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Inside this week



Feature: Pages 9 to 11
Farmers' Advocate

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A colourful Chamber Fair weekend in Neepawa



PHOTOS BY CASPER WEHRHAHN, EOIN DEVEREUX, AND SUBMITTED

With all the events taking place in Neepawa this past weekend, there was certainly plenty of colour to be seen throughout the community. Seen here is just a few examples of that, showcasing a scene from the Rotary: The New Wave Neepawa's Colour Run (left), and a variety of sights from the midway. The midway included attractions such as rides, games, and an assortment of food options.

Banking, but actually helpful.

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Cst. Jim Cockburn honoured with King Charles III medal

By Casper Wehrhahn
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The dedication of an area man both in and out of uniform was recognized last Friday. In an intimate award ceremony within the Spruce Plains RCMP headquarters in Neepawa, constable Jim Cockburn was recognized with the King Charles III Coronation medal.

Cst. Cockburn's family has long-standing ties to Neepawa and area, and Cst. Cockburn himself currently resides within the Rural Municipality of Rosedale.

"It [feels] pretty great," Cst. Cockburn said of the received honour. "I appreciate being nominated and receiving it."

A career that can't be put to paper

Cst. Cockburn has an ongoing career of 24 years with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, all served within the province of Manitoba as a front-line general duty member. He



PHOTO BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

Pictured: Constable Jim Cockburn (left) receiving his King Charles III Commemoration Medal and certificate from Manitoba West District superintendent Lee Fortin (right). Cst. Cockburn is the third generation of his family serving Canada.

was nominated for the award in 2025, at which time he was working with the Swan River Detachment. Currently, he is working with Westman Traffic Services through the Spruce Plains RCMP.

"You can't put all of that to paper," Manitoba West District superintendent Lee Fortin heartily noted. "He

is well known for establishing excellent community connections, which are often relied upon by other members of the RCMP."

Throughout his years of service, he also went above and beyond his regular duties, dedicating 10 years to the volunteer unit known as the West District Containment team. Cst. Cockburn

is noted to have trained many junior members in this specialized area.

He has also policed five First Nations, including two in the Swan River area.

"I believe this experience is what has helped him master the skill of communication and where he recognized the importance of community-based policing," said Fortin. "His excellent community relations and reputation in

Sapotaweyak and Wuskwi Sipiik First Nation consistently make steps of reconciliation and help to improve the way the public perceives the RCMP."

An ongoing commitment

In addition to his RCMP service, Cockburn was also commended for the hours he dedicated to coaching Swan Valley Minor Hockey and the Swan Valley Youth

Soccer.

Providing a final comment, superintendent Fortin stated, "It is because of Cst. Cockburn's ongoing commitment to public safety and community relations that he is deserving of and awarded this prestigious recognition."

Congratulations are extended to Cst. Jim Cockburn on an honour well earned.




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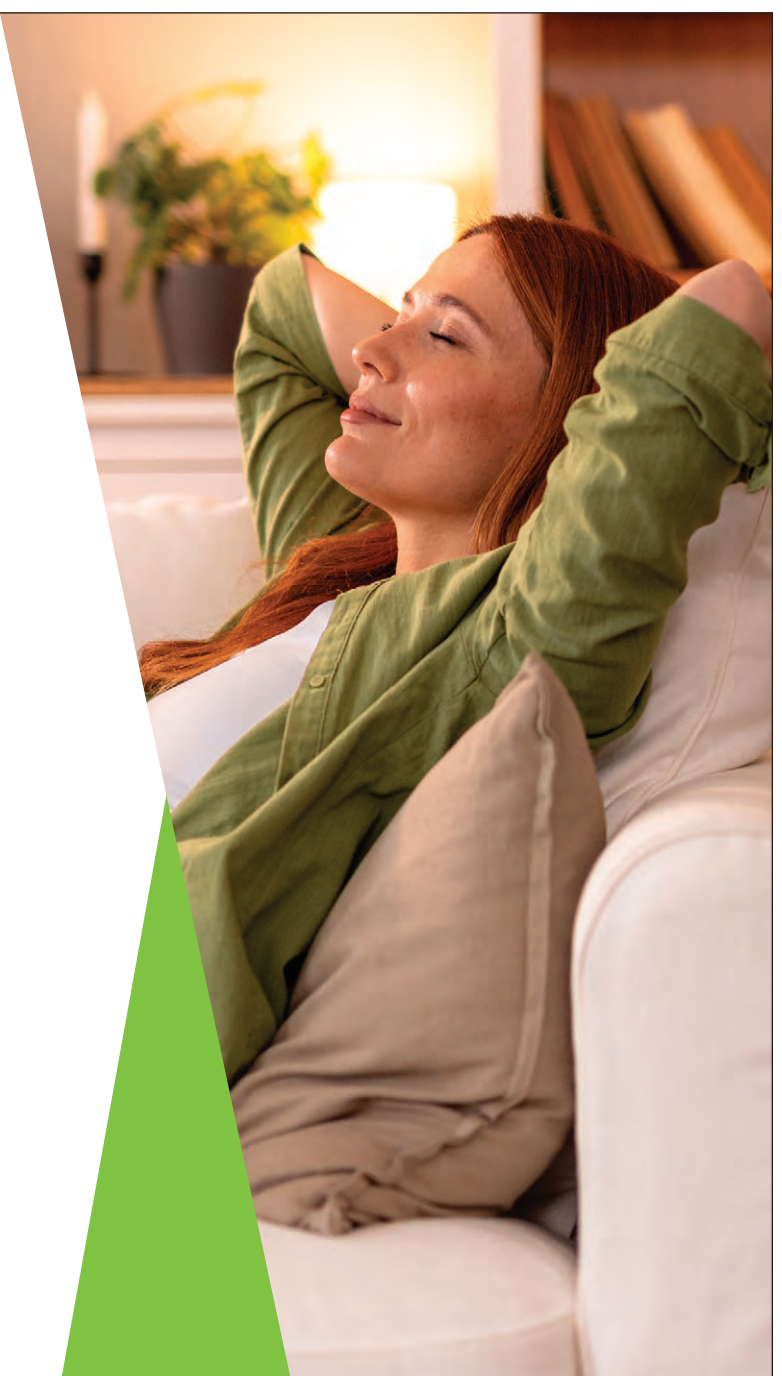
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Looking Back

1976: NACI student debates entertain

By Casper Wehrhahn
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

**125 years ago,
Tuesday,
May 28, 1901**

The office of sub-land agent and timber inspector for the northern portion of Minnedosa district has been abolished.

Notice has been given by the department of the Interior at Ottawa that squatters found in the permanent timber reserve in the Riding Mountain will be ejected after June 1.

The Carberry stage is a thing of the past. Henceforth, if you want to send a letter to Oberon, ten miles south, it must travel to Portage la Prairie, thence to Carberry, thence 21 miles by stage to Oberon. Rather round about isn't it?

Even now, at this advanced stage of Neepawa's history, there are still some Eaton & Co's packages coming into town. The people who purchase from eastern stores must either live in the backwoods or are not subscribers of the Press, else they could see with their own eyes that the bargains offered by our advertisers cannot be beaten. Besides there is a vast difference between the goods offered by our merchants and the hand-

me-down trash received by mail or express from the eastern departmental stores.

**100 years ago,
Friday,
May 28, 1926**

McCreary: Elmer Menzie has taken the position of assistant postmaster in E. Bromley's place.

Brookdale: Fred Abbott who has been working for H. Bailey had a narrow escape from a serious accident Friday evening. The bridge just east of John Kelly's place had been burned and left without proper protection. He did not notice the bridge was gone until very close and could not stop in time to prevent the car from dropping into the opening which was about three feet deep. He escaped with a few bruises and slight damage to the car.

Brookdale: Mr. McInnes who has been manager of the Standard bank for the past year has been transferred to Glenella and left on Thursday to take up his duties at that branch. Mr. Slawson formerly manager of the branch at Birnie, is taking his place.

**75 years ago,
Thursday,
June 1, 1951**

Word has been received here that a former Neepawa districtman, J. Neil Laidler, has been appointed plant manager of the new multi-million dollar aluminum fabricating plant to be built by General Motors at Jones Mills, 12 miles from Hot Springs, Arkansas.

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

The annual inspection of No. 9 Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets on Tuesday, May 25, marked an important milestone in the squadron's history.

The squadron celebrated its Golden Anniversary.

**20 years ago,
Monday,
May 29, 2006**

Break-ins and vandalism marred an otherwise quiet long weekend in the Neepawa area.

Sometime during the

Victoria Day holiday weekend, several decommissioned rifles were stolen during a break-in to the Neepawa Rifle Range building...

[Dwayne Chute, who would not say how many rifles were stolen, said the firearms—some from the 1950s—were on display in a locked case.

The Town of Neepawa will be forced to hold a public hearing into tipping fees at the municipal lagoons, following a complaint by the Neepawa and District Chamber of Commerce.

Reality Television will become reality when the Glenella Rebels broomball team host their own version of The Amazing Race.

Organizer Scott Marohn said the June 24 Amazing Country Race is based on the popular reality television show.

The ringleader of a trio accused of burning down the Minnedosa United Church in February has pleaded guilty to arson.

Proposed legislation would increase the small claims court maximum award to \$10,000 from \$7,500, improving access to justice for Manitobans, Attorney General Gord Mackintosh said today.

Manitoba remains one of the most economical jurisdictions in Canada in which to make use of small claims court. The current filing fee is \$30, which is among the lowest in the country.

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 PHOTOS

Pictured above: Wayne Hollier, Mrs. Winnifred Loewen and Brian Harley enjoying overseeing some lively student debates in May of 1976.



Pictured above: Some of the individuals here may be familiar to readers. Shown here are Dan Gagne, Tanis Hares, mayor Bob Durston, and Jason Timlick at the grand opening of the Manitoba Youth Job Centre. The grand opening took place in May of 2006.

Dear brothers, don't ever forget that it is best to listen much, speak little, and not become angry;

James 1:19 (Living Bible)

The Picture You Have Been Waiting For

MARY PICKFORD

"Little Annie Rooney"
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
THIS WEEK
Also Saturday Afternoon Matinee at 3 o'clock.
Evening Prices 50c and 25c
Matinee Prices 35c and 15c

NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES
Mary Pickford's "Little Annie Rooney" was set to show at the Neepawa Opera House in May. This ad was in the May 18, 1926 edition of The Neepawa Press.

Roxy theatres
291 Hamilton St. Neepawa, MB
www.neepawaroxxy.ca (204) 476-3716

May 29 & 30 • SHOWTIME: 7:30 pm
You, Me and Tuscany
Anna impulsively jets off to Tuscany, Italy, to stay at a stranger's villa without permission. Caught inside the house by the man's mother, she convinces the woman that she's his fiancée. That little lie soon becomes a big problem when Anna develops a growing attraction to the stranger's handsome cousin.

Closed for June, see you in July!
Interested in volunteering? <https://roxyneepawa.ca/volunteer/>

NACTV
MTS Channel 30 & 1030 • Bell ExpressVu 592 • Cable 17
online at www.nactv.tv • neepawaaccess@gmail.com • 204-476-2639

Highlights of the week
Author Talk - Audrhea Lande
June 2 at 6:30pm | June 3 at 12:30 pm | June 7 at 8:15pm

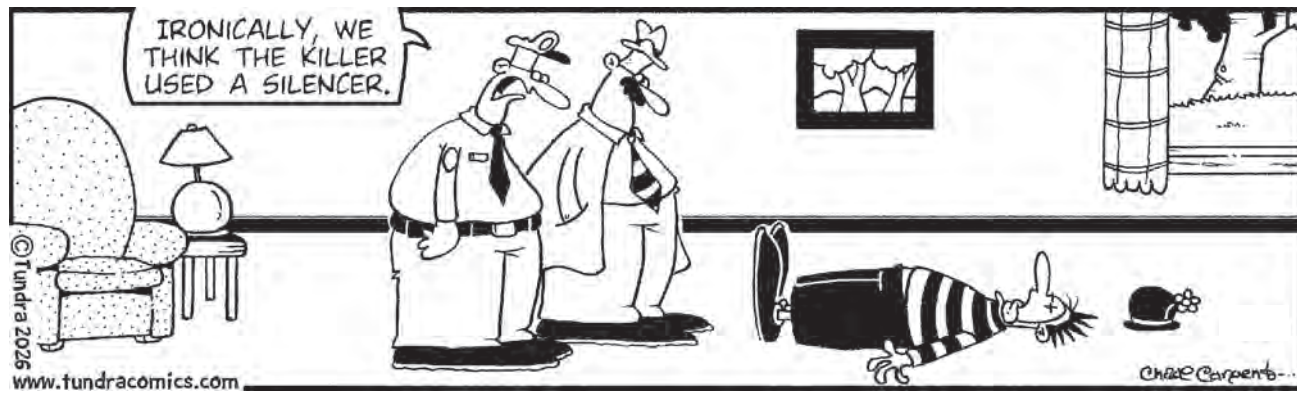
In the Studio: Art with Brad Mummery
June 1 at 4:45pm | June 3 at 8:15pm | June 5 at 1pm

BIGGER BINGO
Wednesday nights at 7 P.M.
Bonanza over \$20,000 • Blackout over \$500
Toonie Pot over \$2,000
Visit nactv.tv for exact amounts. For more info call 204-476-2639.
LGCA 6052-MB-45955

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

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Ever changing...

There are a whole lot of things that change, daily, weekly, monthly, yearly... you get the picture. What caught my attention this week was farm grain storage. Travelling hither and yon this week I covered a lot of territory. The grain handling systems on many farms I saw have a larger capacity, by far, than the country grain elevator of my early years.

My earliest memories of granaries come from my grandparents' farms. My paternal grandfather was an advanced farmer for his time. The storage unit was a drive through system- huge doors on each end of a long building. Teams in one end, off load, and out the other. I have no idea of the capacity, to me it was really big! When my father chose to set out on his own, it was, at the beginning, hard scrabble farming. Heck, our home was a converted granary. The building storing the grain was a patched up possibly ten by twelve foot wooden structure. Tin cans had been flattened out and nailed over rodent holes, on the floor and on the walls. Turnbuckled rods kept the walls together. They were at the ideal height- to whack your head on when you were shovelling the grain out! I can bring to mind the itchiness of the oats and barley, the smooth sound of flowing wheat or flax...

I recognise that the wooden bins were indeed an appearance of progress. Painted bins added importance, and a row of bins was affluent. Then came the round metal bins, short, squat sentinels of the farmyard. They became larger, much larger, and then we saw hopper bins, white guards flanking the perimeter of the working farm yard. Then hopper bins with aeration fans.

Now the systems are immense, ginormous, monstrous! There are auger networks, walkways, antennas I assume for communication, aeration tunnels, and rows of bins, that again, probably hold more than the country elevator of the fifties did! I am impressed. That is a whole lot of changes!

The elevators at Graysville, I think a Pool, and a UGG, had personality. So did the operators. That little dust filled office, with gosh awful coffee, had the moisture tester and the permit books. Yes, I really do remember permit books! Having no brothers, I was privileged to haul grain. This was with a half ton truck. You drove up the ramp, had your vehicle's front wheels on the lift mechanism, and stepped out. As the front end rose, you opened the tailgate and the operator sifted a handful of the grain, sometimes taking a chew of the grain, and when all was said and done, you waited for the truck to descend and drove home, ready to repeat the trip if there was room on your permit. As the trucks got bigger, and had their own hoist, the procedure was much the same. Even at the time I appreciated the fact the elevator man allowed me to clean the box, never offering to help the slip of a teenage girl. (And, yes, I was a slip of a girl!)

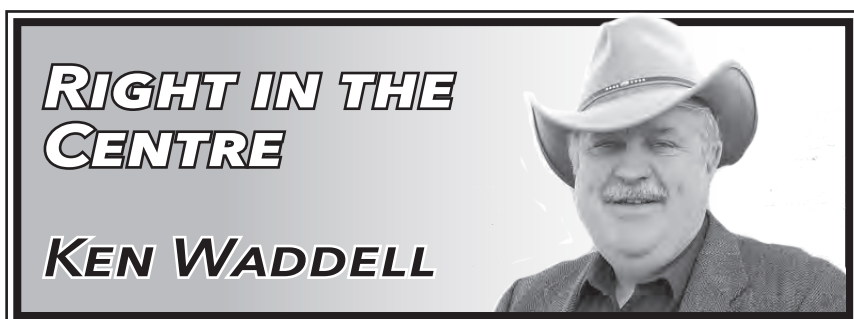
So many changes in farming. In almost everything. One can only imagine what comes next.

Summer is finally here, we hope

In our version of the newspaper business we get to take a measure of weather and travel conditions to our communities every week. Papers are printed on Wednesdays at Struth Publishers in Killarney, home of the Killarney Guide. That way we get a report on roads to the south every Wednesday. The Struth family owns the only newspaper printing plant in South-western Manitoba.

Our drivers head out each Thursday morning for one or two days of paper deliveries. We have four drivers and vans heading your way every week. With all our papers, staff and readers depending on the trips those days, we watch the weather forecasts very closely. I have three rules about deliveries. For the past 36 years, I have told my drivers that they make the call about road conditions. I will not make them go out in road conditions they don't feel safe about. I say, "I want you home safely, the vehicle home safely and the papers delivered safely and in that order." Now that the weather seems to have turned to summer, there is some less stress. Two weeks ago when the big wind storms hit, the weather was warm enough but the dust and high winds made for some dangerous driving conditions. So after a few dicey days of driving over the last few months, we are looking forward to summer.

In our weekly travels, we see crop seeding, spraying, harvesting along with various aspects of the cattle business. We also see some wild-life activity just about every week. Last week, was a first for us as we are pretty sure there was a coyote chomping down on a moose carcass. We see lots of bald eagles, many different kinds of hawks, coyote and fox



“ As we move into real summer we need to pray for more timely rains, protection from wind and hail. ”

sightings are fairly common.

But most important, we see people and all the things that they do to make our area a wonderful place to live.

I find it gratifying to see all the activity across the communities we serve. So I am looking forward to summer. Even the lack of rainfall has been a blessing as the big air seeders have hammered in a lot of crop in the past three weeks. Some timely rains are making everything grow and with this week's heat, the world is becoming greener by the hour. Yes, summer is finally here, we hope.

As we move into real summer we need to pray for more timely rains, protection from wind and hail and protection for all our farmers and everyone associated with farming. This year, my wife Christine and I have reflected on our own farming careers. We were both raised

on traditional mixed farms, family owned at Scarth and Holland respectively. We both attended university and I worked as an Ag-Rep with the Manitoba Department of Agriculture for around 10 years. We went farming in 1975 and got caught up in the high interest rate inflationary years of the 1980s. We had to give up farming but we are pleased now that two grandchildren and a son are involved directly in the Ag industry. It makes us smile with a touch of gratitude.

So here's hoping and praying for a good summer of crops and safety for everyone. And please folks, don't be speaking words complaining about farmers when your mouth is full. Farmers feed us all.

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

Banner & Press

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Eoin Devereux
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Shannon Robertson
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News releases and leads: news@neepawabanner.com
sports@neepawabanner.com
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Old Canada Series: Conversing in 1954 Brandon



PHOTO COURTESY OF OLD CANADA SERIES

This photo from the Old Canada Series shows two men conversing somewhere in Brandon in 1954. Their names were not available.

HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN Evening branch of the Women's Auxiliary

The first Neepawa Saint James Anglican church was built in 1889. In February of 1897, that church was destroyed by fire. The new church was started in May of the same year. The new church cost \$3,500 to build.

In the early 1950s a local group of Anglican ladies "The Evening Branch of the Women's Auxiliary" was involved in church and community work. This faithful group of women sold carnations for Mother's Day, catered to banquets, held rummage sales and did various other work to raise money. Discipleship in action, they supported the church, Children's Aid, the Red Cross and the Salvation Army Red Shield among other things. In 1954, they published a cookbook with some of their favourite recipes.

Local merchants advertised in the cookbook and the ladies requested that readers patronize the advertisers in their book. No ten digit phone numbers in those days. At Neepawa Groceries, owned by Reg Williams, the number was 97. Miss McDougall at the Churchill Block phone number was six. She sold "quality coal and insurances of all kinds except life insurance." Justin Hipwell was the manufacturer of Hips fruit flavoured syrups and apple cider, phone number 423. Sunnyside Meat and Groceries gave you smiling service at number 10. For your "prescription specialist" phone Wicketts Pharmacy at 456. I will share several of their recipes and perhaps you will remember these family names.

Apple Alexandria salad -Mrs. E.H. Drayson (Mary)

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 3 large tart apples | salt and pepper to taste |
| 1 orange | salad dressing or mayonnaise |
| 2 medium sized carrots | |
| 1 medium sized Spanish onion | salt and pepper |

Dice apples and orange. Slice carrots thinly or grate them, also the onion. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Dress with salad dressing. Serve on lettuce.

Yorkshire Steak dinner -Mrs. D. Bennett (Marge)

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1 lb. minced beef steak, brown in skillet | 1 egg |
| 1/2 onion chopped fine | 1 cup milk |
| 1/2 tsp. poultry seasoning | 7/8 cup flour |
| 1/2 tsp. salt | 1/2 tsp. baking powder |
| | 1/4 tsp. salt |

Combine meat, onion, poultry seasoning and salt. Put it in a very hot with oven at 400°F and heat it. Beat egg, add the rest of the ingredients and beat one minute. Pour over hot meat and bake at 400°F for 30 minutes.

Savoury canned beets -Mrs. W. Greenhalgh (Irma)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 Tbsp. minced onion | 1/4 tsp. cloves |
| 6 Tbsp. butter | 3 Tbsp. vinegar |
| 1 1/4 tsp. salt | 4 cups chopped canned beets |
| 1 Tbsp. white sugar | |

Sauté the onion in butter in a saucepan until tender. Add the salt, sugar, cloves and vinegar and cook 5 minutes. Add the beets, stir and heat well.

Afternoon tea cakes -Mrs. P. Murray

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 2/3 cup Eagle brand sweetened condensed milk | 1/2 cup chopped maraschino cherries |
| 2 cups shredded coconut | 1/2 cup chopped dates |
| | 1/2 cup chopped walnuts |

Mix milk, coconut, cherries, dates and walnuts. Drop by spoonfuls on greased baking sheets. Bake at moderately hot oven (350°F) for 12 minutes or until brown. Remove from oven at once.

Rolled oat bread -Mrs. H. Sprague

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 2 cups rolled oats | 1 Tbsp. melted butter |
| 2 cups boiling water | 1 yeast cake dissolved in 1/2 cup lukewarm water |
| 1/2 cup molasses | 5 cups sifted flour |
| 1/2 tsp. salt | |

Pour boiling water over oats and let stand one hour. Stir in the rest of the ingredients. Form into a loaf and put in buttered bowl. Let stand until double in bulk. Knead well and shape into loaves. Put in greased pans, let rise again. Bake in moderate oven 325°F about 50 minutes. Wonderful for children's lunch.

Going away on vacation?

You can still read the paper! Find it online at:
www.neepawabanner.com

Thumbs up, thumbs down

Thumbs up to all the helpers that came out on Monday, May 25 to help the Neepawa Rotary Club set out their books for the Annual Rotary Book Sale at the Neepawa Junior Rifle Range. In addition to some friends lending a hand, a huge boost was given by the New Wave Rotary Club members and their very energetic and enthusiastic kids.

Christine Waddell
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

Gladstone market report

By Blaine Huston
GLADSTONE AUCTION

We sold 1,339 head on Tuesday, May 26.

We had about 380 butcher cattle to start the day on a very strong market, here's how they sold:

- D1-D2 cows \$2.20-2.55.
- D3 older cows \$1.90-2.30.
- Feeding type cows \$2.40-2.90 sales to \$3.05.
- Bulls \$2.80-3.14.

On the feeder side of things I'd call it a very strong market. Here is a look at how things played out.

Here are some market highlights from Tuesday's sale:

We had a lot more heifers than we had steers yesterday.

•We had a package of 23 black and red steers weighing 999 pounds bring \$4,435 a pound (\$4,430 a head).

•Six black and red steers come in the ring weighing 768 pounds and cash in at \$5.51 a pound (\$4,231 per head).

On the Heifer side of things:

•Fifty-eight black and red replacement style heifers weighing 828 pounds bring \$4.98 per pound (\$4,123 per head).

•Forty-three black and red heifers weigh 741 pounds and fetch \$5.31 per pound (\$3,935 per head).

Plainer type cattle and

cattle with horns or bulls are seeing discounts.

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

We have no sale next week.

Gladstone Auction Mart Cattle Market Report May 26, 2026

Steers	
4-500 lbs.	\$7.50 to 8.50
5-600 lbs.	\$6.45 to 7.42
6-700 lbs.	\$5.95 to 6.90
7-800 lbs.	\$5.00 to 5.73
8-900 lbs.	\$4.25 to 4.75
900+ lbs.	\$4.00 to 4.69

Heifers	
4-500 lbs.	\$6.70 to 7.40
5-600 lbs.	\$6.00 to 6.83
6-700 lbs.	\$5.10 to 5.97
7-800 lbs.	\$4.55 to 5.33
8-900 lbs.	\$3.85 to 5.15
900+ lbs.	\$3.50 to 4.52

1,339 head sold

'We're here to support each other'

Green family hosts fourth annual Remembering Kalena fundraiser

By Casper Wehrhahn
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

While the day started cloudy and rainy, nothing could stop the outpouring of support in Carberry on May 23. That day, friends, family and community gathered on the grounds of R.J. Waugh Elementary school for the fourth annual Remembering Kalena Green event.

Organized by Kalena's family, this event is organized each year to honour her memory, and to raise funds for the future Carberry Splash Park. Following the inaugural celebration of life in 2023, the purpose of the event has expanded further.

"I know everybody here has had a loss in some capacity, and I think everyone can relate," said Jerra Green, Kalena's younger sister.

Referencing the crowd



PHOTOS BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

Above: Jerra Green, Kalena Green's sister, at the R. J. Waugh School grounds with a crowd of supporters in the background.

Right: People of all ages and levels of mobility participated in the fundraiser walk/run.



gathered there that day, Jerra added, "When you feel kind of isolated or feel alone and like you're going through it alone, this is what we want to show everybody. That we're here

to support each other. And we want to acknowledge not only Kalena, but everybody else. Thank you all so much for showing up year after year."

In addition to honouring

memories of dearly missed loved ones, those who remain are also embraced.

"We're just here to celebrate each other and be together," Jerra shared in an interview.

Beautifully overwhelming

To-date, the memorial fundraiser has raised just over \$92,000. This does not include the funds raised for 2026, as the results were not yet available. However, Jerra noted that fundraising this year has been going well.

"We are making progress every year," said Jerra, who later added, "So hopefully this year we'll make it to that \$100,000 mark. We'll play it out and see, but we're just really grate-

ful for the support that we receive every year."

This year's event was also particularly special, as it fell directly on Kalena's birthday.

"She'd be 34 years old if she were still here," Jerra confided.

When asked how she felt to be standing on the R. J. Waugh grounds for the fourth year, with the 2026 crowd showing their support, Jerra extended words of the utmost gratitude.

"It is overwhelming every year, but in the most beautiful way. It had been raining earlier, then the sun started to shine— it's been a pattern, actually," said Jerra. "Every year it has kind of started out rough in the morning, and it always works out that during the actual event, the weather clears up, and I think she (Kalena) is doing that for us."

Jerra added, "Honestly the turn-out every year has been incredible and we're so grateful and appreciative of the support."

The Green family extends their thanks to all who have shown their support over the years, and who have collaborated to make this event possible.

Heaven's Field of Freedom 2026 coming to Sidney area

Total Freedom Addictions Recovery Centre hosting June 12-14

By Ken Waddell
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Billed as Southern Manitoba's Friends and Neighbours Spirit-Filled outdoor tent meetings, the weekend promises Gospel Music, kids activities and guest speaker Sandra Benaglia Smith from Hamilton, Ontario

Everyone is welcome to attend.

On Friday, June 12, prayer starts at 5:30 p.m. and Smith speaks at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday starts earlier with a session of Spirit filled choir music by Acadia, Riverbend & Broad Valley Colonies at 12:00 p.m. followed by a time of life changing testimonies. At 7:00 p.m. there will be Praise and Worship and a message from Smith.

On Sunday morning, there will be a 10:00 a.m. prayer time and at 11:00 a.m., a wrap-up service with Smith.

Food will be available at all services by Hope's Journey Home. Children's Ministry will be lead by Stephanie Kauffman and a supervised bounce house will be available.

Praise and Worship will be highlighted all three nights with Todd, Melanie and Anna Toews along with Johnny and Cheri Hamm

Guest Speaker – Sandra Benaglia Smith Hamilton, Ontario

Saturday—2:00pm Spirit-Filled music by choirs

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Please refrain from calling the clinic at this time.

Tree removal and reforestation plan approved for Riverside Cemetery

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The Town of Neepawa has a new long term strategy in place for the maintenance and repair of trees at the Riverside Cemetery. Council has approved a five year plan brought forward by administration that's designed to address growing concerns related to tree health in the area.

A surge in recent years of invasive insects, such as spruce beetles, along with other pests at Riverside is forcing this significant action. The plan will see the removal of 20 infected trees per year, over the next five years, to coincide with a reforestation program to replenish the tree canopy.

Chief Administrative Officer Colleen Synchyshyn explained that this course of action should be the most effective and un-intrusive option.

"We did have qualified arborists come and look at them, and [those trees] are at the end of their life. So the plan is for removal of about 20 trees a year, roughly, and doing it over a five-year-period, so that it wasn't quite as noticeable," stated Synchyshyn.

Council reviewed the plan, and approved moving ahead. The exact schedule for when the first 20 trees will be removed, or when reforestation would proceed were not detailed at this time. The exact cost of the work was also not shared at this time.



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Carberry RCMP make arrest in fraud investigation

By Banner Staff
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Carberry RCMP have made an arrest in connection to an alleged financial fraud worth thousands of dollars. Police have reported that they received the complaint in late April, regarding a stolen credit card that had been used at a business in Brandon.

RCMP explained that the victim informed them that in addition to a missing credit card, several personal cheques had also been taken and attempts had made to use them. By the time the victim discovered the card was missing, nearly \$6,800 in fraudulent charges had been accumulated.

Through the course of the investigation, officers were able to identify one suspect, a 33-year-old woman from Carberry. On May 15,

RCMP attended a residence and arrested the suspect without incident. That person has been charged with 18 counts of theft under \$5,000, one count of fraud under or equal to \$5,000, and one count of forgery.

As of last week, the suspect had been remanded into custody pending a court appearance. The investigation remains ongoing.

Police are also reminding residents to remain vigilant when it comes to protecting your personal and financial information. Individuals who believe they may have been the victim of fraud, or who are seeking information on fraud prevention and reporting, can access resources through the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

Equipment upgrades approved in Neepawa

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Neepawa Town Council has given the green light to a trio of significant new equipment purchases. These capital purchases will cost just over \$100,000 combined and have already been accounted for within the town's latest budget.

The first of these items being purchased a 61-inch Coyote Diesel Zero-Turn Mower from Virden Ag & Parts. This unit represented the lowest bid, with a cost of \$18,600, plus taxes.

The second purchase is a Bandit 12 Heavy Duty Wood Chipper. This machine attaches behind a truck and allows for active pruning and community storm cleanup. It will replace a smaller, outdated unit. The chipper is being purchased from Westcon Equipment and Rentals of Winnipeg for \$65,036, plus taxes.

The third capital pur-

chase will be a 2026 Rainbow Utility Trailer, measuring 8.5 feet by 20 feet and is being bought from Penner Trailers Steinbach for \$17,018, plus taxes. The trailer replaces an old cube van, that had previously served as a mobile storage unit for tools and materials. Officials confirmed the aging van will now be retired and put up for public sale.

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Clear Lake is the premier resort and recreation hub in Riding Mountain National Park. Located just 90 minutes north of Neepawa, the area offers white-sand beaches, boating, and a bustling townsite (Wasagaming) filled with restaurants, shops, and cabins. Whether you're here for a relaxing holiday or here to get your heart rate up, Clear Lake is one big adventure park with a townsite packed with amenities open all summer-long.



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Benefitting 'both producers and the environment'

Submitted
ASSINIBOINE COLLEGE

Dr. Poonam Singh's research on more environmentally sustainable ways to grow greenhouse plants has received a \$99K boost from the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (S-CAP).

Ornamental and nursery plants—which include things like outdoor perennials for home beautification and flower, vegetable and fruit crop production—use peat moss as the primary growing component. Dr. Singh, a faculty researcher in the Russ Edwards School of Agriculture & Environment, is leading an applied research project to help growers reduce environmental impact without compromising plant performance. Her project, 'Exploring potential of biochar and sheep wool waste in ornamental and nursery plant production' has also received nearly \$20,000 in industry investment.

"This most recent funding allows us to turn sustainability research into practical solutions growers can actually use," Singh said. "It gives us the time and scale needed to properly test new materials before they reach commercial production."

An environmental priority

Peat moss is used for its consistency and growing properties, but is harvested from peat bogs, which play a critical role in carbon sequestration, water retention and biodiversity,

so the harvesting of peat is problematic for the environment.

"Peat bogs store enormous amounts of carbon and water, so reducing peat use is an environmental priority," Singh said. "Even replacing a small percentage of peat can make a meaningful difference when you consider how widely it's used in horticulture."

Singh's research will evaluate whether biochar can partially replace peat in container growing systems.

Biochar is a carbon-rich material similar to charcoal. It is produced through the high heat and low oxygen processing of organic waste like wood chips, and crop residue. By doing this, the waste materials will not be reduced to ash and can be converted into carbon rich solids. It also helps soil breathe more efficiently, hold water effectively during drier phases, and makes nutrients easier for plants to use, all while storing rich carbon in a stable, long-lasting way. Singh's research will explore potential of biochar made from cattails (wetland plants) to be used as a peat extender in soilless media mixes.

The project will also look to sheep's wool waste as a potential replacement. Wool has properties that support moisture retention and slow nutrient release, and early trials have shown encouraging results, including strong plant growth and reduced reliance on synthetic fertilizers.

"This most recent example exemplifies our



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASSINIBOINE COLLEGE

Pictured: Assiniboine College's Dr. Poonam Singh inspecting plants within a greenhouse. Dr. Singh's research has recently received a major funding boost from the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Inset photo: Dr. Singh showcasing how sheep's wool waste is being utilized as part of her research.

college's highly successful, unique, signature approach to applied research" said Dr. Deanna Rexe, Vice President, Academic at Assiniboine College. "We proactively work with business and industry to identify priorities for their work, and then we partner to access funding, mobilize our faculty expertise, and include our students in the applied research process as part of our 'Learn by Doing' philosophy of education. This knowledge mobilization and training ecosystem works because of our commitment to sustaining quality partnerships that help to strengthen Manitoba's advantage."

For her part, Singh said the research recognizes that peat is unlikely to be fully

replaced in the near term, but evidence-based reductions could have significant environmental benefits.

"It's not just about replacing peat," she said. "It's about understanding how alternative materials perform and how they can realistically fit into existing production systems."

The project is supported by industry and community partners to ensure the research reflects real-world production conditions, including Carbon Lock Tech, Manitoba Nursery Landscape Association, Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Ltd., Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, and Vanderveen Greenhouse.

Partner involvement supports testing across a range of products and growing

practices, while also helping identify pathways toward commercialization and adoption.

"This work only happens because industry, communities and researchers are moving in the same direction," Singh said. "Our partners help develop and process these materials, and we work together to test and refine them so growers can adopt them with confidence."

Support for applied research in horticulture and ornamental production is a growing area of focus for the S-CAP funding program as an important part of broader sustainability efforts.

Singh said recognizing the environmental footprint of intensive growing

systems such as greenhouses and nurseries is an important step in advancing sector-wide sustainability.

"Assiniboine's recognition as one of Canada's Top 50 Research Colleges reflects the applied, industry-focused work our faculty are doing," said Chris Budiwski, Dean of the Edwards School. "Dr. Singh's research is a strong example of how public investment and industry partnerships can support innovation that benefits both producers and the environment."

As the project moves forward, Singh plans to share findings with growers, industry partners and other researchers to help support real-world adoption.

Farmers' Advocate



NEEPAWA **Banner & Press**

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Keystone Agricultural Producers vigorously serving farmers

Advocate Staff FARMERS' ADVOCATE

Jill Verwey, formerly of Neepawa (Springhill District) is President of Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP). Verwey farms at Portage La Prairie and she was guest speaker at the May 13 meeting of the Neepawa Rotary Club.

Verwey said "KAP is Manitoba's general farm policy organization, we represent all Manitoba farmers and 18 commodity associations. I want to start by saying that there's no better place to talk about agriculture than Neepawa. You understand, probably better than most, just how important farming is to this province."

KAP is a non-profit organization founded in 1984 and it currently has over 5,000 direct-paying farmer members, who produce a wide variety of agricultural products.

KAP's vision is a prosperous future for all Manitoba farmers.

Verwey said. "Agricultural issues in Manitoba are diverse and impact different commodity sectors and a wide range of stakeholders. Our mission is to be the unwavering voice for farmers, addressing the

most pressing issues facing our industry with tenacity and resolve.

As a grassroots, farmer-driven organization, KAP's policies and advocacy direction is set by our members."

KAP relies on producers who are passionate about agriculture to get involved to make the organization better and more effective.

Verwey explained that, "This includes drafting resolutions, attending meetings, voting at our Annual AGM or running to represent one of our 12 districts (Neepawa is in District 7), or running as a group member director or getting elected to KAP's executive as President or Vice-President. KAP has a strong focus on advocacy, engagement and outreach, as well as regulatory modernization. Agriculture is facing more pressure and more public scrutiny than ever before. Concerns include environmental expectations, animal care standards, land-use discussions, labour regulations, and trade uncertainty continue to be top issues."

In recent times, supply chain disruption has meant higher costs - with fertilizer and fuel prices increasing.

"We continue to ad-

vocate for the needs and priorities of farmers to ensure the business and trade environment reflects those needs. That's why we released KAP's Manitoba Agriculture Trade Action Plan, focused on the key areas which the province of Manitoba should prioritize when looking at trade and how agriculture is impacted by government policies and initiatives. We support stable, rules-based trade, and strategic relationships, all of which are essential for long-term success of farm operations."

KAP has delivered on a number of wins for Manitoba Farmers. At the federal level, one of the most significant shared successes for agriculture was the removal of the federal consumer carbon pricing regime, eliminating added costs for producers related for drying grain and regulating temperature in livestock buildings.

There has been important progress with the passage of Bills C-244 and C-294, advancing right-to-repair and interoperability which focused on right to repair and interoperability, issues that directly affect farm efficiency and costs.

Continued on Page 11



Neepawa Rotarian Sophie Collier (left) invited Jill Verwey (Baker), KAP president to speak at the May 13 Rotary luncheon. Verwey was raised near Neepawa in the Springhill District

PHOTO BY CHRISTINE WADDELL

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'Critical weed-free period' update

Farmers' Advocate Staff

FARMERS' ADVOCATE

The Manitoba Canola Growers have released the result of beneficial research for the province's producers. A study was conducted by researcher Robert Gulden, University of Manitoba, on the 'critical weed free period' (CWFP). Researched from Apr. 1, 2022 to Mar. 31, 2026, the project re-evaluated the prior recommendations for the canola crop's CWFP, which was developed in 2001.

"CWFP is the time during the crop's growth is the time during the crop's growth stage when weeds must be controlled to prevent significant yield loss," the release explained. "Herbicide applications applied too early, too late or too frequently, can reduce return on investment of herbicides, cause yield loss, and accelerate resistance issues."

The importance of updating the CWFP information was attributed to canola hybrids having improvements in the early season, herbicide options, and farmers beginning to push the limits for seeding rates of canola.

"As a result, there was a need to examine the relationship between canola crop density, herbicide systems, and the CWFP for current canola hybrids," said the release.

The CWFP update project saw 15 trials conducted across western Canada from 2022 to 2025, with three canola plant stand densities being tested (Three, six and nine plants per square foot). Additionally, two herbicide systems—glufosinate and glyphosate—were used.

"A stacked trait hybrid, tolerant to both

herbicides, was used for this trial for consistency when testing herbicide timing and plant density. Weed measurements included emergence timing, species present, and density. Final canola seed yield was collected for all treatments," the release added.

Gulden's research has found, overall that the average CWP in canola is from emergence to the five to six leaf stage.

The report also stated that weed density had the greatest influence on the CWFP.

"The higher the number of weeds in one area, the longer the canola crop needed to be kept weed-free to protect yield," the research findings explained. "In areas where there was extremely low weed density, the canola crop required very minimal in-crop weed management to maintain yield. Highly competitive weed species, like creeping thistle, lengthened the CWFP even if the overall number of weeds were low."

Delving further, the report added, "A plant stand of six plants/ft² provided the strongest crop competitiveness against weeds. A plant stand lower than 6 plants/ft² had a longer CWFP by one to two leaf stages, meaning that the crop had to be kept weed-free for longer, up to the seven to eight-leaf to maintain yield."

The study also found that glyphosate requires earlier applications compared to glufosinate due to the herbicide's slower activity.

More can be learned about this project by visiting the project's Canola Research Hub page.

Manitoba crop report

Advocate Staff

FARMERS' ADVOCATE

Note: Written with information courtesy of Manitoba Agriculture.

There is plenty to consider when growing crops as an agricultural producer. Thankfully, as of May 21, Manitoba Agriculture has received no reports of disease issues.

Additionally, annual weed growth is reported to be slow due to cool weather.

However, recent rains and warming weather are expected to bring a flush of new growth. Winter annuals such as shepherd's purse and stinkweed are noted to be starting to bolt and flower. Perennials such as dandelions, as can be seen on lawns throughout the region at this time as well, are also flowering.

The pest perspective

On the pest side of things, due to the cooler spring weather and many fields yet to have crops emerge, Manitoba Agriculture has

yet to receive reports of "economic populations or levels of crop damage from insects".

Of note, however, is that some cutworms, wireworms, and flea beetles are being noted—albeit at small levels thus far.

What to know about cutworms

Cutworms are nocturnal, feeding at night. The dingy and redbacked cutworm are often the two most abundant species in Manitoba.

To check for cutworms while scouting your fields, producers should dig around damaged plants. They can also sometimes be found hiding under stubble or plant debris.

The depth at which cutworms may inhabit the soil is dependant on how old the larvae are, and the moisture level of the soil.

Manitoba Agriculture reports that a study from Ontario on darksided cutworm found younger larvae were generally six to 13mm deep near the base of the host plant.

Alternatively, older larvae were just under the soil surface in wet weather, but were found in dry weather at a depth of eight to 10 cm (three to four inches).

It should also be noted that cutworms may be more abundant in patches, or a specific area of a field.

Producers are advised to make note of the size of cutworms discovered as well. Small larvae are reported to pose the greatest potential for damage, as they still need to feed and grow. With the cool spring we have experienced, larvae are anticipated to likely still be small.

Species that overwinter as partially grown larvae may be larger than other species that overwinter as eggs. For example, the dingy cutworm (larval overwinter), and the redbacked cutworm (egg overwinter).

The full Manitoba crop report can be found at www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/seasonal-reports.

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HyLife named one of Canada's Best Managed Companies



PHOTO COURTESY OF HYLIFE

HyLife's credits its success to all who work at the company.

Advocate Staff FARMERS' ADVOCATE

HyLife has received a significant honour for a 22nd year. Last week, the Canada-based international pork processing and shipping company was named by Deloitte as one of 'Canada's Best Managed Companies'. Canada's Best Managed Companies is noted to be the country's leading business award programs, which recognizes "excellence in private Canadian-owned companies".

According to Deloitte, eligible companies are evaluated based on strategy, culture and commitment; capabilities and innovation;

and their governance and financials.

"Our company thrives because of our people. This recognition reflects their dedication, passion, and commitment to delivering excellence every day," said Karan Sangfai, president and CEO of HyLife. "From our farms and feed mills to our processing, logistics, sales, and support teams, each person plays an important role in helping HyLife continue to grow as a premium pork company. We are proudly rooted in Canada and trusted around the world."

At the local level, Neepawa representative Lindsay Hextall, senior director of

human resources, stated, "Being recognized with Platinum status for more than two decades really comes down to how we support and grow our people. At HyLife—and here in Neepawa—we've worked hard to build a culture where employees can grow their careers and play a part in our long-term success. That focus on our team is what helps us keep performing at a high-level year after year."

While the global pork company's story began with a small prairie farming operation in rural Manitoba in 1994, HyLife now employs more than 2,600 people and delivers to more than 20 countries worldwide.

When farmers succeed...

Continued
from Page 9

- Renewed multi-province funding agreement with Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVI) for five additional seats, for a total investment of \$8.3 million from Manitoba
- Increases to Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) lending limits and also Young Farmer loan limits
- Opening of two new MASC service centres in Shoal Lake and Virden
- Release of a provincial Economic Development Strategy
- Appointment to Manitoba's US Trade Council, advising province on CUSMA
- Continued investment in and prioritization of the Port of Churchill
- Appointment of Manitoba's Trade Representative in Washington, DC, and
- \$100,000 in funding for the Career Pathways Program to develop an online portal that highlights career pathways in agriculture

and works to solve labour shortages.

KAP has joined several initiatives nationally and internationally to advance ag priorities, including:

- In 2025, KAP partnered with CFA on the Summer meeting and Federal-Provincial-Territorial meetings and farm tours with representatives from across Canada (in July and September).
 - Participating in the Midwest Legislative Conference in Saskatoon in July 2025, meeting with and building relationships with Canadian and American legislators
 - Attending the Tri-National Agriculture Accord in October 2025, which took place in Morelia, Mexico
 - We cross-border events including SARL in New Orleans a few months ago in January.
 - We continue to work closely with the Manitoba government on expanding trade and other delegation opportunities
- Verwey noted that, "KAP

had multiple appearances before House of Commons and Senate committees. We're also deepening our partnerships across government and industry and continuing to grow KAP's presence and ensure agriculture remains top of mind for government. Moving forward, our priorities include a heightened focus on young farmer engagement, because the next generation is the future of this industry.


We will continue to prioritize trade, labour, business risk management, economic development, and building strong partnerships.


Farms and the broader agri-food sector generate billions of dollars for Manitoba each year.

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That's why what we do at KAP matters."

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Scott Woods Fiddle Country tour returns to Neepawa

By Ken Waddell
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Scott Woods upcoming Fiddle Country tour is coming to Neepawa. It's part of 31 a towns trip he has set up between May to mid-June, 2026.

Woods is a multiple winner of the Canadian Open Fiddle Contest, the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Competition, and was named Canadian Fiddle Entertainer of the Year. In 2018, he was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Association.

Scott's shows encompass the values of yesteryear with the technology of today using state-of-the-art sound and stage lighting with GoPro cameras and big-screen projection. A true variety show, not unlike Don Messer's Jubilee, the Tommy Hunter Show or Hee Haw, the Scott Woods Band brings Canadian fiddle music, traditional country, gospel, step dancing and lots

of family-friendly humour to the stage. Costumes and antics include Scott's famous trick fiddling, where he walks on a barrel and does a running somersault all while playing his fiddle.

Joining Scott on his Fiddle Country 2026 tour is his sister, Kendra Woods Norris. She is also a champion fiddler. Kendra is known for doing her tribute to 'Cousin Minnie Pearl.' Kendra adds levity to the show while covering essential piano parts, accordion, fiddle as well as harmony and lead vocals.

Playing drums, fiddle, singing and step dancing is 21-year-old Leo Stock. Known as "Good Ole Spaghetti Legs," Leo is a three-time winner of the Canadian Open Step Dancing Championship, and his feet go about a hundred miles-per-hour. Just watching Leo dance is worth the price of admission! And you can see it all on the big screen, no matter where you are seated!

The Telecaster Master – Steve Piticco will be playing electric and acoustic guitars. He is multiple winner of Guitar Player of the Year at the Canadian Country Music Association Awards and he has won Flat Picker of the Year from the Central Canadian Bluegrass Awards. Steve had his own television show in the Ottawa Valley for many years and is an inducted member of the Ottawa Valley Country Music Hall of Fame.

Fiddle Country is a toe-tapping, heartwarming celebration of Classic Country and Fiddle music! Featuring a diverse mix of Bluegrass, Western Swing, Canadian Old-Time Fiddling, and Country Gospel, this two-hour show delivers real music, real instruments, and nonstop family-friendly fun — all with a touch of Canadiana and plenty of humour. "You certainly don't have to be a fiddle or country music fan to enjoy the show," says Woods. "I try to build

the show so there is always something different to see and hear and your emotions will vary from excited, happy and fun to serious, sentimental and even sad."

Check out the tour schedule at scottwoods.ca or call toll free 1-855-ScottWoods (1-855-726-8896) for more information and to reserve your tickets today OR

you can get tickets at The Neepawa Banner & Press at 423 Mountain Avenue in Neepawa or Arts Forward at 293 Mountain Ave. also in Neepawa.

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Plumas Pirates start Santa Clara season off on positive note

Hoping to build off last year's finals appearance.

By Austin Lewis
FREELANCE WRITER

On day one of the 2026 Santa Clara Baseball League for the Plumas Pirates, they began defending their finalist season against the Austin A's in the Plumas ballgrounds. With starting pitcher Riley McBride on the mound, the new baseball season was now underway.

After a scoreless first inning, all the action occurred in the bottom second inning, where Rylan Denbow and Dean Forsling each scored an RBI double to allow McBride and Denbow to score to take a 2-0 lead.

In the top of the third inning, the Pirate's lead was cut in half after the A's scored a single to right field. In the bottom of the third, a walk by Sam Koncz, and a single by Luke Decorby on a A's mispitch, loaded the



PICTURE BY AUSTIN LEWIS

bases for the Pirates. An RBI walk by DJ Meloney made for a 3-1 lead for the Pirates. After 3 innings of baseball, the Pirates had a 5-1 lead over the Austin A's after back-to-back RBI singles.

The Austin A's made it a two point deficit after an RBI double and a walk at the top of the fifth inning. The bottom of the fifth was a disaster for the Pirates as

they issued a three-and-out by getting struck out twice and a centre field fly-out.

As they started the final two innings of the game, Luke Decorby took over the pitcher's mound in place of Rylan Single, who pitched the fourth and fifth innings. Decorby allowed 3 BBs (walks) against the A's. However, at the bottom of the sixth inning, Sam Koncz hit an RBI sac fly

which will allowed Riley McBride to score to bring the Pirates back up by three.

Rylan Denbow closed out the game with a 4 strike-outs in a 6-3 victory for the Plumas in their home opener. Although there were no home runs scored by either team, four players managed to score RBI doubles, singles and a sac fly.

Neepawa Cubs blank Royals in Carberry

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Lincoln Murray tossed a complete game two hitter for Neepawa on Wednesday, May 20, leading the Cubs to a 6-0 win over the Carberry Royals. This solid effort on the mound was paired with a good night offensively for the Cubs, as Ryan Gower paced Neepawa with three hits on four plate appearances. Teammates Ryan Benson and Taylor Fletcher also came through in key situations, each driving in a pair of

RBI's to help secure the win. This result keeps the Cubs' strong start to the season going, as they improved their record to 2-0-1, while Carberry slipped to 0-2-1.

The Cubs did have a road game in Austin on Wednesday, May 27. The results of that matchup were official after the Banner & Press publication deadline. Neepawa's next home game is Friday, May 28 versus Austin. Opening pitch is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

Mavericks power past Padres

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

An early offensive spark proved be more than enough for the Minnedosa Mavericks on Monday, May 25, as they defeated the Portage Padres 12-5.

Playing on home in Minnedosa, the Mavericks jumped ahead quickly at the bottom of the first, with Andrew Richards launching a two-run home run. Richards finished with a strong night at the plate, going 2-for-3 with two RBIs and two runs scored.

The Mavs added two more in the first, to secure an early 4-1 lead. The home side kept the pressure on in the second inning, adding another four runs to stretch their advantage. Austin

Taylor and Reid Klym each delivered RBI singles during that rally. Both Klym and Taylor finished 3-for-4 at the plate, with Klym driving in three runs, and Taylor collecting a pair of RBIs and two stolen bases.

On the mound, Devin Foord went the distance to secure the win for Minnedosa. Foord scattered 12 hits across the complete-game effort while recording four strikeouts.

The victory allows the Mavericks to leapfrog Portage in the Santa Clara Baseball League standings and move into third place with a 2-2-0 record.

Westman Fury U13 AA Team begin their 2026 season

By Austin Lewis
FREELANCE WRITER

The Westman Fury U13 AA girls softball team is a competitive team comprised of players from various towns north of Trans-Canada Highway in Manitoba. On Saturday, May 2, the U13 AA team started their tryouts at the Neepawa Ball Grounds. They have recruited three players from Neepawa, four players from Virden, three players from McCreary/Ste. Rose, and other players from Russell and surrounding areas-Minnedosa, Miniota, Hamiota, Glenboro, Wawanesa, Deloraine, Strathclair/Shoal Lake and other Parkwest towns, and Boissevain trying out for the 2026 season.

The Westman Fury frequently compete against the Westman Heat and other Westman regional teams

each year for a chance at the provincial championship title.

This season, the Westman Fury U13 AA team will have two to three days of tryouts a week throughout the month of May along with a couple exhibition games towards the end of May. The regular season play runs through June and July.

Throughout the regular

season, the Westman Fury U13 AA Softball team will compete in a few regular season games against other local teams from the Westman area. For example, the Fury will be competing against the Westman Heat U13 team, and the Westman Storm U13 team, along with two showcase tournaments in June within the regular season until provincials.

With every team making

provincials, The Westman Fury U13 AA girls softball team will play hard and compete for a chance at the provincial championship final for a second consecutive year. The team is hoping to bounce back from a tough loss 6-1 to the Westman Heat U13 team at the Provincial Championship last year.

NEW LOCATION

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OPTICAL

Dr. Derek Papegnies
Optometrist

424 Mountain Ave
former Harris Pharmacy building

For appointment please call:
204-476-2002

NEEPAWA

Games start at 7:00 p.m.
at the Neepawa Fair Grounds

Friday, June 5
vs. Plumas Pirates

Friday, June 8
vs. Minnedosa Mavericks

Friday, June 19
vs. Portage Padres

Santa Clara Baseball League

	G	W	L	T	Win %	Games Back
Plumas Pirates	3	3	0	0	1.000	-
Neepawa Cubs	3	2	0	1	.833	0.5
Minnedosa Mavericks	4	2	2	0	.500	1.5
Portage Padres	4	1	2	0	.500	1.5
Carberry Royals	3	0	2	1	.167	2.5
Austin A's	3	0	3	0	.000	3.0

Funding secured for lighting infrastructure upgrades in Gladstone

Submitted
SPRUCE PLAINS RCMP

The Town of Gladstone will benefit from enhanced outdoor lighting infrastructure following the successful award of \$13,941 through the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund. The application was submitted by Staff Sergeant Andrew Cowan with input from the RM of Westlake-Gladstone.

The funding will support upgraded lighting at the community basketball courts, a high-use area for local youth and residents. The project is intended to improve visibility, helping to deter vandalism, mischief, and other unwanted activity while creating a safer, more welcoming environment.

Improved lighting will encourage positive recreational use of the space, reduce late-night disturbances, and support healthy, active lifestyles. Enhanced visibility will also assist RCMP and community



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY RCMP

From left to right: Stephanie Campbell (Recreation and Leisure Director), Andrea Smith (Assistant CAO) and S/Sgt. Andrew Cowan (Area Commander-Spruce Plains RCMP)

partners in monitoring the area more effectively, contributing to proactive policing and overall public safety.

This initiative is expected

to strengthen community connections, foster a greater sense of security, and enhance pride in the Town of Gladstone.

Funding secured for radar speed sign to enhance safety in Neepawa

Submitted
SPRUCE PLAINS RCMP

Neepawa will benefit from enhanced road safety following the successful acquisition of funding for a new radar speed display sign.

Staff Sergeant Andrew Cowan, in consultation with the Town of Neepawa, applied to the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund and was awarded \$7,400 to support the purchase of the device. The radar sign will be strategically placed in a high-traffic area to improve driver awareness of vehicle speeds.

The sign will provide real-time feedback to motorists, encouraging compliance with posted speed limits. By targeting areas near schools, parks, and residential neighbourhoods, the initiative aims to reduce speeding and improve safety for all road users—particularly vulnerable populations such as children and seniors.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY RCMP

In the picture starting from the left is S/Sgt. Andrew Cowan (Area Commander-Spruce Plains RCMP) and Councillor Dave Clark (Chairperson of Protection and Community Services Committee)

In addition to promoting safer driving habits, the sign may also collect traffic data to help inform future safety planning and responses within the community.

This initiative highlights

a collaborative effort between local policing and municipal partners to foster a stronger culture of road safety and ensure Neepawa remains a safe and welcoming community.

2026 Gladstone Music and Arts Festival report

Submitted
MEDIA RELEASE

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 Element-

tary School and Gladstone United Church for generously providing venue spaces. Thank-you to the Municipality of WestLake-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.

Speech, choral, and vocal

The Speech, Choral and Vocal Sessions were held on Apr. 21 and 22, with Kelvin Bueckert and Lisa Rumpel facilitating. Kelvin Bueckert, a Gladstone resident well known for his original scripts, productions and published books, facilitated the classroom speech and choral classes, as well as the Kindergarten to Grade 6 speech classes. Lisa Rumpel facilitated the Grades 7 to 9 speech arts classes and vocal classes. She has facilitated at music festivals across Mani-



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLADSTONE MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL

Gladstone Music Festival Rosebowl (Vocal) recipient Ayla McConnell (left).

toba and currently serves as a piano instructor at the Winnipeg Conservatory of Music. The following awards were presented.

Classroom Speech Choir, Kindergarten to Grade 3: Langruth Elementary School, Grade 1-3 Class (Gold Seal Certificate), Gladstone Elementary

School, Grade 2 / 3 Class (Silver Seal Certificate).

Classroom Speech Choir, Grades 4 to 6: Austin Elementary School, Grade 5 Class (Gold Seal Certificate), Gladstone Elementary School, Grade 3 / 4 Class (Silver Seal Certificate).

Action Songs & Sing-

ing Games, Kindergarten to Grade 2: Gladstone Elementary School, Grade 2 Class (Gold Seal Certificate).

Action Songs & Singing Games, Grades 3 - 6: Gladstone Elementary School, Grade 5 Class (Gold Seal Certificate).

Reader's Theatre, Grades 4 to 6: Scarlett Watson, Emily Lawrence, Oliver Geisel, Cooper Lucas, Beckett Lucas, & Noah Redekopp (Medallions).

Solo Spoken Poetry, Kindergarten - Grade 3: Ria Marca (Medallion).

Solo Spoken Poetry, Grades 4 to 6: Ambree Brown (Medallion).

Solo Spoken Poetry, Grades 7 to 9: Adam Marca (Medallion).

Solo Reading, Poetry, Grades 7 to 9: Melody Teichrib (Medallion).

Solo Reading, Prose, Grades 7 to 9: Adam Marca (Medallion).

Spoken Poetry, Duet, Trio or Quartet, Grades 4 to 6: Harley Gabor, Astyn

Reiner & Riley Henderson (Medallions).

Poetry Reading, Duet, Trio or Quartet, Grades 1 to 3: Jake Chandler & Ethan Fehr (Medallions).

Poetry Reading, Duet, Trio or Quartet, Grades 4 to 6: Peyton Marrow & Isabel Hanneson (Medallions).

Public Speaking, Grade 4 to 6: Peyton Marrow (Medallion).

Vocal Solo, Folk / Canadian / Own Choice Song, 14 & Under: Jemimah Casigay (Medallion).

Vocal Solo, 20th/21st Century English Arts Song / Popular / Contemporary, 14 & Under: Ayla McConnell (Medallion).

Vocal Solo, Musical Theatre / Movie Musical / Popular / Contemporary, 14 & Under: Ayla McConnell (Medallion).

Additional results will appear in next week's edition of the Banner & Press

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified d Deadline: **TUESDAY NOON**

- Cancellations and corrections only within business hours and corresponding deadlines
- Please check your ad when first published the Neepawa Banner & Press will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion.
- All copy is subject to approval by the Neepawa Banner & Press.
- We reserve the right to edit copy or to refuse to publish any advertisement we deem illegal, libelous, misleading or offensive

Personal

Crisis Pregnancy Centre Winnipeg: Need to talk? Call our free help line, 1-800-665-0570 or contact our Westman office: 204-727-6161

Notice

A Bible Quote NKJV John 3:5, Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

Notice

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

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

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

Notice

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

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

For Rent

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

For Rent: 3 bedrooms, full bathroom, main appliances, stove, fridge, washer, dryer. Central Air. Available July 1, 2026. 71 Main St West Neepawa. 204-212-2331

Spacious 2 BR apt in Neepawa, two pk stalls, St St appliances, blinds on all windows. Quiet Adults only, no pets, no smoking, references required. Subletting July 1, then one year lease. 204-841-3176 Betty, 204-476-0678 Karen

For Sale or Rent

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

For Sale

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

Auctions

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

In Memory

In Memory of
Don Smith "SMITTY"
 June 1, 1997
*Til Memory fades and life departs,
 You Live Forever in our Hearts!*
 Dorothy and Family

Obituary

Pamala Margaret Kerkowich
 October 29, 1996 - May 11, 2026
 Pam was the daughter of David and Debbie Kerkowich, younger sister to Ricky and older sister to Samantha. Upon graduation from Neepawa Area Collegiate Institute she attended Brandon University and Assiniboine Community College. The courses she took in Agribusiness set her on her career path of becoming an agronomist. She was presented with the "One to Watch" award. During that time she worked at a few popular restaurants and other businesses. After graduating from college she started working in her chosen field beginning with Richardson Grain at Dundonald and then Pembina Co-op in Minto. This was a move away from her family but she made friends quickly. Especially with a young man, Derek, who lived not far from her. This relationship continued to grow and last year they welcomed a son. She was able to start her own business, Prairie West Agronomy, after working for A1 Agronomy, Paterson in Killarney, Shur-Gro Farm Services in Brandon and Timac Agro. Pam leaves behind her partner in life, Derek Tufts, son Carter, her parents and siblings, special niece Kara, special nephew Adler and brother in law Connor Smith. Pam will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles and cousins, Cheryl and Don Tufts and her friends from all parts of her life. Pam is predeceased by her grandparents Joan and Paul Kerkowich, Elsie and Lloyd Bare, cousin Dawson.

Notice



MUNICIPALITY OF ALONSA 2026 PESTICIDE CONTROL PROGRAM

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

- To control noxious weeds on Municipal owned property within the Municipality of Alonsa and on streets, sidewalks and boulevards from July 20, 2026 to November 30, 2026 by use of:
 Allowable pesticides as per Regulation #286/2014.
- To control noxious weeds and brush on road allowances and right-of-ways within the Municipality of Alonsa from July 15, 2026 to November 30, 2026 by use of:
 2-4-D amine 600 2-4-D LV Ester 700 Glyphosate
 Banvel vm Garion XRT Navius
 Truvist Fiesta Tordon 22K
 Detail
- To control rodents at the Municipality's five Waste Disposal Sites, being NE 18-21-11 WPM, SE 11-19-10 WPM, NE 14-24-13 WPM, SE 3-22-11 WPM & NW 35-24-11 WPM in the Municipality of Alonsa at various times during the year using Bromadiolone or other chemicals as used by the Contractor as appointed by the Municipality of Alonsa.
- To control insect pests such as mosquitoes and grasshoppers within the Municipality of Alonsa by use of Malathion and Eco Bran as well as those larvicides recommended by the Province of Manitoba, from July 20, 2026 to November 30, 2026.

The public may, within 15 days after this notice is published, submit written comments to the department or register a written objection to the use of pesticide next to their property.

Manitoba Environment and Climate Change
 Environmental Approvals Branch
 Box 35, 14 Fultz Boulevard Winnipeg, MB R3Y 0L6

Help Wanted



invites applications for the following full time position:
Full time School Secretary
 at Neepawa Collegiate
 See Division website for more details on this position at www.beautifulplainsd.ca
 Click on Job Postings.



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.beautifulplainsd.ca
 Click on Job Postings.

Obituary



Grace Marion Jones
 It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Grace was born on August 13, 1928, and passed away May 9, 2026.

She is survived by her son: Bruce (Trudy), grandchildren Ian (Cheryl), Shelby (Justin), Rebekah, (Steve); son Ron (Jacquie), grandchildren Danielle, Reese (Payton), Jesse; daughter Susan (Bruce), grandchildren Isaac, Lisa (Cameron); daughter Kathleen (Gene); plus, seven great-grandchildren.

Grace was predeceased by her husband Reg and her only brother Ronald.

Grace received her schooling at Wheatfield School, Shoal Lake and Brookdale. She had been residing at Victoria Landing, Brandon in the past year.

The family would like to thank the numerous staff members for their compassionate care and support at the Assiniboine Centre.

A Celebration of Grace's Life was held at Memories Chapel, Brandon on Thursday, May 21, 2026. Interment took place in Neepawa, Manitoba.

Donations in memory of Grace may be made to Brookdale United Church, Box 14, Brookdale, Manitoba, R0K 0G0 or to a charity of choice.

Expressions of sympathy may be made at www.memorieschapel.com. Arrangements with Memories Chapel, Brandon, 204-727-0330.



Joan Gray 1936-2026

Lovingly referred to by her students for decades as "Mother Gray", Joan opened her heart to generations of youth to give them shelter in times of need and give them support to move forward in their lives.

You are invited to join Joan's family to honour her legacy of strength, faith and service to others by attending a memorial service at:

Friday, June 5 at 2:00 pm
Neepawa Anglican-United Church,
Mountain Avenue



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Eric 204-573-7661 • Kyle 204-841-4409
e.k.kostenchuk.ltd@gmail.com

Help Wanted



Industrial Plant Cleaner (NOC 65312)

Why join our team?

HyLife is a global leader in food processing, with a vision to be the best food company in the world. To achieve this, we are currently expanding our team and have exciting career opportunities at 623 Main St. Neepawa, MB. We are actively seeking to fill 10 positions.

The current starting wage is \$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
- Full training, with genuine opportunities for career progression
- Employee Referral program - \$500!
- Free parking
- Company events
- And more!!!!

Your duties may include:

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

We are looking for people who are:

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

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

For inquiries contact: Phone: 204.476.3393

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

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



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 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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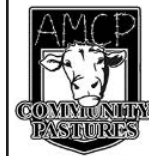


invites applications for the following position:

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.beautifulplainsd.ca
 Click on Job Postings.



Come join the Association of Manitoba Community Pastures team!

We are seeking a Range & Project Manager. If you are an energetic individual dedicated to the promotion of range management through both health assessments and project delivery, we want to hear from you.

Range & Project Manager

Our Organization

The Association of Manitoba Community Pastures (AMCP) is a notforprofit organization that oversees some of the largest remaining intact prairie lands in the province through responsible livestock grazing. AMCP operates both as a grazing organization that stewards the land and as an environmental organization that uses cattle to sustainably manage and protect these vital ecosystems. Since our inception in 2014 AMCP has been a leader in collaborating with funders to support the environmental goods and services our landscape provides.

Our Culture

AMCP is an efficient, nimble organization that is environmentally focused. As a cooperative business, we are committed to providing the best service to our patrons and their cattle. We are fortunate to have a committed, experienced and talented staff. Together, we work to manage, foster and enhance over 350,000 acres of native prairie pastureland.

The Role

Reporting to the General Manager, the Range and Project Manager will be primarily responsible to lead AMCP's efforts to secure grant funding to deliver projects that enhance pasture management for improved cattle grazing and increased environmental benefits. The position is based out of Minnedosa, Manitoba with hybrid work options available. Field work is required at community pastures throughout Manitoba.

Primary Responsibilities

- Research and identify funding opportunities for AMCP.
- Manage funding opportunities alongside Pasture Managers infrastructure needs.
- Manage the completion of range health assessments and management plans.
- Assist Pasture Managers in identifying pasture needs and developing fiveyear plans that support sustainable grazing practices while enhancing native plant and animal species.
- Assist in identification of range improvements.
- Create/update maps of the community pastures.
- Complete annual stocking rate reports and grazing utilization maps.
- Assist General Manager with communications with internal and external stakeholders.

Qualifications

- Experience in writing grant proposals.
- Experience in preparing and managing budgets.
- Knowledge of prairie ecosystems and established range and management principles.
- Plant species identification capability.
- Experience with range health assessments.
- Demonstrated use of GPS, mapping software (ArcGIS) and Microsoft Office.
- Ability to manage multiple tasks and competing priorities efficiently in a fast-paced environment.
- Team player with excellent verbal and written communication and interpersonal skills.
- Must possess a valid Class 5 driver's licence with a willingness to travel.

Salary commensurate with experience, qualifications and ability.

Applications must be received by June 8, 2026.

Apply, with cover letter and resume, to
 Association of Manitoba Community Pastures
AMCP@pastures.ca

AMCP values and supports employment equity and workplace diversity and encourages all qualified individuals to apply.

We thank all candidates for their interest in this position; however, only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.



Help Wanted

PINE CREEK SCHOOL DIVISION



Invites applications for the following position:

Position: Early Years Teacher

Assignment: 1.0FTE, Term
School: Langruth Elementary School
Start Date: September 8, 2026
End Date: February 26, 2027

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

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

Scan the QR Code for more details



Music on the Porch at the Margaret Laurence Home returns



FILE PHOTO

Kim and Blair Chapman are prepared to return to the Margaret Laurence Home alongside a variety of musical guests once again for "Music on the Porch".

Pictured: A photo from previous years showing Kim and Blair Chapman during one of their own Music on the Porch performances at the Margaret Laurence Home in Neepawa.

Submitted MEDIA RELEASE

The Margaret Laurence Home porch and south yard will once again be the location for two evenings of local folk/roots music on June 3 and 10 at 7:00. Hosted by local musicians Kim and Blair Chapman, the event has run for the past two years and featured performers such as singer/songwriters Ron Nordstrom and Rob Waddell, local favourites The Hims, and singer Mavis Rowe.

This year the first evening will feature Minnedosa singer/songwriter (with Neepawa connections), Heidi Hislop. The

second evening, the audience will be treated to traditional fiddle music (Appalachian, Canadian) from the Porteous Family Band from Kelwood. A couple of songs from hosts Blair and Kim will open and close the evenings.

As in the past, the guitar case will be open to receive donations which will be divided between the Little Valley Jamboree and the Margaret Laurence Home, two worthy local causes.

Bring a lawn chair and be ready to enjoy a beautiful June evening under the elm trees while listening to made-in-Manitoba acoustic music.

Manitoba Community Newspaper Association Province-wide Classifieds

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j.bray@neepawagladstonecoop.com for more information.

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'This story is the answer' -Audrhea Lande

Author's new book shares a deeper perspective of Manitoba's history

By Casper Wehrhahn
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

An author with a passion for lesser known history made an appearance in Neepawa last week. On May 21, Audrhea Lande, a retired teacher from Rorketon, was hosted by the Neepawa Public Library to introduce her new book, 'On the Hunt for William Hallett: Discovering a Forgotten Métis Leader'.

This memoir infused historical biography explores the life story of William Hallett, a respected buffalo hunt captain and community leader, whom many are likely to not be aware of.

Additionally, he is the self-proclaimed 'Sworn Enemy of Louis Riel'. That particular detail left Lande with a major question— "Why would a man so respected and kept alive in memory be calling himself Sworn Enemy of Louis Riel?"

"This story is the answer," said Lande.

An answer which Lande spent nearly a decade to find.

"It all started when I went with my wife, Lori— William Hallett's great-great-granddaughter, and her mother, Irene, to the

unveiling of a roadside sign in southern Manitoba naming Highway #3 the Boundary Trail heritage route," Lande explained.

She later added, "This is my wife's story. It is from her and her cousin, Bruce Hallett, who did a huge research project in University on family history in the Red River and in the fur trade; Heather Hallett, who did a two volume research project on the history of Henry Hallett, who came from Britain to be part of the Hudson Bay Company traders in 1972, and the 10 children that he fathered; and other members of the family. So, I happen to be the scribe who can write this story out, who did the research finding the scholarly roots, and putting it together."

Setting the stage

Through gathering oral histories, genealogical research, delving into newspaper archives, and scouring historical records, Lande found the realities of William's life, his accomplishments, and a far more complex story of the Red River Rebellion and Manitoba's formation.

"The issue [William Hallett had] with Louis Riel was that he (Riel) had

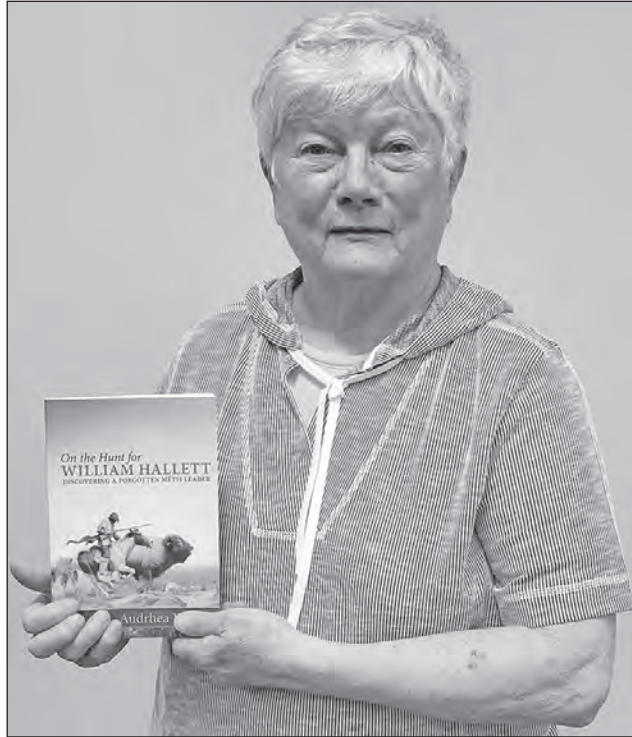


PHOTO BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

Author Audrhea Lande with her new book 'On the Hunt for William Hallett.'

become associated with a group of Americans who were hoping to annex Red River to the U.S.A.," Lande explained. "A group of people who had, in the 1850s, been responsible for robbing the Dakota of their land and pushing them up onto a reserve where they were starving."

Lande noted that Hallett's discovery of this, combined with his friendship with the First Nations people,

and the fraught relations between the Dakota and the Americans, cemented Hallett's opposition to Riel.

"It set the stage for the clash that was to come," said Lande.

Hallett would later become a prisoner of Louis Riel. And, according to Lande and her research, part of Hallett's imprisonment saw him suffer greatly. Accounts provided in the book state that he was

shackled and kept in an unheated cell in mid-winter, which resulted in life-long damages.

A 'more accurate story'

When asked for some of her thoughts and feelings as she learned more of William Hallett, Lande said, "I came to admire him a great deal for his endurance, and really standing up for what he felt was right, with regard to the Dakota people— that they had been so badly wronged, and that he wasn't going to be among [those] to wrong them."

She added later, "Learning all of that made me very angry with Louis Riel. For a while, I was really, really angry. And eventually I came to feel— not sorry for Riel— just, he had a raw deal too."

After recounting some of Riel's own history and hardships, she continued.

"He was unsuccessful, unsuccessful, unsuccessful, came back to Red River, and I can see how if Stuttsman and the land-hungry Americans were making an offer to him, 'you can be somebody you can do this', that he would have thought 'maybe I can do that and that would be good for the

Métis people'— who knows what he thought," said Lande. "And then when the resistance started, it was hugely stressful on him. Nothing went well."

She added, "So I ended up not being so angry for what he did to William. I ended up thinking he had a rough go as well, and in the end he had a rough ending as well. It was a bad time."

Providing a final comment, Lande further emphasized the Red River Rebellion's complexities.

"I think the Red River Resistance isn't well told. People don't understand what a terrible time it was," said Lande. "When you read the actual newspapers and what's being said— reading from people writing about it— there's a whole much more interesting, much more accurate story to be told about the Red River Uprising and Resistance than has been generally known."

'On the Hunt for William Hallett' has been named a top-25 best non-fiction book by the Winnipeg Free Press for 2025, and has been nominated for the 2025 Margaret McWilliams Award.

NACC hosted Sunday concerts



PHOTO BY GARY SALMON

The Neepawa and Area Community Choir (pictured) held a pair of local concerts this past Sunday. Special guests for the concert were the Hims, Choraliers, Neepawa Area Collegiate Institute Chorale, and the Neepawa Middle School Choir.

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Low maintenance landscape features

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Outdoor entertaining spaces have come a long way over the last several decades. While a simple deck or patio might once have been the norm, outdoor entertaining spaces have now evolved into multi-purpose spaces featuring full kitchens, living rooms equipped with televisions, and areas to gather around a fireplace or built-in firepit.

While hardscaping garners considerable attention when planning an outdoor entertaining space, landscaping should not be overlooked. Many homeowners want to enjoy their outdoor entertaining spaces without having to spend too much time tending to the surrounding grounds, which can make these low-maintenance landscape features the perfect fit.

- **Native plants:** Native plants are low maintenance because they are naturally adapted to the local climate. That means homeowners won't have to expend extra effort and energy watering plants or amending the soil. Non-native species may provide some bold colours, but that comes at the cost of additional maintenance. There's also an environmental cost when planting non-native species, as the United States Environmental Protection Agency warns that non-native species typically displace



IMAGE COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

The right choice of plant when mapping out a landscape can save homeowners lots of maintenance down the road.

natives, which can adversely affect the local ecosystem.

- **Perennials:** Homeowners looking to accent their outdoor entertaining areas with flowers can choose perennials over annuals. Perennials live for three or more years, and some species can even live for a decade or more. While they might require some seasonal pruning, perennials will not need to be replanted each year like annuals.

- **Tolerant plants:** Plants that can tolerate the local climate generally fall under the native category. But it's especially important that homeowners who don't want to expend much effort on landscape maintenance

look for plants that can tolerate drought. A recent study from researchers at UCLA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, and CIRES predict drought conditions will last longer, cover wider areas, and become more severe as the climate continues to warm. Drought-resistant plants may still require some watering if such predictions hold true. However, such plants will not require as much maintenance as those that are less equipped to handle drought. Homeowners who choose plants with drought-tolerance in mind won't have to spend as much time watering and also can protect their financial investment.

Outdoor entertaining spaces are meant to be

enjoyed. And homeowners may enjoy such spaces a lot more if they opt for low-maintenance landscape solutions.

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Tigers Fight Cancer project gives back in a big way



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

On Thursday, May 21, the graduating players of the Neepawa Tigers hockey team distributed the funds raised from their annual Tigers Fight Cancer campaign. This year, \$15,600 was raised and given to the Neepawa chapter of Victoria Quilts, the Neepawa Chemotherapy Unit and Waves of Hope.

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Long after the final buzzer sounded on their hockey season, the Neepawa Area Collegiate Institute (NACI) Tigers have still found a way to win. On Thursday, May 21, graduating members of this year's hockey program presented a combination of donations and equipment purchases to local cancer-related initiatives through the team's annual Tigers Fight Cancer campaign.

This year's fundraiser generated \$15,600, which is the largest amount ever

raised in a single year. That brings the total amount brought over the last six years to \$33,250. As for the funds raised from this season's efforts, they were distributed to several causes within the community, including:

- **\$3,000** to the Neepawa chapter of Victoria's Quilts of Canada. Victoria's Quilts provides handmade quilts to people living with a cancer diagnosis;
- **\$9,400** worth of items purchased for the Neepawa Chemotherapy Unit, in the form of some equipment for the space;

- **\$1,000** for the Waves of Hope; a dragon boat team consisting of breast cancer survivors and supporter from the Westman and Parkland regions. The team promotes breast cancer awareness, early detection, and survivorship through fitness and fundraising, and;

- **\$2,200** was placed into the Neepawa Tigers Hockey Help Fund, a legacy fund first established in 2024, that assists families of NACI students who are battling cancer.

The annual Tigers Fight Cancer fundraiser takes place each January and has

grown into one of the school hockey program's most meaningful traditions.

Fundraising efforts throughout the season include contributions from players, supporters and community members through a variety of initiatives. Those activities have included a progressive 50/50 draw, a 50/50 held during one of the Tigers' home games and other community-supported fundraising efforts.

One of the signature elements of the event is the Tigers' special pink cancer awareness jerseys, worn during the fundraising game each season as a visible show of support for those affected by cancer.



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PHOTO: LEISURE TRAVEL VANS

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