Notice

MUNICIPALITY OF  
GLENELLA-LANSDOWNE  
PUBLIC NOTICE

Ratepayers of the Municipality of Glenella – Lansdowne are hereby advised that the following RATES OF DISCOUNTS will be allowed on payment of 2026 taxes:

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| January.....5%  | June.....PAR      |
| February.....4% | July.....PAR      |
| March.....3%    | August.....PAR    |
| April.....2%    | September.....PAR |
| May.....1%      | October.....PAR   |

The amount will be calculated based on your previous year's tax amount.

The 2026 Tax Bills will not be mailed until June 2026.

Any balances owing will be due October 31, 2026.

Wendy Wutzke, B.Sc., CMMA  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Municipality of Glenella-Lansdowne

## Land For Rent

**Farmland for rent by tender in the rural municipality of McCreary, MB for the 2026 and 2027 crop years**

SE quarter 8-21-15 Approx 150 acres cultivated  
SW quarter 8-21-15 Approx 160 acres cultivated  
NE quarter 8-21-15 Approx 140 acres cultivated  
NW quarter 9-21-15 Approx 147 acres cultivated  
NE quarter 9-21-15 Approx 160 acres cultivated  
NW quarter 5-21-15 Approx 160 acres cultivated  
SW quarter 32-21-15 Approx 150 acres cultivated

Tenders can be based on one quarter, any combination of quarters or the entire package. Tenders should be in dollars per acre and rent will be due in full on March 1st of each crop year. For any questions call 648-6021.

Please submit written tenders to Pete Butterfield, Box 381, McCreary, MB. R0J 1B0

Closing date for tenders is Feb. 1, 2026. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

## For Rent

Elks Manor is looking to update its waiting list for 1 BR Manitoba Housing and Life Lease Suites.

Heat, water and lights are included in the rent and free laundry facilities on each floor. Outdoor parking available with plug in for the winter. Meals can be ordered from the Yellowhead Manor and are delivered to the building. The building offers a large Multi-purpose room for social gatherings with a full kitchen, pool table, shuffle board, piano and exercise equipment for tenants to use. The building is a smoke free building. All suites have balconies and mail is delivered to the building.

**Call Jeff at 204-476-2112 or email [nem@wcgwave.ca](mailto:nem@wcgwave.ca)**

**CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE  
TUESDAY NOON**  
Cancellations and corrections only within business hours and corresponding deadlines.

PUBLIC NOTICE  
of Municipal Pesticide use Permit

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Municipality of McCreary intends to conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2026:

- To control noxious weeds on road allowances, sidewalks and boulevards within the municipality. The projected dates of application will be from May 1, 2026 to November 30, 2026. The Herbicides to be used include:

|                |                   |         |
|----------------|-------------------|---------|
| Overdrive      | Navius Flex       | Hasten  |
| Banvel VM      | Garlon XRT        | Gateway |
| 2.4D amine 600 | RT 540 Glyphosate |         |

- To control rodents on Municipal owned property and at the McCreary Waste Disposal Site, being NE 3-21-15W and SE 3-21-15W in the Municipality of McCreary at various times during the year using Diphacinone or other chemicals as used by the Contractor as appointed by the Municipality of McCreary.

The public may send written submissions or objections within 15 days of the publication of this notice to the department below:

Environment and Climate  
Environmental Approvals Branch  
14 Fultz Boulevard (Box 35), Winnipeg, MB. R3Y 0L6



# Planning underway for Neepawa & Area Sports Dinner

By Eoin Devereux  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

While the action on the ice is getting exciting for the Neepawa Titans, there is also an upcoming event off of the ice that's creating its' own anticipation. The Junior 'A' Hockey Club has announced the date for its' annual Sports Dinner (Friday, Feb. 20).

While the Sports Dinner is an opportunity to recognize the local contributors to Neepawa's sports and recreational community, it is also important to the team's long term success.

The evening assists with the club's financials, through ticket sales, sponsorships, and the sale of a wide array of auction items and prizes.

Neepawa Titans board chair Jamie Denbow told the Banner & Press that while previous years have featured guest speakers, the 2026 edition will feature live musical entertainment with the Killer Keys.

"The theme [of the Sports Dinner] is always an entertaining night celebrating sports and key contributors for sports within our community. Sometimes it's past players or sports celebrities,

sometimes it's motivational speakers. We felt the community needed something really fun this year and went with The Killer Keys. For those who haven't been to a duelling pianos event, it's an absolute riot. Come and check it out," said Denbow.

The Sports Dinner also features the presentation of the annual Anne Kuharski Memorial Sportsperson of the Year Award. This honour, named after Kuharski, a well respected local, who was the former director of operations for the Yellowhead Centre. The prize is given each year to a local

individual who has contributed to the betterment of the community through sport and volunteerism. Anyone wishing to nominate a recipient for 2026 can contact the Titans organization. Previous winners of the Sportsperson award include:

2024 - Tara McCarty  
2023 - Grant Hurell\*  
2023 - Troy Brister  
2022 - Landon Cameron  
2021 - No recipient  
2020 - No recipient  
2019 - Scott & Candice Newton  
2018 - Darren Roe  
2017 - Amanda LeBoutillier  
2016 - Rodney White  
2015 - Derek Pearson  
2014 - Dave Clark  
2013 - Keith Jordan  
2012 - Mary Ellen Clark

\* - The award presented in Nov. 2023 was the inaugural Anne Kuharski Memorial Sportsperson of the Year Award

## A closer look at Community Services



PHOTO BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

Members of the Neepawa and District Chamber of Commerce got up close and personal with the new Neepawa Community Services space - an extension of the Neepawa Community Ministries Centre (Salvation Army). The occasion was a "Business After Hours" event, which allowed members to tour the space, network, and learn more about what the organization does.

Shown: Chamber members taking their first look at the brand new food bank layout.

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manitoba.ca/central/Assets/res/leases\_and\_permits/properties.html. The online auction will take place from February 23 - February 27, 2026, hosted by Garton's Auction Service: https://garton-auction.com. For additional information, please contact your nearest Manitoba Agriculture (MA) Agricultural Crown Lands District Office (or via email at agcrownlands@gov.mb.ca) or call Real Estate Services Branch at 1-866-210-9589. A listing of MA Agricultural Crown Lands District Offices can be found online at: https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/land-management/crown-land/agricultural-crown-lands-district-offices.html

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# Carberry recognizes role in WWII air training with plaque unveiling



PHOTO BY RRAIN PRIOR

A ceremony took place late December in Carberry, where members of the community and local dignitaries unveiled a commemorative plaque on the McCain Foods grounds.

**By Joshua Jackson**  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The Town of Carberry has recognized the historical significance of a World War II flight training centre with the unveiling of a plaque at its former site.

The No. 33 Service Flying Training School was constructed in Carberry between 1940 and 1941. The facility served as a training centre for pilots during the Commonwealth Air Training Plan of World War II. The Carberry training centre began as part of the Royal Air Force, organized at Winslow, England, in November 1940.

The centre was a part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP), in which Canada agreed to provide facilities and training for airmen from every part of the Commonwealth. There was a great need for Can-

adian pilots. In 1939, the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) had only 4,000 personnel, fewer than a dozen airports of its own, and training facilities for only 400 ground crew per year.

The school was open until the final training class graduated in November 1944. The facility was gradually closed, then used as a storage park for military vehicles. Following the war, the site of the training school would be taken over by a community development corporation, which sold it in May 1961 to J. R. Simplot Company for the establishment of a potato-processing plant. McCain Foods, the current owner of the property, acquired the plant from Midwest Food Products Inc. in 2004.

The training centre consisted of administrative, instructional, and dormitory buildings, and several large aircraft hangars, alongside

six paved runways, which were supplemented by two relief fields.

At the school's peak, it boasted over 100 Harvard and Anson training aircraft, over 200 students, with a support staff of 95 officers, 984 other ranks, and 65 civilians.

According to Veterans Canada, the BCATP was an outstanding success. During the war, 72,835 graduates joined the Royal Canadian Air Force, and the program as a whole graduated 131,533 pilots, observers, flight engineers, and other aircrew for the air forces of Canada, Britain, Australia, and New Zealand.

A ceremony took place late December in Carberry, where members of the communities and local dignitaries unveiled a commemorative plaque on the McCain Foods grounds.

# Gladstone U11 Lakers win Jarvis Memorial



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The U11 Gladstone Lakers, the Gold Medal winners are seen here holding a picture of the late Blaine Jarvis and their Gold banner after the Blaine Jarvis Memorial Tournament. Back row L to R: Coach Eyvi Hanneson, DJ Meloney Middle row: Carter Rossnagel, Braxton Speiss, Noah Redekopp, Oliver Geisel, Wilder Friesen Front Row L to R: Aspen Emerson, Teagan Emerson, Astyn Reiner, Ryker Jarvis, Markus Hanneson. Goalie: Jace Martens. Missing from the photo: Carter Chandler.

**Banner Staff**  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The Blaine Jarvis Memorial Tournament was scheduled for Jan. 16 and 17 at the Norma Moore Gladstone Memorial Arena. While Saturday was sunny but very cold, windy weather and blowing snow overnight turned against the event. Stacey Hanneson (U11 Gladstone Lakers Manager/tournament coordinator) said "Unfortunately, the semifinals and finals

that were scheduled to take place on Sunday (day two of the tournament) had to be cancelled due to the weather and safety concerns. What we ended up doing was taking the game sheets from Day one and working out the points (for and against) to figure out who our top three teams were, so we can send the winning teams their banners! The Tournament winners were Gold Gladstone Lakers, Silver-Russell Rams, Bronze-Glenboro Panthers.

## The Workers Compensation Act Legislative Review

We want to hear from you.

In 2026, the Workers Compensation Act will be reviewed. Take part in shaping how the system meets the needs of Manitoba's evolving workforce and economy.

Share your input by March 31, 2026.

Visit [wcbactreview.com](http://wcbactreview.com) to learn more.

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