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Inside this week

 Page 2: A beautiful day for Beautiful Plains CF

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By Eoin Devereux
 Neepawa Banner & Press

For Kyra and Hanna Kaspick, this year's Rally for a Reason was about a lot more than just a fun day of volleyball, it was about honouring loved ones and supporting those affected by cancer.

The second annual Rally for a Reason Fundraiser was held on Saturday, May 30 at Neepawa Area Collegiate Institute (NACI) and Neepawa Middle School (NMS). The event was organized by the Kaspick sisters and brought together eight teams for a co-ed adult volleyball tournament. But the day was about a lot more than just serves and spikes, as all the money raised was in support of CancerCare Manitoba.

By the end of Saturday's event, just over \$4,522 had been raised, with all the money to be donated to the CancerCare Neepawa Branch.

Kyra Kaspick explained to the Banner & Press that the decision to support CancerCare was deeply personal one for herself and Hanna.

"This year, we chose to donate the funds to CancerCare, because cancer has affected many individuals within our community. Sadly, Hanna and I personally lost our great-grandfather and great-grandmother to cancer this year. We felt this donation and event truly honoured their strength and the incredible resilience of others who have faced loss or battled cancer themselves," said Kaspick.

Continued on Page 14

Rally for a Reason serves up support

Volleyball tournament raises funds in fight against cancer



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

In total, eight different adult Co-op teams took part in the Rally for a Reason Volleyball Tournament and Fundraiser. The day featured fun, but still competitive games at the NACI and NMS gymnasiums on Saturday, May 30.

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Beautiful Plains Community Foundation annual grants report

\$282,498 donated toward local/area projects and scholarships

By Casper Wehrhahn
Neepawa Banner & Press

The Beautiful Plains Community Foundation (BPCF) held its annual Donor Appreciation and Grant Luncheon on Monday, June 1. The event was hosted at the Neepawa Legion this year, with all donors and 2026 grant recipients welcome to attend.

This year marks 31 years of local giving for the BPCF, contributing millions to local projects within their service area. In addition to Neepawa, the BPCF also supports the Rural Municipality of Rosedale, Rural Municipality of Glenella-Lansdowne, the Langford portion of the Rural Municipality of North Cypress-Langford, and the town of Brookdale.

This year, the BPCF announced a grand total of \$282,498. That number is made up by \$118,550 from the Designated Fund Grants, \$20,143 from scholarships, \$22,263 from the Thomas Sill MB Fund



PHOTO BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

Beautiful Plains Community Foundation grant recipients pictured alongside representatives from the Beautiful Plains Community Foundation at its annual Donor Appreciation and Grant Luncheon on June 1.

Grants, \$15,460 from the Donor Advised and Flow Through Grants, and \$103,725 from the Community Fund Grants.

2026 multiple recipients

The following recipients received multiple grants this year:

- **ArtsForward:** \$730, Designated Fund; \$10,000, Thomas Sill Fund; and \$2,500, Community Fund.
- **Country Meadows Personal Care Home:** \$10,926, Designated Fund;

\$255, Designated Fund (specifically for the courtyard); and \$200, NACI Youth Advisory Committee Grant.

- **Neepawa Health Centre:** \$15,566, Designated Fund (specifically related to the cancer care sector); \$70,000, Designated Fund, and \$305, Designated Fund.
- **Neepawa Minor Ball:** \$680, Designated Fund; and \$100, NACI Youth Advisory Committee Grant.
- **Neepawa Area Collegiate Institute Band:**

\$1,360, Designated Fund; \$5,000, Community Fund Grant; and \$2,360, Harvey Kuharski Grant (Donor Advised and Flow Through).

- **Neepawa Farmers Baseball/Softball Facility:** \$360, Designated Fund; and \$1,500, Community Fund Grant.
- **Neepawa Library:** \$550, Designated Fund; and \$100, NACI Youth Advisory Committee Grant.
- **Beautiful Plains Ag Society:** \$495, Designated Fund; and \$4,725, Community Fund.

• **Touchwood Park Association:** \$1,900, Designated Fund; and \$200, NACI Youth Advisory Committee Grant.

- **Neepawa and Area Community Choir:** \$1,500, Two Small Coins Grant (Donor Advised and Flow Through).
- **Beautiful Plains Community Theatre:** \$1,600, Two Small Coins Grant (Donor Advised and Flow Through); \$6,300, Community Fund Grant.
- **Neepawa Salvation Army:** \$5,000, Gaynor

Vivian Flow Through Grant, specifically for the food bank; \$100, NACI Youth Advisory Committee; and \$2,500, Community Fund Grant.

- **Yellowhead Centre:** \$300, NACI Youth Advisory Committee Grants; and \$14,000, Community Fund.
- **Beautiful Plains Museum:** \$100, NACI Youth Advisory Committee Grant; and \$1,500, Community Fund Grant.

Continued on Page 7



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1976: Construction begins on Summer Games pool

By Casper Wehrhahn
Neepawa Banner & Press

**125 years ago,
Tuesday,
June 4, 1901**

Bear Creek: George Brooks, who worked for more than a year in Union settlement, and who removed to Bear Creek last fall, was found lying on his face dead, on Wednesday night last. An inquest was held but no cause can be assigned for the sad occurrence. Mr. Brooks was a young man in the prime of life, and his sudden death comes as a shock to those who were acquainted with him. He was much liked by all who knew him. The remains were interred in the Gladstone cemetery on Friday last.

The Carberry turf club has decided to make the free-for-all pacing purse \$500 so as to induce all the fast horses to go there on June 20 and 21.

The past year was a hard one for Manitoba farmers and all other interests dependent on Agriculture. But the bank shareholders of Eastern Canada have nothing to complain of. Nearly two million dollars was distributed in dividends amongst them on June 1.

**100 years ago,
Friday,
June 4, 1926**

McCreary: There has been quite a number of complaints concerning

cattle running at large in the village of McCreary, breaking trees and destroying gardens. Those having animals running out will take warning as they will be impounded. People do not like to try beautify their homes by planting trees, etc., and then have someone turn out their cows to destroy them. Kindly keep your cattle shut up and save trouble.

**75 years ago,
June 7,
Thursday, 1951**

Her Majesty Queen Mary's Carpet, that fabulous art treasure which the Manitoba people have looked forward to so eagerly to seeing will be on display at the Prince Edward Hotel in Brandon June 11, 12, and 13.

Arden: The 73rd anniversary of Salisbury Church was held on Sunday, June 3 at 3 p.m.

**50 years ago,
Thursday,
June 3, 1976**

The education of children with special needs was discussed extensively at the regular meeting of the Beautiful Plains School Division No. 21, held Tuesday, June 1.

Assistant Supt. Elmer Bartel presented the board with information regarding how the government proposes to satisfy the conditions set out in a recent amendment to the Public Schools Act, Bill 58.

The amendment's intent is to ensure that children with special needs—whether they're physically handicapped or have hearing or vision impairment—are given the maximum practicable opportunity to attend regular classes and be educated along with children who don't have handicaps. Rather than special schooling, they want to encourage the use of special aids services, so that children with special needs can continue to be educated in the regular class environment.

Two of the three municipalities surrounding Neepawa have turned down a proposal by town council for sharing costs of maintaining the volunteer fire department. Town council had earlier sent a letter to each municipality asking financial assistance in the amount of one mill on their assessments, plus the regular rates for fire calls.

Langford council has agreed to the proposal, but Rosedale and Lansdowne have rejected it.

Glenella: Word was received of the passing of one of our former residents, Rudy Ursel, of 7298 Barnet Road, North Burnaby, B.C., on May 29. At this time we extend sympathy to Mrs. Pauline Ursel and family.

**20 years ago,
Monday,
June 5, 2006**

Twenty years on the job as a Manitoba Conservation officer served as the inspiration for a new book, Manitoba Naturally: Scenic Secrets of Neepawa.

Author Bill Stilwell (now a Neepawa councillor) said the book, two years in the making, will take the reader to areas of the province tourists often overlook.

Recommended changes to Manitoba's labour laws—the first for the Manitoba labour code in 30 years—will give employees more benefits, especially those in the lower-paid service

sector. If passed, the changes will mean employers will no longer be able to deduct the costs of uniforms and other expenses from an employee's cheque.

The Neepawa Collegiate team of Dana Davies, Lindsay Marchant, Kristin McConnell, Jaella Nicholson and Chantelle Unger won one event at the Envirothon competition...

The Neepawa team received the award for Best in Soils.

The waiting game is still on. Neepawa is waiting word from the Canadian-Manitoba infrastructure program on their grant application to upgrade the water treatment plant. The next application deadline is June 15, 2006.

Neepawa CAO Sheila Mowatt said in an interview with The Banne, "We are reapplying in a three phase process. Phase I is for an upgrade to the Springhill Farms waste water treatment plant with some allowance for future expansion. Phase II is to accommodate Natural Valley Beef Plant. Phase III is for a rebuild of the Town of Neepawa domestic lagoon system."

When he entered Brandon University in the fall of 1966, Allistair Scott never intended to become a chemistry teacher. But he did, and this June he will retire after 37 years of teaching, 35 of which have been at William Morton Collegiate in Gladstone.

Dr. Eva Berman-Wong, of Gladstone, was honoured by fellow rural doctors with an award for long and meritorious medical service to the community.

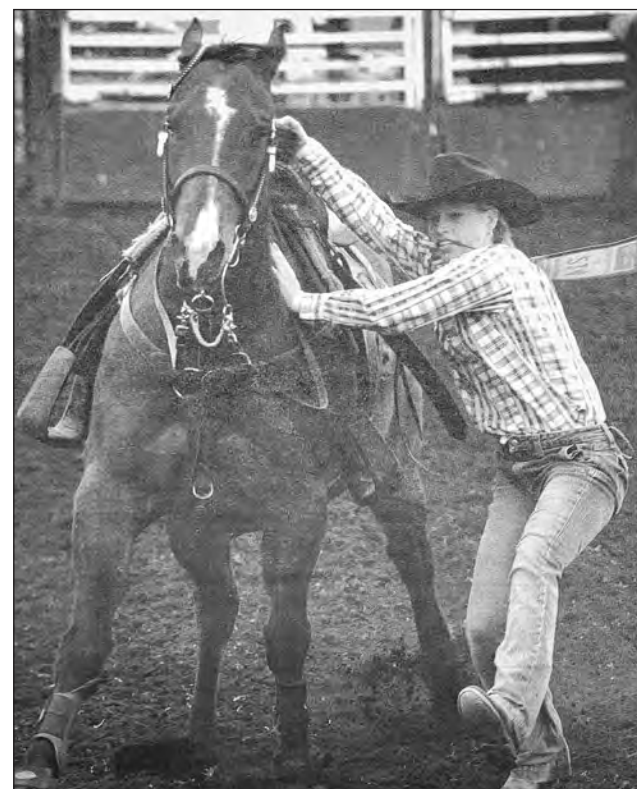
Disclaimer: The information gathered and used each week in the Looking Back feature is directly taken from the original print copy of the Neepawa Press and Neepawa Banner newspapers. Any errors or omissions from stories (Factually or otherwise) are the result of the original print and not the responsibility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



NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

Above: Work began in early June of 1976 for the construction of a pool for the Manitoba Summer Games, which were to be held in Neepawa. The pool was listed as being located on the west side of the ball diamonds at Riverbend Park.

Below: Kelsey Kulbacki, of Neepawa, photographed in 2006 while competing at the Onanole rodeo. She had just dismounted her horse and was enroute to tie a goat. The photo appeared in the June 5 Neepawa Banner that year, and was taken by Darrell Nesbitt.



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NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

This ad from Gulf Servico Centres for Neepawa and McCreary was in the June 3, 1976 edition of the Neepawa Press.

so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Hebrews 9:28 (New International Version)



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Highlights of the week

Coffee Chat- Filipino Heritage 2026
June 8 at 12:30 pm | June 9 at 10:30 am | June 10 at 8pm

NMS Spring Concert
Grade 6 Band
June 9 at 12pm | June 12 at 1:15 pm | June 13 at 2pm
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June 9 at 12:45 pm | June 12 at 2pm | June 13 at 3pm

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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



HOMEBOODIES

RITA FRIESEN

Last tag, you're it...

This past week I had the privilege of joining a granddaughter and her family for supper. Of course we ate out! And I could certainly recommend the Busy Bee in Boissevain. As we were quietly eating, my seven year old subtly touched my arm and said - tag, you're it. Never blinking an eye, I waited a moment and just as subtly touched her arm and said- last tag, you're it, fingers crossed! She knew then that I knew what game she was playing. However, her mother was really surprised. 'How do you know that? I thought that was something the kids made up on the playground!' and that's when I knew I had failed as a grandparent!

One of my very favourite aunts, Aunt Tillie, always played last tag. From early in my childhood, she would wait until we were in the car, ask to have the window rolled down for a last good-bye, and then lean in and say those words — last tag, you're it, fingers crossed'. She played that with us, on us, until she was mobile only with a wheel chair.

For those of you unfamiliar with the game, you cannot be tagged back as long as you have your fingers crossed. That's your immunity! So one watches carefully for a moment when you can catch the other player. With me eating sweet potato fries and a tasty burger, it did not take my great grand to catch me back. And the game was on! Side note— you can not pry another's fingers uncrossed! Good fun, even in a public space. And I played an Aunt Tillie, as we were all leaving, and she was getting in their vehicle, I tapped her arm and last tagged her, for a final time. Making me a winner!

This pleasant interaction gave me food for thought on the two hour drive home. I drifted between the games I played, and with whom I played them. In the early school years we played anti, anti, I over, over the horse barn at the back of the school yard -and I am so old that in winter the van was hauled by horses that needed to be stabled indoors for the day. We played red rover, red rover, I call (opponents name inserted here) over. The linked arms that were the winners ribbon needed to be broken by a faster than a speeding bullet runner, or the capture was complete and you had been conscripted on to their team. Dodge ball was often unkind! Some of my classmates not only had the strength of a farm kid but pretty darn good aim as well!

Somewhere along the way I learned how to play badminton. Not in an arena or gymnasium, but in the great outdoors where wind was certainly a factor, as were trees and eavestroughs! Played it with my sisters, with my grands, and even with my greatgrands. Hide and go seek in the dark was the best community gathering game! Perhaps there was more fun in hiding in the dark with a friend than in the being found.

Needless to say the miles and time slid by.

Attention Wab and Obby

This is an open letter to Premier Wab Kinew, Leader of the New Democratic Party of Manitoba and Obby Khan, Official Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba.

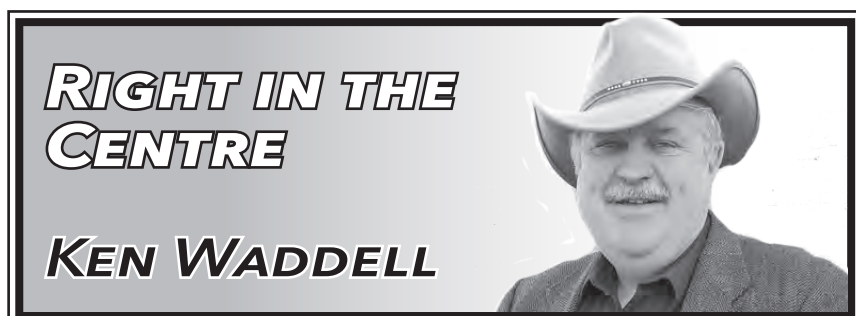
Gentlemen,
I would like to ask you to consider meeting with me, the two of you together in the same room at the same time.

Let me explain please.
I am 78 years old and have seen a lot of Manitoba politics. I don't mean to sound like I am bragging and I by no means intend to imply that I am smarter than either of you. But, I do have 30 years more experience than either of you. I have two sons that are ten years older than you two men are. So, with that in mind, please hear me out.

I have known every Manitoba premier since Douglas Campbell. I have known some of them very well. I have observed Manitoba politics very closely and you may remember, but you can certainly be excused if you don't, that I tried to get elected a couple of times as an MLA and MP. I even ran for the leadership of PC Manitoba back in 2006. I have been in the newspaper business, albeit not continuously since 1968, but continuously since 1989 and have seen and heard a lot. Now I know all that and \$3 will buy you a cup of coffee but my age, experience and observations I think may be helpful to you both.

I offer these observations and ideas for the good of you both and for Manitoba.

As I indicated, I have closely observed and followed Manitoba politics since the the mid 1950s. I remember the building of the Floodway, the Portage Diversion, BiPole III, the



RIGHT IN THE CENTRE

KEN WADDELL

“ You are both falling very short in terms of your behaviour in The House ”

introduction of Autopac and numerous leadership conventions for both the NDP and PC parties.

I have witnessed many legislative sessions, some in person, some by way of TV and other news media coverage. The debates have been intense and prolonged. I have been to several committee meetings as a witness and an observer.

Here's the deal. You gentlemen are young, fairly photogenic, fairly good communicators and are gaining some strengths in terms of policy.

However, you are both falling very short in terms of your behaviour in The House. You are both descending into the darkpit of cheap shots, insults, half truths and general nastiness. It's not the way things should be. Pouring out and drawing out nastiness is not doing either of you any good, not helping our legislature or the people of Manitoba.

I know I may sound pretentious but I do want to meet with both of you and at the same time. You need to both shape up and as an experienced journalist, former mayor, a father, grandfather and great grandfather, I feel it's time you two men had a fireside chat with an older person who has seen a lot of life's experiences, some of which you have not had.

I await your reply and would be happy to travel to Winnipeg to meet with you both.

For the good of Manitoba, I am yours sincerely,
Ken Waddell,
Publisher and Owner

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

Letters to the editor

Town-owned Yellowhead 'the last thing we want'

It's unfortunate Ken that you don't seem to be able to accept that the community is updating and maintaining the recreation facilities in Neepawa. As recently as last week, May 22 edition, you again were critical of the town for not maintaining the Yellowhead Centre in pristine condition. Maybe parts of it have reached the end of their useful life span. You have said in past the recreation facilities should be owned by the Town of Neepawa. Bluntly that is the last thing we want. As you should be aware since you were the Mayor each facility is owned by a stand alone non shareholder corporation with a board of directors elected or appointed by the members which hires the appropriate staff and sets membership fees. The corporate structure allows them to be classified as charitable organizations for any financial donations they receive. This is important to facilitate any major capital projects. The Town has provided funding in varying amounts each

year and facilitated the Airport Farming project for probably close to 30 years which I suspect has generated more than a million dollars for the operation of the Yellowhead and the Curling Rink. The surrounding municipalities have also provided varying amounts of funding for the recreation facilities.

There is an active committee looking at the replacement for the Yellowhead Complex. Their first report to the public was presented and suggestions given for the location and design of the complex. I realize you did not like their proposal and a presented three page alternate proposal in your paper which I hope and believe will go nowhere. The committee had significant due diligence to do, and I believe they are proceeding and when they have completed their work I would expect they will report back to the community. I'm sure you won't approve of it but that's okay as the community will move ahead despite your criticisms which at times appear to

only be done to fill space in your paper.

Your paper is probably useful for the community but could probably better serve the community if you took a positive attitude and constructive evaluation of community developments instead of your current attitude of destructive criticisms of any community developments.

**Weldon Newton
Neepawa, MB**

Editor's Note: I am really pleased to receive Weldon Newton's letter as he has worked long and hard for his community.

I used to believe that the Yellowhead Centre shouldn't be town owned, but many facilities in Manitoba are owned by their respective town or RM. I didn't come to my conclusion about town ownership on my own but from input from many local people who feel that is the way to go. And contrary to what's suggested in Mr. Newton's letter, tax deductible charitable donations can indeed be receipted by the town to a designated faculty, be it a rink, a hall, or a firehall. KW

HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

Afternoon ACW

This week's recipes come from the Anglican afternoon A.C.W. It has no date anywhere in it. It has to be after 1974 as the Economy Department Store Ltd ad has 1974 as its incorporation date. Advertisers were businesses such as Clark's Bakery; Dentist, DR. D. G. Dawson; Pic-a-pop owned by Bill and Betty Heal; Hoaths Grocery where they were pleased to serve you; Streeter Power Sale and Service; Peter McCaffery Realty and we were to thank heaven for the 7 Eleven Store.

From the Neepawa Land of Plenty history Book," No history of Saint James would be complete without a mention of its internationally famous sign that reads," Drive carefully, you may hit an Anglican." This was erected in 1954 after a reckless motorist ran over the previous sign. The humorous twist in the situation is the work of Reverend John Patrick."

Foxy franks -Mrs. Jean Birch

1 cup apricot preserves	1 Tbsp. salad oil
1/2 cup tomato sauce	1 tsp. salt
1/3 cup vinegar	1/4 tsp. ginger
2 Tbsp. soya sauce	1 lb. frankfurters
2 Tbsp. honey	

In a skillet combine the first 8 ingredients. Cut franks in one inch pieces and add to the sauce. Cover and simmer for 15 to 20 minutes.

Potluck scalloped potatoes -Mrs. K. Huband

1 can cubed luncheon meat, or cubed ham, beef, pork or chicken	4 cups sliced potatoes or more or less according to the size of the family
1 tin celery soup	1 cup breadcrumbs
1/2 cup chopped onion	2 Tbsp. melted butter
2 Tbsp. diced green and red pepper	

Heat oven to 350°F. Mix together meat, onion, soup, and peppers. Layer potatoes alternately with soup mixture. Bake 1 1/2 hours; remove lid and sprinkle over breadcrumbs that have been tossed with butter. Bake 15 minutes longer with lid off. Try other cream soups to make different tasting casseroles.

Cheese souffle -Vi Davidson

4 tsp. butter	1 cup grated cheese
4 tsp. flour	1 tsp. salt
1 cup milk	4 eggs

Separate eggs. Melt the butter and blend in the flour, gradually add milk. Stir until mixture thickens. Combine with grated cheese and salt. Beat egg whites until they stand in peaks. Beat egg yolks well and add to the cheese mixture. Carefully fold into beaten egg whites. Turn into a well-buttered casserole and bake at 350°F 45 minutes.

Brides' pastry -Olive Wiseman

1/2 lb. shortening or lard	1 tsp. salt
1/4 cup margarine	1/2 cup cold water
3 cups flour	

Have shortening and margarine at room temperature: cream together thoroughly. Add flour and salt; mix well together. Add cold water. Dough will be a little sticky. Refrigerate a few minutes before using. May be kept in refrigerator or in freezer until required. This recipe never fails.

Peppermint cake -Marion Lockhart

Part 1:	1/2 cup flour	Part 3:
2 eggs beaten	1/2 cup walnuts	2 squares semi-sweet chocolate
1/2 cup margarine melted		1 Tbsp. margarine
1 cup sugar	Part 2:	
2 squares unsweetened chocolate	2 Tbsp. margarine	
1/2 tsp. peppermint flavoring	1 Tbsp. cream	
	1 cup icing sugar	
	1/2 tsp. peppermint	

Bake part 1 for 25-30 minutes at 350°F; cool. Combine part 2. Spread this on part 1. And let set. Combine part 3 and spread on top of cake.

Pineapple brownies -Mrs. A.C. Benson

1/2 cup soft shortening	1 tsp. vanilla	1/2 tsp. baking soda
1 cup white sugar	1 cup flour	1/2 tsp. salt
2 eggs, well beaten	1/2 cup cocoa	3/4 cup chopped walnuts
1 cup crushed pineapple	1/2 tsp. baking powder	

Mix shortening, sugar and eggs; blend well. Add pineapple and vanilla. Mix cocoa, baking powder, soda and salt well with the flour. Add to the other ingredients. Add the nuts. Bake in a 9X9 inch pan about 30 minutes at 375°F. Ice with pineapple icing: 1 1/2 cup icing sugar, 3 Tbsp. soft butter and enough pineapple juice to make easy to spread.

Thumbs up, thumbs down

Thumbs up to P. Baker Backhoe, Neepawa Tire, Jason Sumner, Mark Pollock, and Kelly Evans for helping our crew get the Neepawa Airport Farming Project seeded this past week. We wouldn't have been able to get it done without these people lending their time and trucks to get the crop planted!

**Justin Pollock
Neepawa, MB**



Also, a thumbs up to Parkview Colony and the Glenella Fire Department for the quick response last week when one of our agronomy trucks caught on fire. The Glenella community is in great hands with fire departments like that on the job!

**Justin Pollock
Neepawa, MB**



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

We want to hear from you!

In person: 243 Hamilton St. Neepawa
By email: news@neepawabanner.com

A warm reception for the annual Rotary Book Sale



PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX

The Rotary Club of Neepawa hosted their annual Spring Book Sale last week showcasing thousands of books on display at the Neepawa Junior Rifle Club building. The Spring Sale is the Rotary Club's most anticipated fundraiser, as it brings in money for projects that are often based in Neepawa, but also benefit the entire Beautiful Plains Region. The exact amount raised is still being reviewed, but will be announced in an upcoming edition of the Neepawa Banner & Press.

Hundreds sign up to oppose wind farm development



IMAGE CAPTURE COURTESY OF NACTV

Groups of people showed up at the Neepawa Rifle Range building to show support for a grassroots letter campaign against a proposed wind turbine farm project in the R.M. of Rosedale.

By Eoin Devereux
Neepawa Banner & Press

Area residents are putting pen to paper in growing numbers to fight a proposed wind turbine project north of Neepawa. A pair of protest signing events were recently held in Neepawa and Bethany, in opposition to the Fleury Winds development.

Fleury Winds is a \$500 million development being proposed for land throughout the Polonia region. If approved, it would include between 28 and 36 wind turbines. While about 40 area landowners have signed option-to-lease agreements with the developers, a number of other residents are pushing back and looking to stop the project entirely.


Those residents, along with a collection of supporters from across the Beautiful Plains region, attended the signing events. Organizers prepared information packages and formal letters for attendees to sign as a way to formally record their opposition to the proposal. In the near future, copies of the letters will be delivered to officials in the R.M. of Rosedale, as well as the Provincial Government.

Trevor Bennett, one of the organizers, said the response has exceeded their expectations, with just over 100 letters gathered in Neepawa and a similar number collected during the Bethany event. Bennett added that people from across the region have continued to contact them days after the signing to express their support for the campaign.

Trevor Bennett, one of

the organizers, said the response has exceeded their expectations, with just over 100 letters gathered in Neepawa and a similar number collected during the Bethany event. Bennett added that people from across the region have continued to contact them days after the signing to express their support for the campaign.

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- Must provide and maintain a satisfactory internal security check and Criminal Record Check.

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- Journeyperson electrician license OR Instrumentation and Control Technician and equivalent controls experience.
- Extensive experience working with pneumatic/electric and DDC control systems including maintenance, commissioning, repair, installation and programming.
- Knowledge and experience of plant/building system operations and maintenance.
- Knowledge and understanding of current building codes and safety standards.
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills.
- Ability to work in a team environment.
- Experience providing onsite training to operating staff in proper operations and use of the DDC system.
- Excellent decision-making skills.

Please see the website at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/govjobs/> for a full listing of all qualifications and conditions of employment.

Duties:

Reporting to the Maintenance Manager or designate, the incumbent is responsible for the installation, repair and maintenance of pneumatic/electric and Direct Digital Controls for HVAC and refrigeration systems in Manitoba's buildings. The incumbent is responsible for remote and on-site monitoring and programming of building DDC systems for facility system performance, energy savings and troubleshooting. Incumbent will also be responsible for on-site training to operating staff in proper readings and adjustment of controls.

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Your cover letter or resumé must clearly indicate how you meet the qualifications.

We thank all who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

Employment Equity is a factor in selection. Applicants are requested to indicate in their covering letter, resumé if they are from any of the following groups: women, Aboriginal people, visible minorities and persons with a disability.

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Any personal information provided including employment equity declarations will be used for employment and/or statistical purposes and is protected by The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Alternate formats available upon request

A 'really successful year' BPCF annual grants (cont.)

Neepawa Chamber shares early Fair weekend retrospective

By Casper Wehrhahn
Neepawa Banner & Press

While the final numbers are still being tabulated, the Neepawa and District Chamber of Commerce is feeling positive about the 2026 Chamber Fair.

"From being at the Fair, we felt it was really well attended—especially on Sunday with the beautiful weather. This year felt as busy, or slightly more, than previous years," said Chamber president Ally Potrebka. "Walking through the midway on Saturday and Sunday, I could feel the excitement and see the joy on so many kids' faces, which is an additional win!"

Potrebka added, "Every time I went in the barn to check on the pony rides or reptile show, there was always a big crowd waiting their turn; and the Food Truck picnic tables were always full of people enjoying their lunch or dinner."

Monetary results from the 2026 Fair will be ready and available to Chamber members during the organization's annual general meeting. In the meantime, Potrebka provided a comment sharing her personal take-away for this year.

"I feel that this year was really successful for Chamber in running a fundraiser that helps us support our members throughout the year, and to have an attraction that brings people from outside the community to Neepawa to see all the wonderful things we have to offer here," said Potrebka. "Every year we try something new, this year it being the Bingo, and we're always analyzing results and discussing ways to engage people with the Fair and the community."

Potrebka also provided insight on par-



PHOTOS BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

Pictured above: A young contestant tests their physical ability in a strength game as the game supervisor provides encouragement. The mallet is wound up for a mighty swing!

icipant feedback, stating, "Feedback this year has been really positive. I've had a few people mention that they enjoy that Neepawa has a midway come to town."

In her final comments, Ally Potrebka extended thanks on behalf of the Neepawa and District Chamber of Commerce to all who helped make the event a success, from volunteers to sponsors.

"Every bit of help means the world to the Chamber," Potrebka enthused. "We truly could not have the Fair without all the support we receive from the community."



Pictured: Testing their aim, these fairgoers took a chance at a water-gun game. In the end, their aim was true and did indeed win a prize!

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Continued from
Page 2

2026 single recipients

The following are the single grant recipients that were announced at the 2026 Beautiful Plains Community Foundation Donor Appreciation and Grant Luncheon. They have been arranged by the grant received:

•**Thomas Sill Fund: Rotary:** The New Wave Neepawa, \$8,000; Neepawa Immigration Settlement Services, \$4,263;

•**NACI Youth Advisory Committee Grant:** Neepawa Rotary Club, \$200; Neepawa Habitat for Humanity, \$300; Neepawa Minor Lacrosse, \$275; Breakfast Program, \$275; Neepawa Gymnastics, \$150; and Neepawa Hospital Chemo room, \$200,

•**Vivian Gaynor Flow Through Grant:** Kids Sport MB, \$5,000.

•**Community Fund Grants: KiTs (Kids in Trauma), \$1,500; Nee-**

pawa Golf & Country Club: \$28,000; Children's Rehab Foundation, \$500; Victoria Quilts Canada, \$1,000; NACI Life Skills Class, \$2,000; Choraliers: \$1,000; Kinsmen Senior Housing, \$1,500; Fil-Can of Neepawa, \$5,000; Neepawa Area Development Corporation, \$5,000; Neepawa & Area Disabled Persons Association, \$5,000; Neepawa Theatre Centre (Roxy), \$2,200; Harvest Sun Music Festival, \$1,000; and Neepawa Legion, \$10,000.

•**Designated Fund Grants:** Burrows Trail Art Council, \$710; Brookdale Cemetery: \$655; Belles, Beaux, and Builders 4-H, \$680; Neepawa Health Auxiliary, \$1,375; Neepawa Collegiate Alumni, \$985; and Riverside Cemetery, \$600.

Scholarship allocations

The following are the recipient schools for the scholarship funds that were presented:

•**Neepawa Area Collegiate Institute:** \$1,750, NACI Safe Grad Scholarship; \$3,080, The Whitmore Family Scholarship; \$450, Neepawa Kin Club Scholarship; \$305, Eden Community Scholarship; \$258, NACI YAC Scholarship; and \$1,325, Jeff McCannell Scholarship.

•**McCreary School:** \$1,720, Hutton Family Scholarship.

•**Glenella School:** \$1,230, NARTA Family Scholarship.

•**Neepawa Area Collegiate Institute and Carberry Collegiate Institute:** \$7,515, Mrs. A. K. and Joe Butcher Scholarship.

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History lessons with Helen: Women's rights

By Helen Drysdale
Neepawa Banner & Press

In Canada, according to the British North America Act (1867), the law did not recognize women as persons. As soon as a woman was married, everything she owned, including her clothing and any inheritance or wages she acquired, belonged to her husband. If widowed or separated, she had no "dower rights," no legal claim on any part of her husband's estate. The federal Election Act, indeed, decreed flatly that "no woman, idiot, lunatic, or criminal shall vote." The suffrage movement was started for social reform and fight for legal rights. The women believed that they needed to get the vote to be able to change the law. The fight for women's voting rights was especially organized on the Canadian Prairies, with Manitoba leading the way.

In 1906, farmers incorporated the United Grain Growers' Company Limited. It was the first farmer-owned and farmer-managed co-operative grain handling organization in western Canada. The United Grain Growers (UGG) recognized the value of the hard farm work the women shared with their husbands. In 1908 they began publishing the paper "The Grain Growers Guide". The Guide provided the farmers with information on crop farming, livestock raising, gardening and the newest agricultural techniques. The Guide began a women's page. Readers were encouraged to write in and tell their stories and boy did they ever!

The UGG took a position in favor of women's suffrage in 1911. They had editorials on suffrage, equal rights and dower laws. In 1912, women were admitted as associate members, and in 1914 the constitution was changed to recognize women as full members. Women wanted to be recognized for their value in the farm labour. They helped break the land, stook grain and could handle a team of horses. They milked the cows, turned the cream into butter and collected the eggs to sell. Writers



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES

A photo taken December 23, 1915, of the presentation of the final petition for women's suffrage by the Political Equality League. The four women pictured are Lillian Beynon Thomas, Winona Dixon, Dr. Mary Crawford and Amelia Burritt.

for many articles included noted figures such as Irene Parlby, who was a women's farm leader, activist and politician, Violet McClung who was editor of the women's section of the Western Producer and leader in farm co-operative movements and Nellie McClung, writer, reformer and journalist.

In 1912, the Women's Equality League was formed in Winnipeg. In other countries women were militant; attacking politicians, chaining themselves to fences, destroying and burning property. This turned many men against the cause. These Manitoba ladies decided early on to lead a peaceful campaign, lobbying and meeting with the politicians, having public debates and speeches. They attended gatherings and handed out pamphlets explaining what it meant for women and children to be under the power of men who could be unfair and brutal with no laws to protect them. Nellie McClung was a leader in the fight to

get the women's vote. One of the women's greatest obstacles in Manitoba for this group was Premier Roblin.

On Jan. 27, 1914, McClung and a delegation of ladies met with the Conservative Premier Rodmond Roblin who refused to give in to their demands. He made some rude comments about women. He was soon to regret those remarks. McClung memorized what Premier Roblin was saying and quickly one of the ladies wrote a satirical play called "The Women's Parliament". It was played for two nights in the Walker Theatre to sold out crowds. In the play women reversed roles with men. McClung

played the role of the premier speaking with a group of men who were wanting the right to vote. "Nice men don't want the vote" mimicking Premier Roblin from the day before. "It's hard enough to keep them at home now. Politics unsettle men and unsettled men means unsettled bills, broken furniture, broken vows, and divorce. There is no use giving men the vote." The play was a rousing success and played in many cities.

In 1915, Roblin was forced to resign due to

political scandals. The new premier, Tobias Norris, said he would allow the women to vote should he get in as Premier. However, when in office he changed his mind. He finally conceded that if the women got a petition signed by a number equivalent to 15 per cent of the vote cast at the polls during the preceding election he would allow the bill to go through. They needed 17,000 and they collected 43,834. In Winnipeg, Amelia Burritt aged ninety-three had 4,250 signatures on her petition. She got to

vote in 1920 and again in 1922, just two weeks shy of her 100th birthday. Jan. 29, 1916, Manitoba was the first province to give the vote to women. One by one the other provinces women won the right to vote and hold political office with Quebec being the last in 1940. Sadly, it would be a long road before Indigenous women (and men) received the right to vote. It was not until 1960 that Indigenous women and men were able to vote no matter where they live and without giving up their Indian status

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Big carp at Turtle River



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tracy Wehrhahn, of Neepawa, got quite the catch while on a fishing trip at Turtle River on May 29. The fish (pictured) was identified by Wehrhahn as a carp, and was said to have put up quite the fight! The large catch was not measured after being landed, and was given an initial estimate of being 28 inches long and weighing approximately 22 to 25 pounds.

However, he caught another large carp shortly after. This second carp was measured and came to 30.5 inches, shifting the estimate for the first carp. The new estimated length for the carp pictured here is now approximately 40 inches.

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Beautiful Plains Community Foundation Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ending December 31, 2025

2025 - 2026 Board of Directors

Sarah Fast: President ~ Diane Paterson: Vice-President ~ Craig Johnston: Treasurer ~ Dan Free ~ Colleen Taylor ~ Brenda Osmond ~ Jenna Lowry ~ Sue Farquhar ~ Ward Szucki ~ MaryAnn Marquez ~ Tammy Wilson

Message from the Beautiful Plains Community Foundation President

2025 was another successful year for the Beautiful Plains Community Foundation. With the continuation of several successful events, we were able to finish the year with our overall endowment fund portfolio exceeding \$6.1 Million, which marks a new record for the Foundation!

Our annual golf tournament was a resounding success! After a beautiful day on the course, the Foundation grew the community fund by \$11,700. As in previous years, the Foundation participated in The Giving Challenge, which raised \$31,895, a significant increase from 2024, when it raised \$19,819. We are so grateful to all who donated during this week. Your generosity will allow the Foundation to grant more funds to the Community in years to come. We held our Grant Luncheon in June where we announced grants totaling \$284,312. In 2025 we received a record-breaking number of 29 applications. We were so pleased to receive so many applications, and to be able to provide grants to organizations, events and projects throughout the Town of Neepawa, the RM of Rosedale, RM of Glenella-Lansdowne, and the Langford portion of the RM of North Cypress-Langford.

Throughout the year of 2025, we celebrated our 30th Anniversary. To celebrate this milestone, we granted an additional \$30,000 into the community. During this initiative, we had a biweekly draw and awarded organizations with various grant amounts ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. Congratulations to all the 30 organizations that received additional funding.

June brought the end of the term for Danny Guillas and Jeff Miner. We are so sad to see them go, but we are so grateful for all that they have contributed to the Foundation and to the community during their time as Board members. But, every departure brings the opportunity for new members to join the Board. Filling the vacancies were Sue Farquhar and Ward Szucki. It was a pleasure to welcome them to the Board and we look forward to their continued contributions.

The Foundation would not be where it is without the continued hard work and dedication of our Executive Director, Melissa Grindheim. She works so hard to keep us on track and her contributions are too many to name. Thank you sincerely, Melissa, for all that you do.

Looking ahead to 2026 we are looking forward to our Annual Golf Tournament which will take place on June 8th, and the Giving Challenge November 9-15.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, and the community as a whole, I would like to sincerely thank each and every one of you who have supported the Beautiful Plains Community Foundation over the past year. Your generosity is appreciated more than words could ever express. We are so grateful for you, and we look forward to being able to continue to have a positive impact on the communities we serve for many years to come.

~ Sarah Fast, President

Report of Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statement. To the Community Members of Beautiful Plains Community Foundation Inc.:

Opinion
The summary financial statement, which comprises the summary statement of financial position as at December 31, 2025, is derived from the audited financial statements of Beautiful Plains Community Foundation Inc. (the "Foundation") for the year ended December 31, 2025.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statement is a fair summary of the audited financial statements, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Summary Financial Statement
The summary financial statement does not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statement and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statement and the auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Financial Statement and our Report Thereon
We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated April 20, 2026.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statement
Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statement in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Auditor's Responsibility
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statement is a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards (CAS) 810, Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

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MNPP LLP
Brandon, MB April 20, 2026

Grants Awarded

Community Fund Grants

Beautiful Plains Archives ~ \$792
Birnie Community Club ~ \$3,000
Filipino Heritage Committee ~ \$5,000
Glenella Recreation Commission ~ \$5,000
Neepawa Habitat for Humanity ~ \$5,000
Huns Valley Heritage Event Committee ~ \$3,000
NACI Life Skills Class ~ \$5,497
NACTV ~ \$5,000
Neepawa & Area Cross Country Ski Club ~ \$4,000
Neepawa & District Centennial Project Committee ~ \$40,000
Neepawa & District Disabled Persons Association ~ \$20,000
Neepawa Immigration Settlement Services ~ \$3,000
Neepawa Middle School ~ \$5,824
Neepawa Newcomers Coat Room ~ \$3,000
Spruce Plains Justice Committee ~ \$1,000
Tangled Threads ~ \$500
Touchwood Park Association ~ \$1,596

NACI Youth Advisory Committee Grants

The New Wave Rotary Club ~ \$500
Neepawa Breakfast Club ~ \$500
Neepawa Habitat for Humanity ~ \$500
Yellowhead Centre Summer Day Program ~ \$500
Country Meadows Personal Care Home ~ \$500
Neepawa Figure Skating Club ~ \$500

Donor Advised Grants

Two Small Coins ~ Victoria Quilts ~ \$1,500
Two Small Coins ~ Neepawa Middle School ~ \$1,115
Harvey Kuharski Memorial ~ Victoria Quilts ~ \$500
Harvey Kuharski Memorial ~ Handi Van ~ \$1,830

Gaynor Vivian Flow Through Grants

Neepawa Breakfast Club ~ \$5,000
Neepawa Salvation Army Food Bank ~ \$5,000

Designated Fund Grants

Arts Stabilization - Burrows Trail Art Council ~ \$710
Arts Stabilization - Burrows Trail Art Council ~ \$695
Contact MB '95 - Burrows Trail Art Council ~ \$380
Touchwood Park Association ~ \$1,850
Neepawa Health Centre ~ \$68,720
Naomi Chapter - Neepawa Children's Ward ~ \$290
Diana Lynn Elliott Cancer Care Fund ~ \$15,236
Country Meadows Personal Care Home ~ \$10,594
Country Meadows Courtyard ~ \$255
Heritage - Margaret Laurence Home Committee ~ \$2,365
Beautiful Plains Museum ~ \$6,995
Riverside Cemetery ~ \$485
Brookside Cemetery ~ \$610
Neepawa Farmers Baseball/Softball Facility ~ \$340
IOOF & Rebekahs ~ \$2,674
Alan Lytle Memorial Fund ~ \$495
Neepawa Collegiate Alumni ~ \$965

Scholarships

NACI Safe Grad Scholarship ~ \$1,720
The Whitmore Family Scholarship ~ \$3,010
Neepawa KIN Club Scholarship ~ \$440
Mrs. A.K. Joe Butcher Scholarship ~ \$7,370
Eden Community Scholarship ~ \$290
Owen-Summer Scholarship ~ \$1,080
NACI YAC Scholarship ~ \$285
Roy Lewis Memorial Scholarship ~ \$860
Harvey Kuharski Memorial Scholarship ~ \$500
Jeff McCannell Scholarship ~ \$1,220
Hullton Family Scholarship ~ \$1,000
NARTA Scholarship ~ \$550

Thomas Sill Manitoba Fund Grants

Arts Forward ~ \$9,500
Neepawa Pickleball Association ~ \$10,000
Touchwood Park Association ~ \$3,404

Anniversary Grants

Neepawa KIN Club ~ \$750
Neepawa Wildlife Association ~ \$750
Franklin Memorial Hall Association ~ \$500
Prairie Mountain Snow Drifters ~ \$750
Neepawa United-Anglican Church ~ \$750
Neepawa Figure Skating Club ~ \$500
Filipino Association of Neepawa ~ \$500
Cats TNR Rescue ~ \$500
Neepawa Immigration Settlement Services ~ \$750
Beautiful Plains Archives ~ \$750
Beautiful Plains Agriculture Society ~ \$750
Kaleidoscope Concerts Inc. ~ \$500
Habitat for Humanity Neepawa ~ \$500
Victoria Quilts ~ \$500
The Rotary Club of Neepawa ~ \$500
Neepawa Titans Hockey Club ~ \$1,500
Neepawa Baseball/Softball Facility Association ~ \$500
Neepawa Golf & Country Club ~ \$500
Touchwood Park Association ~ \$1,000
Birnie Community Club ~ \$750
Neepawa Blue Dolphins Swim Club ~ \$500
Arts Forward ~ \$1,500
Polonia Community Club ~ \$1,000
Neepawa Salvation Army ~ \$750
Neepawa Minor Hockey ~ \$2,500
Neepawa Eats Healthy ~ \$750
Yellowhead Centre ~ \$500
Neepawa Lacrosse Association ~ \$1,000
Neepawa Kinsmen Senior Housing ~ \$3,000
Burrows Trail Art Council ~ \$5,000

\$314,312 In Grants Were Awarded in 2025

Thank You To All Our 2025 Donors

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Mike & Evelyn Pasosky Family Fund

NACI Safe Grad Committee
Neepawa Lionelles
New Hope Health Centre Ltd
Nina Birnie
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Norma Rainkie
Olga Duncan
Olive Olusfika
Poettcker Medical Corporation
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Additional thanks to all the donors that wished to stay anonymous



The Beautiful Plains Community Foundation Inc. is an affiliate of The Winnipeg Foundation and a member of Community Foundations of Canada



Neepawa Air Cadets honoured at Annual Ceremonial Review



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Members of the No 9 Royal Canadian Air Cadets Squadron held their Annual Ceremonial Review on Thursday, May 28.

By Eoin Devereux
Neepawa Banner & Press

A major milestone was celebrated on Thursday, May 28 at the No. 9 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron Annual Ceremonial Review. Held at the Western Aerial hangar in Neepawa, the squadron's 84th Annual Ceremonial Review recognized a year of hard work, discipline and dedication by the cadets.

The evening was presided over by Reviewing Officer Major Terrence (Terry) Henry, and featured around 19 cadets, dressed in their finest uniforms, participating in marching demonstrations in front of a large crowd of proud parents, relatives and friends.

In addition to the parade and inspections, cadets were recognized for their achievements through level qualifications, rank advancements and special awards.

Level Qualifications

Level One: Cadet Anthoneth Braza, Cadet Rangel Mariano, Cadet Kendra Mateo and Leading Air Cadet (LAC) Lenjo Uebersax.

Level Two: Corporal Arthur De Castro, Corporal Jeremiah Ferh, Corporal Gustav Kuehn and Cadet Achilles Reyes.

Level Three: Sergeant Sara-Lynn Boyd and Sergeant Rylan Sprik.

Level Four: Flight Sergeant (FSgt) Andrie Comila, Flight Sergeant

Leighton Fredbjornson, Flight Sergeant Aiden Sprik and Flight Sergeant Roan Warwaruk.

Awards of Excellence

•**Level One Excellence Award:** LAC Lenjo Uebersax.

•**Level Two Excellence Award:** Cpl Gustav Kuehn.

•**Level Three Excellence Award:** Sgt Sara-Lynn Boyd.

•**Level Four Excellence Award:** FSgt D. Andrie Comila.

•**Excellence in Fitness:**

LAC Lenjo Uebersax.

•**Distinguished Marksman Award:** LAC Lenjo Uebersax and FSgt Roan Warwaruk.

•**Excellence in Drill Leadership:** FSgt Roan Warwaruk.

•**Aviator Award:** FSgt D. Andrie Comila.

•**Royal Canadian Legion Cadet Medal of Excellence:** FSgt Andrie Comila.

The No. 9 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron is among the longest-serving air cadet squadrons in Canada, tracing its history back to 1941. For 85 years,

the squadron has provided local youth with opportunities to develop leadership skills, self-discipline, citizenship and aviation knowledge.

Neepawa's Lily Nook changing hands



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured: Joyce, Nigel, and Mimi.

Banner Staff
Neepawa Banner & Press

In an interview with the Neepawa Banner & Press and also posted on FB, Lily Nook owner Nigel Strohmman said, "We are delighted to announce that Misty Herman and Caleb LeMarquand have acquired The Lily Nook, and we look forward to collaborating with them over the next year to ensure a seamless transition."

LeMarquand said, "As of today, June 2, Misty and

I have officially acquired ownership of The Lily Nook!" the new owners are looking forward to serving the Lily Nook customers.

Strohmman said on behalf of himself, his wife Mimi and his mom Joyce, "We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to our valued customers for their loyalty and support over the past 31 years. A sincere thank you to everyone who has contributed to our success. We wish you continued prosperity and success in your lily growing endeavours."

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An opportunity four years in the making

NACI Tigers Softball team earn their place at Provincial Championship

By Eoin Devereux
Neepawa Banner & Press

The Neepawa Area Collegiate Institute (NACI) Tigers Softball Team has spent several years building toward this upcoming weekend, and that hard work has earned them a rightful place at Provincials.

Neepawa is one of 12 clubs that will compete June 5 and 6 at the G3 Provincial Softball Championship in Pilot Mound. The Tigers will open provincial play in a preliminary-round pool that includes Prairie Mountain School of Somerset and Collège Jeanne-Sauvé of Winnipeg.

NACI has been close on several occasions over the past few seasons, but have been knocked out during interzone qualifiers. But

this year, the Tigers' extremely dominant season has earned them an outright invite to the tourney, without having to go through a play-in bracket.

And looking at the numbers, it's easy to see why, as the Neepawa Tigers posted a perfect 5-0 record through the regular season and Zone 7 playoffs, outscoring their opponents 106-34 (a +72 run differential).

Coach Ryan McLaughlin credits the team's speed and aggressive style of play as being major strengths, that have led to those impressive results.

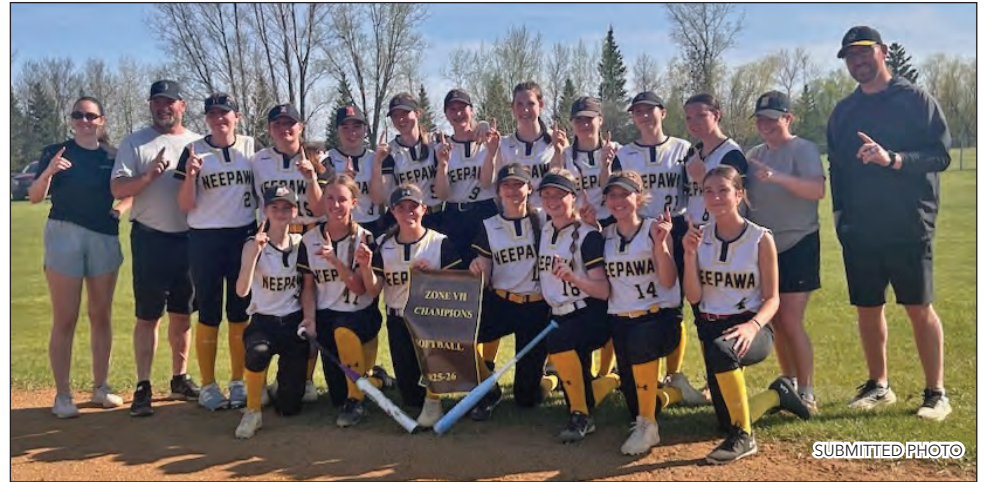
"We have a very fast team. Our speed is good, and that's something we'll look to use. We can put the bat on the ball," McLaughlin explained. "They've come a long ways and are

knowledgeable of the game. They're very instinctual now, their knowledge of the game has come 180 degrees."

McLaughlin added that this provincial berth represents the culmination of years of growth and perseverance, particularly for the team's senior players.

"Our goal this year was to make provincials. A few of our [graduating players] have been with us since Grade 9 and they've never had the opportunity to play in a provincial championship. It's exciting for them to finally get that chance," said McLaughlin.

The Tigers' senior class of Taylor Terin, Brooklyn Boersma, Emma Pollock and Ava Lukin have played a key role, helping to guide the program and setting



an example for younger players.

McLaughlin said those four have paid their dues and deserve this opportunity.

"Some of them started out sitting on the bench as Grade 9s. They've gone through the thick and thin of it, waited their turn, and now they get to finish their high school careers at provincials," McLaughlin said.

As for the expectations for

this weekend, McLaughlin noted that they are well aware that the level of competition they'll face is the best Manitoba has to offer. He said they are prepared and looking forward to facing that challenge.

"The nice part about this group is they care. When they make a mistake, they get upset because they want to do what's right for the team. Seeing all of that come together is what

we've been trying to build for years. No matter the outcome, this team has already achieved a significant milestone. Something they should be very proud of. For the group of seniors, the provincials offer the perfect chance to finish their high school softball careers with a memorable final chapter. For our returning players, it's something to build from for the upcoming seasons."

NACI Tigers ready to compete at MHSAA Baseball Provincials



By Eoin Devereux
Neepawa Banner & Press

The Neepawa Tigers are preparing to take on the province's best baseball clubs, at this weekend's Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association (MHSAA) Provincials.

This is the third consecutive year Neepawa has secured a spot in the Championship, having claimed the Zone 7 title. The team will be travelling to Winnipeg between June 4 to the 6 for the 12-team tournament, which will be hosted by Lord Selkirk Regional Secondary School.

The Tigers have been placed in Pool C, where they will face the Shaftesbury Titans of Winnipeg and the Pilot Mound Pilots in preliminary-round action.

NACI Coach Jordan Wickens said the team is eager for the opportunity to compete on the provincial stage once again.

"The boys are very excited about winning our zone and making it to provincials

for the third year in a row," said Wickens. "We are excited to go and compete against the best high school teams in the province and show what we are capable of doing."

In preparation for the tournament, Wickens noted that they've been focused on sharpening all aspects of their game, but particularly their play in the field.

"To get prepared for the weekend we have been doing live pitching and hitting, trying to get as many reps in as possible," Wickens explained. "We have also put a big focus on our defence as we are going to struggle at provincials if we are not defensively sound."

Wickens noted that limiting mistakes will be critical against the elite competition that'll be gathered at the championship tournament.

"The teams that we are going to face are far too good to give them extra outs in an inning," he explained. "[But] I am feeling confident in the team and that we are going to be able to compete with any team there."

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Cubs winning early and often

By Eoin Devereux
Neepawa Banner & Press

The Neepawa Cubs continue to accumulate some important wins early in the Santa Clara season, having recently earned another one against the Austin A's.

On Thursday, May 27, the Cubs picked up an 8-3 victory in Austin. The visiting Cubs were simply overpowering at the plate all night, collecting 10 hits. Brad Wilson went 3-for-4 with two runs scored and one RBI, for the Cubs, while Garrett Rempel also contributed with a double and two RBIs.

On the mound, Zac Plett delivered for Neepawa, allowing just one run on two hits over the course of six innings. Lincoln Murray came on to close out the game for the Cubs.

With the win, Neepawa improved to 3-0-1 on the year, while the A's fell to 0-4-0 on the season. These two teams had another



PHOTO BY JOEL ASSELSTINE

Neepawa's Taylor Fletcher (#96) makes contact with a pitch, during Neepawa's most recent home game, which had occurred May 19 versus Carberry. The Cubs' next scheduled home game is set for Friday, June 5 against the Plumas Pirates.

game scheduled for Friday, May 29 in Neepawa, but it was postponed, due to Austin being unable to field a full roster of players. A time for a makeup game

has yet to be scheduled.

The next game for the Neepawa Cubs was in Plumas on Wednesday, June 3, versus the Pirates. The final result from that

game were made final after the Banner & Press publication deadline, but will appear in our next edition.

Santa Clara Baseball League

	G	W	L	T	Win %	Games Back
Plumas Pirates	5	5	0	0	1.000	-
Neepawa Cubs	4	3	0	1	.875	1.0
Portage Padres	5	3	2	0	.600	2.0
Minnedosa Mavericks	5	2	3	0	.400	3.0
Carberry Royals	5	0	4	1	.125	4.5
Austin A's	4	0	4	0	.000	4.5

	AB	H	RBI	SB	HR	Avg
Riley McBride (Plumas)	15	9	7	6	0	.600
Chad Melnic (Portage)	15	8	6	0	2	.533
Rylan Denbow (Plumas)	15	7	7	1	2	.467
Carson Dubius (Portage)	15	7	7	0	0	.467
Devin Foord (Minnedosa)	15	7	2	1	0	.467

Minimum 15 at bats AB: At Bats. H: Hits. RBI: Runs Batted in. SB: Stolen Bases. HR: Home runs. Avg: Batting Average.

Do you have a sports story?
We'd love to hear about it!
Contact Eoin Devereux
at the Neepawa Banner & Press
1-204-476-3401
sports@neepawabanner.com

The Plumas Pirates remain perfect in 2026

By Austin Lewis
Freelance Writer

The Plumas Pirates remained undefeated early on in the Santa Clara Baseball League season, sitting at a perfect 5-0-0, as of Tuesday, June 3. The Pirates recent wins came against the Minnedosa Mavericks and Carberry Royals.

The Pirates started their season series against the Minnedosa Mavericks, with game one being on the Plumas Ballgrounds, and game two being on the Minnedosa Senior Diamond.

With Eric Sigurdson pitching to start the game, the Pirates started off slow and struggled throughout the first three innings and the top of fourth inning. The Mavericks used the Pirates' struggles to their advantage by scoring two RBI sac flies and a home run for a 4-2 lead.

However, in the second half of the game, Plumas came all the way back down by two to not only tie the

game, but win the game.

The Pirates took game one of their season series with a 6-4 comeback victory. Thanks to Carter Schettler scoring three RBI singles along with Rylan Denbow closing out the game with four strikeouts and a game-winning stolen base.

Game two of the season series was held in Minnedosa, and Plumas were looking to close it out with a win and the series sweep against the Mavericks. After a scoreless first two innings, an RBI double gave Minnedosa a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the third, up until Plumas got a lead of their own with Riley McBride and DJ Meloney scoring RBI singles to take a 2-1 lead at the top of the fourth inning. A failed double play by the Pirates, on an overthrown ball, handed the Mavericks the tying run and a 3-2 lead to Minnedosa.

After all those mistakes, Plumas was able to tie the game at three at the top

sixth inning. Rylan Denbow once again came up clutch by scoring the game winning two-run home run, which was the first of the season for the Plumas Pirates. They closed out the game with three more strikeouts, as the Pirates won a nail biter 6-5 on the road to complete the season sweep of the Minnedosa Mavericks. The Pirates improved to a 3-0 record on the season.

A series versus Carberry

The undefeated Pirates then have had their season series against the Carberry Royals both in the Plumas Ballgrounds, and the Carberry Diamonds. Game one was kicked off in the Plumas Ballgrounds with Rylan Denbow as the starting pitcher, and throughout the game he completely dominated on the pitchers mound by throwing a no-hitter game that included eight strikeouts. Offensively, The Plumas Pirates scored a run in every inning

except for the last two innings.

Riley McBride hit four RBI and three singles on two hits, DJ Meloney hit two RBI doubles on four hits, and drawn walks, mispitches, RBI singles scored by Connor Braun, Nathan Braun, Carter Schettler, Sam Koncz, and Rylan Denbow, and Riley Kleinsausser and Noah Koncz scored runs on sac flies as the Plumas Pirates decimated the Royals by a 15-0 shutout win in the Plumas Ballgrounds.

Game two of the season series was underway in the Carberry Diamonds, and the Plumas Pirates struck first in the top second inning by DJ Meloney's sac fly which handed Rylan Single the scoring run and Connor Braun's RBI single after a failed loaded base in the

first inning. Top of the third inning, with the Pirates up 3-0, The Plumas Pirates had themselves a 7-run inning to lead 10-0 after three innings. Rylan Denbow hit a lead-off homerun, DJ Meloney hit an RBI single down the midfield, Connor Braun hit an RBI double, and Rylan Denbow hit an RBI single which scored two more runs.

Although the Carberry Royals finally scored some runs in the bottom fifth and sixth inning, The Plumas Pirates stood tall and scored two more runs from Rylan Denbow's triple and Riley Kleinsausser's double deep to centerfield which handed Nolan Tonn the scoring run.

The Plumas Pirates improve to a 5-0 record as they took down the Carberry Royals 13-5 and have

closed out the season series. Rylan Denbow's homerun, three RBI's and his triple along with Connor Braun's three RBI game lead them to the victory. The Pirates next season series is against the Neepawa Cubs, who are also undefeated. Those two teams will go at each other starting on Wednesday June 3 at the Plumas Ballgrounds, and finish off on Friday June 5 in Neepawa.

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vs. Plumas Pirates

Friday, June 8
vs. Minnedosa Mavericks

Friday, June 19
vs. Portage Padres

Volleyball event inspires community to come together for an important cause



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

From left to right: The top three teams from the second annual Rally for a Reason Volleyball Tournament. 1st place - Serve and Protect; second place - Nothing but Net; and third place - Anything but Last Place.

Continued from Page 1

The Rally for a Reason event received support from a number of local businesses and organizations, including T.I.C Parts and Service, who matched tournament donations. As well, the NACIHOPE Group and HUB Neepawa Branch provided volunteer scorekeepers. Prize donations for the top teams were supplied by Neepawa Co-op and Boston Pizza Neepawa.

Another huge part of the day was a generous donation given from HUB International. Katie LeBoutillier, the Vice President of Operations Data & Analytics

(Prairie), for HUB International, said supporting community initiatives was a priority for the company.

“At HUB, community engagement is a core value. Bringing together local businesses, volunteers and residents to strengthen communities and support the causes that matter.”

As for the tournament results on the court, the team nicknamed ‘Serve and Protect’ captured first place, with ‘Nothing but Net’ earning second. The team ‘Anything but Last Place’ fortunately, lived up to its name, and finished in third.

In terms of what’s in store for the future, Kyra noted that herself and Hanna are hopeful they’ll be able to turn this into a local tradition for a worthy cause. She concluded by sharing that the event’s success, both now and in the future, is only made possible through some incredible community support.

“This fundraiser wouldn’t have been possible without the amazing teams that participated and showed their support. It was inspiring to see the community come together for such an important cause. Hanna and I are grateful to have such a supportive community.”

Neepawa Titans start off season roster shuffle

By Eoin Devereux
Neepawa Banner & Press

The Neepawa Titans are making moves this off-season, with the trade of one veteran and signing of two prospects. On June 1, the team confirmed the trade of 20-year-old forward Talen Lewis to the Kindersley Klippers of the SJHL, for a Player Development Fee. In two seasons with the Titans, Lewis has played a combined 88 regular season games, and contributed with 27 goals and 32 assists.

As well, Neepawa has announced commitments from defensemen Cole Richeson, of Minot. N.D. and forward Jaxon Kobe of

Edmonton, AB. Richeson is 18-year-old and played for the Minot High School hockey program. In 79 games, the blue liner has accumulated 53 points (20 goals - 33 assists)

As for Jaxon Kobe, the

17-year-old played last season in the Alberta Elite Hockey League U18, and had 20 points (10G-10A) in 37 regular season games.



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A Bible Quote NKJV Hebrew 4:13, And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

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

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Obituary



Robert "Bob" William Walker

Robert "Bob" William Walker, aged 86, passed away peacefully on May 15, 2026, at Third Crossings Manor in Gladstone, Manitoba. He was born on November 26, 1939, on his family's dairy farm in Tantramurray, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, the son of the late William James Walker and Fanny Walker.

At just 16 years old, Bob joined the Royal Air Force as an aircraft apprentice. His military career took him around the globe, with postings in Singapore, Norway, Oman, Yemen, Borneo, Laos, Kenya, the United States, and Canada. As an aircraft engine fitter, he rose to the rank of Sergeant before leaving the RAF. While stationed in Singapore, he met the love of his life, Elizabeth, and they were married in 1968.

In 1979, Bob moved to Canada with his family, settling in Neepawa, Manitoba. He worked as a mechanic at the local John Deere dealership and later operated the Turbo gas station for several years. Bob greatly enjoyed living and working in a rural farming community and could often be found driving the gravel roads, taking in the surrounding farmlands. He was intelligent and well known for his excellent mechanical skills, a talent that supported the farming community and anyone who needed a hand. He enjoyed the company of others and was often found at the local coffee shop visiting with friends. Bob was quick-witted and could always be relied upon to add thoughtful humour to any situation.

Bob was predeceased by his parents and his siblings Hazel, David, Martha, and Scott. Left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife Elizabeth; their sons Robert, William (Siobhan), and Andrew; his brother Ernie (May); as well as his grandchildren Teegan (Haley), Kiara (Garrett), Liam (Carly), Kelan; and great-grandchildren Sophia, Riley, and Tate.

In keeping with Bob's wishes, cremation has taken place. A private family service and interment will be held at a later date.

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- Ensuring all Quality Assurance checks are performed.
- Maintaining a safe, clean, and organized work area throughout the facility.
- Collaborating as a team to meet tight deadlines, ensuring production floors operate on time.

We are looking for people who are:

- Fit and capable of working in a physically demanding role. Capable of bending, lifting, and climbing.
- Available to work an 8-hour Night Shift from Monday-Friday, between 11:15 PM to 9:00 AM
- Capable of repetitive manual tasks and standing for long periods of time
- Capable of working in diverse environments, including exposure to varying temperatures, humidity, and odors
- Minimum of one (1) to seven (7) months experience in sanitation, or industrial cleaning, or heavy-duty cleaning
- Completion of Secondary school or equivalent experience
- Able to effectively communicate in English
- At least 18 years old to meet the minimum age requirement

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



Hog Receiving Barn Worker (NOC85100)

Why join our team?

HyLife is a global leader in food processing, with a vision to be the best food company in the world. To achieve this, we are currently expanding our team and have exciting career opportunities at 623 Main St. Neepawa, MB. We are actively seeking to fill 5 positions.

The current starting wage is \$20.75/hour with incremental increases to \$22.05/hour based on tenure

Quick Facts:

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

What we can offer you:

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

Your duties may involve:

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

To excel in this role, you should possess:

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

HyLife is dedicated to promoting equal employment opportunities for all job applicants, including those who identify as a member of the following groups: Indigenous people, Newcomers to Canada, Youth, 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
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Be a part of the HyLife experience – your journey starts here!

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



Industrial Butcher (NOC 94141)

Why join our team?

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

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

Quick Facts:

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

What we can offer you:

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

Your duties may include:

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

We are looking for people who are:

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

HyLife is dedicated to promoting equal employment opportunities for all job applicants, including those who identify as a member of the following groups: Indigenous people, Newcomers to Canada, Older workers, Veterans, Youth, 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 | In Person at 623 Main St. E, Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0

For inquiries contact: Phone: 204.476.3393

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

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



invites applications for the following position:

Custodian at Carberry Schools

Beautiful Plains School Division is accepting applications for a full-time Custodial position for Carberry Schools in Carberry MB. Duties include the cleaning and maintenance of buildings, equipment and grounds under the direction of the Principal and/or Maintenance Supervisor.

See Division website for more details on this position at www.beautifulplainssd.ca
 Click on Job Postings.

Digital Marketing Assistant

The Neepawa Titans are looking for a Digital Marketing Assistant to understand and connect with our customer, improving the relationship and increasing sales of gameday tickets, season passes, merchandise and sponsorship packages.

The successful candidate will support the marketing team by creating and executing campaigns, developing and delivering content through the website and social media platforms and supporting staff during key functions. Ideal candidates will have strong communication, organizational, and digital skills. Strong creativity, the ability to work independently or within a team and a strong passion to drive success are highly desired.

The position will require a commitment of 10-15 hrs/week during the hockey season running approximately Sept 1st to March 15 annually and offers extreme flexibility in working hours.

For inquiries or to express interest, please email neepawatitans.marketing@gmail.com



invites applications for the following positions:

Full-Time Term Educational Assistant

at R.J. Waugh School in Carberry

Part-time Permanent/Part-time Term Educational Assistant

at R.J. Waugh School in Carberry

Part-time Educational Assistant

at J.M. Young School in Eden

Full-Time Term Educational Assistant

at Neepawa Middle School

Part-time Term Educational Assistant

at Neepawa Middle School

Full-Time Term Secretary/Educational Assistant

at Hazel M Kellington School in Neepawa

See Division website for more details on these positions at www.beautifulplainssd.ca
 Click on Job Postings.



invites applications for the following position

Glenella School

School Nutrition Support Worker – Term

September 14, 2026 – June 24, 2027

- Approximately 4 hours daily (Monday - Thursday)
- Weekly order and receive food/supplies.
- Plan and prepare nutritious meals for students under the guidance of the school principal.
- Cook and prepare meals as planned.
- Distribute lunches to students 3 times a week
- Food Handling Certification is an asset.

Applications close at noon on Monday, June 15, 2026

For more information contact
 Lauren Frohwerk

Submit cover letter and resume to:
lfrohwerk@trsd.ca

Lauren Frohwerk, Principal
 Glenella School
 Phone: (204) 352-4253

Turtle River welcomes applications from people with disabilities. Accommodations may be available upon request. All applications are appreciated, only candidates who are selected for interviews will be contacted. Successful candidates must complete a Criminal Record/Vulnerable Sector and Child Abuse Registry check.

Think the Banner & Press only has local news? Think again!
 You can pick up the paper to get your weekly news, find a new recipe, look for jobs, go house hunting, even scout out upcoming events or sales in the area!

Smile Cookie Campaign supports Yellowhead Centre



IMAGE COURTESY OF YELLOWHEAD COMMUNITY REC CENTRE

The Yellowhead Centre has reason to smile, due to the generosity of the community and Neepawa Tim Hortons. Our local volunteer operated sports and entertainment facility was the recipient of this year's Smile Cookie Campaign. This annual charitable event sees 100 per cent of the proceeds from every specially decorated 'Smile Cookie' that is sold locally donated to local charity, non-profit or community group. The 2026 campaign was able to raise just over \$15,383 to assist with the upkeep of the 54-year-old facility. Pictured above: Representatives of the Neepawa Tim Hortons team present a commemorative cheque to Yellowhead Centre board members.

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the Association's Blanket Advertising Conditions on our website at www.mcna.com.

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A look through history: Telephone service in McCreary

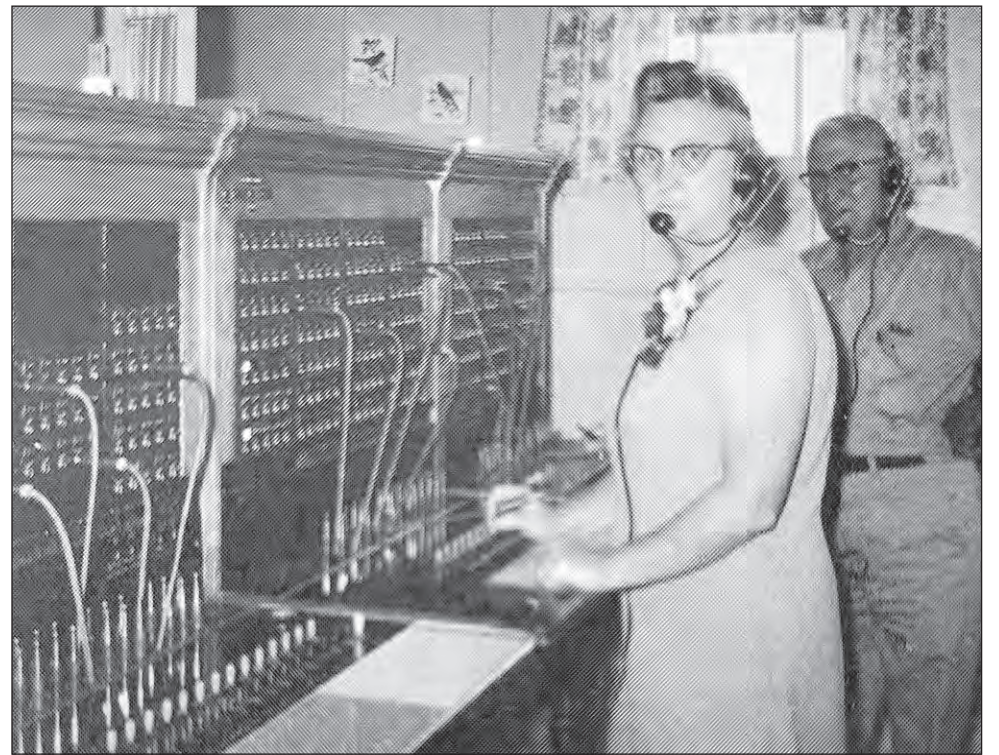


PHOTO FROM MCCREARY MILESTONES AND MEMORIES

Pictured: Operators Myrtle and Elmo Armstrong working at the switchboards within McCreary's last telephone office in August of 1972.

By Casper Wehrhahn
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Human ingenuity, inspiration and curiosity has brought many changes to the world. Through a variety of inventions, and the improvements made upon those instruments, we have arrived at the society that we know today. One such item was the invention of the telephone— or simply, 'phone'.

While it may not be thought about much today, this now commonly used technology was once thought to be a mere gimmick, and, as stated in an article by the Manitoba Historical Society, even believed by some to be a "hoax on the public".

The implementation of telephones and telephone systems was a major development in communities across the globe. Rural Manitoba was certainly no exception to this.

Today, the Neepawa Banner & Press takes a brief look at the history of telephone services in the McCreary District.

According to the 1987 book, 'McCreary Milestones and Memories', the McCreary District first gained access to telephone service approximately 120 years ago. It was at this time (1906) that Bell Telephone installed a one-foot wide switchboard— a manual device worked by an 'operator' to connect calls to their desired recipient.

The McCreary District switchboard was installed in a building known as the Sparks Block, which also contained the post office. The phone operations remained there until 1916, when the building was burned.

From there, the switchboard systems were housed for a brief time in the Busby Block, before moving to the Ennis home on First Avenue.

Operators from this era included individuals such as Rilla Ennis, Lenore Bourgouin, and Beatrice Ledoux, supplemented by relief operator Lydia (Campbell) Buchanan.

It should also be noted that 24 hour phone service was not available during these times. In fact, it would not be implemented in the McCreary District until 1919!

Additionally, most people did not have individual phone service. The pay phone that became available in the McCreary District's post office served the vast majority of people. This was the case until the mid 20s!

These circumstances later changed, resulting in many farms and most villagers having phones in their homes... at least until the 30s came.

Phone rates were reported to escalate sharply, which ultimately resulted in many home owners having their phone service removed.

Some of McCreary's villagers, such as Joe Ledoux, Bill Riddell, the McNaughton family, and an individual by the name F. Greentree kept their phone services. And, as stated in 'McCreary Milestones and Memories', the neighbours of these individuals relied on their phone services' use in emergencies.

McCreary's phone service relocated again in 1937. The telephone office and switchboard were moved to the Crout building on Second Avenue, with members of the Crout family and Maude McLuckie as operators.

The Crout building had a change of hands in 1952, being bought by the Armstrong family. The Armstrongs inherited the telephone office and the 95 phone service subscribers it held.

In addition to the Armstrong family, phone operators at this time were identified as Maude, Alma Merber, Kate Kaiser, Edith Cantin, and Eleanor Krieser.

The year 1972 brought the arrival of dial phones. At this time, the number of phone service subscribers had swelled to 500, and the telephone office now had a total of three switchboards.

The automatic exchange building in McCreary, located along Government Road, is also noted to have been established in 1972.

Note: With automatic telephone exchanges, human telephone operators were no longer necessary. The automatic exchange's technology conducts the call connection process through electrical signals and dial tones.

Think the Banner & Press only has local news?

Think again!

You can pick up the paper to get your weekly news, find a new recipe, look for jobs, go house hunting, even scout out upcoming events or sales in the area!

2026 Gladstone Music and Arts Festival report

Submitted
Media Release

Publisher's Note: Part 1 of the Festival results appeared in the May 29 edition of the Neepawa Banner & Press

The 93rd Gladstone Music and Arts Festival, held in April, showcased the talents and passion of young performers from across the region. The festival provides participants with a valuable educational experience, offering constructive feedback to help them refine their skills and deepen their appreciation of music and the arts. Students from the Gladstone, Plumas, MacGregor, Austin, Langruth and Neepawa areas participated in piano, speech arts, vocal and band sessions throughout the five-day event.

Thank you to the many volunteers who contributed to the success of the 2026 festival. The event would not be possible without the dedication of the festival committee and the support of additional volunteers. Thank you to William Morton Collegiate Institute, Gladstone Elementary School and Gladstone United Church for generously providing venue spaces. Thank you to the Municipality of West Lake-Gladstone for printing the festival program. Finally, sincere thanks to everyone who supported the festival through admission fees, program purchases and

donations. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Piano

The Piano Sessions were held on Apr. 23 and 24, with Lisa Rumpel facilitating. She has facilitated at music festivals across Manitoba and currently serves as a piano instructor at the Winnipeg Conservatory of Music. The following awards were presented.

Piano Solo, Beginner, Own Choice, 6 Years Old & Under: Katelijne Pugh (Medallion).

Piano Solo, Beginner, Own Choice, 7 & 8 Years Old: Sarah Doerksen (Medallion).

Piano Solo, Beginner, Own Choice, 9 & 10 Years Old: Hailey Doerksen (1st Place Medallion), Bianca Beswitherick (2nd Place Medallion).

Piano Solo, Beginner, Own Choice, Open: Avery Peters (Medallion).

Piano Solo, Beginner, Own Choice, Beginner: Katelijne Pugh (Medallion).

Piano Solo, Baroque, Grades/Levels 2 & 3: Marianna Pugh (Medallion).

Piano Solo, Baroque, Grade/Level 6: Elysbeth Pugh (Medallion).

Piano Solo, Classical, Grades/Levels 1 & 2: Adalyn Zacharias (Medallion).

Piano Solo, Classical, Grade/Level 3: Emily Reiner (Medallion).

Piano Solo, Classical,

Grade/Level 5: Megan Unrau (Medallion).

Piano Solo, Romantic Composers, Grades/Levels 6 & 8: Elysbeth Pugh (Medallion).

Piano Solo, 20th/21st Century Composers, Grade/Level 1: Lauren Peters (Medallion).

Piano Solo, 20th/21st Century Composers, Grade/Level 2: Adalyn Zacharias (Medallion).

Piano Solo, 20th/21st Century Composers, Grade/Level 3: Marianna Pugh (Medallion).

Piano Solo, Romantic Composers / 20th/21st Century Composers, Grades/Levels 4 & 5: Maria Suddia (Medallion).

Piano Solo, Canadian, Beginner: Piper Doerksen (Medallion).

Piano Solo, Canadian, Grade/Level 3: Marianna Pugh (Medallion).

Piano Solo, Canadian, Grades/Levels 4 & 5: Megan Unrau (Medallion).

Piano Solo, Canadian, Grades/Levels 6 & 8: Elysbeth Pugh (Medallion).

Piano Solo, Popular/Contemporary, Beginner: Bianca Beswitherick (Medallion).

Piano Solo, Popular/Contemporary, Grades/Levels 1 & 2: Micaiah Doerksen (Medallion).

Piano Solo, Popular/Contemporary, Grade/Level 8: Hanna Doerksen (Medallion).

Piano Duet, Own Choice, Beginner: Stella Fehr & Piper Doerksen (Medallions).

Piano Duet, Own Choice, Grades/Levels 3 & 4: Adalyn Zacharias & Emily Reimer (Medallions).

Piano Duet, Own Choice, Grades/Levels 7 & 8: Aimee Knox & Becca Knox (Medallions).

Piano Six Hands, Own Choice, Open: Elysbeth Pugh, Marianna Pugh & Katelijne Pugh (Medallions).

Band

The Band Sessions were held on Apr. 30, with Matt Abraham serving as facilitator. A graduate of the University of Manitoba, Matt holds degrees in both Music (percussion) and Education. The sessions followed a workshop format, allowing students to receive direct instruction and feedback from the facilitator following each performance.

•William Morton Collegiate Senior Concert Band.

•William Morton Collegiate Intermediate Concert Band.

•MacGregor Collegiate Senior Concert Band.

•MacGregor Elementary Junior Concert Band.

•Austin Elementary Junior Concert Band.

•William Morton Collegiate/Plumas Elementary/Langruth Elementary Junior Concert Band.

Highlights Concert

The Highlights Con-

cert was held on Sunday, May 3rd, at the Gladstone United Church. The concert provided an excellent opportunity to celebrate the hard work, talent and achievements of participants throughout the festival.

The following participants were recommended to go to the Manitoba Provincial Festival:

1. Piano Solo, Preliminary: Adalyn Zacharias.

2. Piano Solo, Elementary: Emily Reimer & Marianna Pugh (alternate: Anna Neufeld).

3. Piano Solo, Junior: Elysbeth Pugh & Maria Suddia (alternate: Megan Unrau).

4. Piano, Popular/Contemporary, Intermediate: Hanna Doerksen.

5. Piano, Canadian, Preliminary: Madalyn Dyck (alternate: Lauren Peters).

6. Piano, Canadian, Elementary: Marianna Pugh (alternate: Cassia Knox).

7. Piano, Canadian, Junior: Megan Unrau (alternate: Elysbeth Pugh).

8. Vocal Solo, Chamber Music, Elementary: Ayla McConnell.

9. Musical Theatre, Elementary: Ayla McConnell.

10. Speech Arts, 20th/21st Century Spoken Poetry, Grades 7-9: Adam Marca.

Outstanding Performance Award

The Gladstone Music and Arts Festival Band Trophy presented to the most outstanding band performance was presented to William

Morton Collegiate, Plumas Elementary, Langruth Elementary Junior Band.

The Gladstone Music and Arts Festival Speech Arts Trophy presented to the most outstanding speech arts performance was presented to Adam Marca.

The Doris Sigurdson Memorial Trophy presented to the most outstanding performance in Piano Solo or Duet, Beginner to Grade 4 was presented to Katelijne Pugh.

The Joy Mowat Memorial Trophy presented to the most outstanding performance in Piano Solo or Duet, Grade 5 and up was presented to Elysbeth Pugh.

The Gladstone Music Festival Rose Bowl presented to the most outstanding vocal performance was presented to Ayla McConnell.

The Matthew Teichrib Scholarship Awards presented to the most outstanding piano performances in Piano Solo, Canadian, Grade/Level 4 and up, were presented to Megan Unrau (1st Place) & Elysbeth Pugh (2nd Place).

The Wanda Toth Memorial Scholarship Award presented to a hard-working, dedicated, passionate piano student who shows a positive attitude in lessons and shares their music with others was presented to Megan Unrau.

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Zion Lutheran Church Plumas, MB prepares for 125th Anniversary

Submitted
Neepawa Banner & Press

We thank and praise our God and Father through our Lord Jesus Christ Who established Zion Lutheran Church first in Tupper, Manitoba and then in the village Plumas, Manitoba some 125 years ago. Within Lutheran Church-Canada, Zion has become the oldest continuing congregation in Manitoba. The foundation laid by the first settlers are still felt here to this very day. Their faith in Christ Jesus was past on from one generation to another which has allowed our humble congregation in Plumas, Manitoba to endure for 125 years. Although Zion Lutheran Church in Plumas has faced many trials and tribulations over the years, she has also

been very blessed in times of joy. For 125 years the Word of God has been taught and proclaimed and the Sacraments administered according to the command and promise of our Lord Jesus Christ. For all of God's richest blessings, the members of Zion "shout and sing for joy" (Zion's Anniversary Theme Verse from Isaiah 12:6).

Whatever the next 125 years bring, we are still teaching the next generation the same thing we and our parents were taught: The Word of God. We hope our humble efforts for Zion's upcoming Anniversary this summer will show God's grace at work in the hearts of the people and pastors associated with Zion Lutheran Church in Plumas, Manitoba.

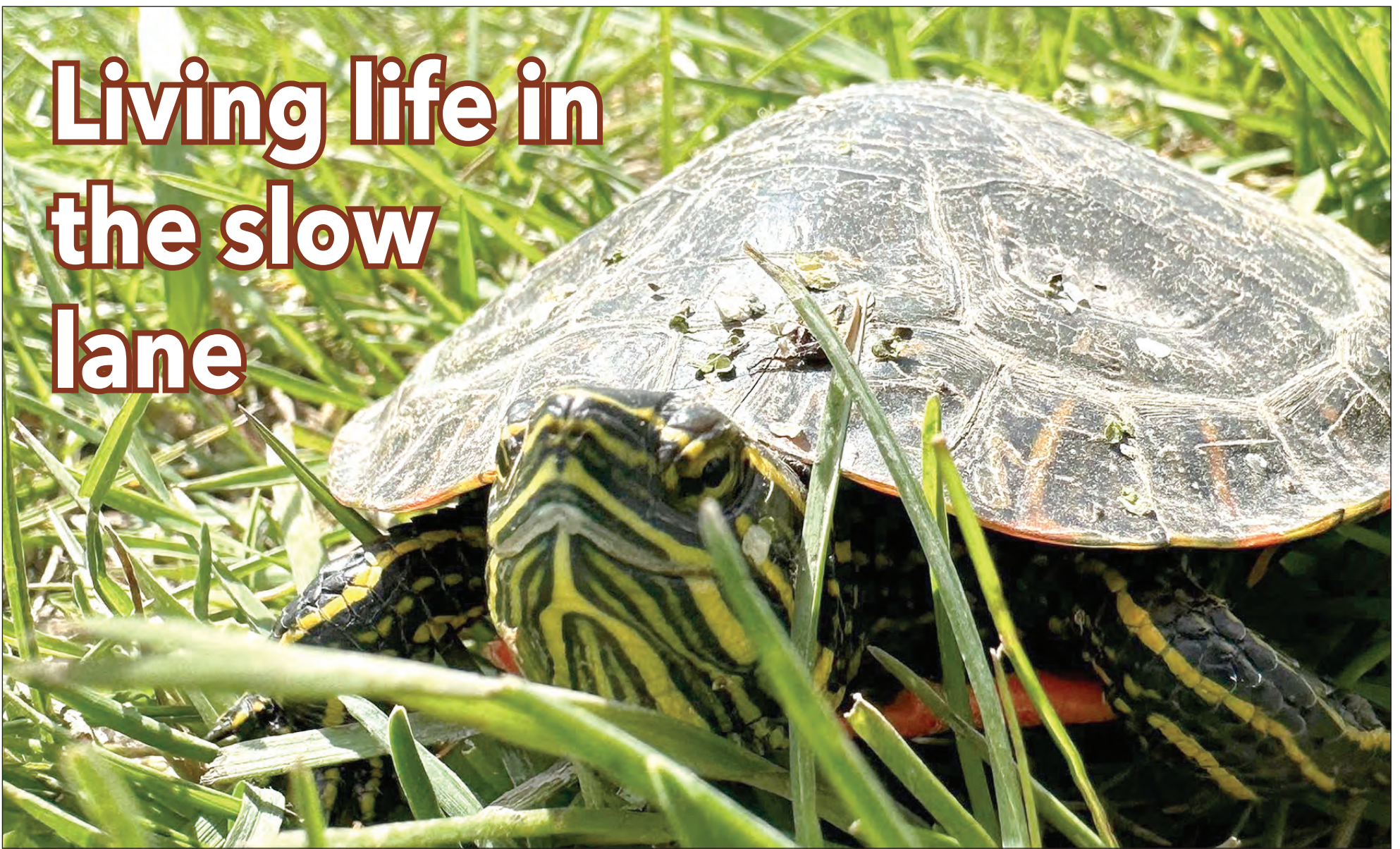
Over the last number of decades

Bernice Walker of Zion Lutheran Church in Plumas, Manitoba has recorded, photographed and catalogued Zion's events and history. All the precious memories of Zion's history were published in photo albums for family and friends to enjoy. In preparation for Zion's 125th Anniversary, Bernice Walker and Pastor James Vosper were commissioned by Zion's Anniversary Committee to write A Narrative History of the last 25 years of Zion Lutheran Church Plumas, Manitoba. After a first draft, Pastor Vosper suggested to offer Zion's History booklet for the last 25 years as an "audio book" with Bernice Walker narrating. We hope to have hard copies of the booklet available soon, along with the "audio book" on Zion's YouTube channel before the Anniversary in July.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Bernice Walker and Pastor Vosper at work on Zion's History Booklet.



Living life in the slow lane

PHOTO BY JODI BAKER PHOTOGRAPHY

Jodi Baker got this up-close photo of a turtle while out enjoying the Neepawa Golf & Country Club recently. This fellow is a Western Painted Turtle- one of the only two types of turtle found in the province. (The second type is the snapping turtle.) The Western Painted Turtle is also the only sub-species of painted turtle found in Manitoba.

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