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**NEEPAWA** **Banner & Press**

Locally owned and operated

Inside this week

Everything for your Farm



Page 8-9: Everything for Your Farm

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**WE HAVE GLUTEN FRIENDLY & VEGAN OPTIONS**  
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Neepawa's Valley Optical on the move after 33 years

By Casper Wehrhahn  
 Neepawa Banner & Press



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Dr. Derek Papegnies, of Valley Optical in Neepawa.

A Neepawa business with just over three decades of history is drawing ever closer to opening in a new location. This is Valley Optical, owned by Dr. Derek Papegnies. Currently located within the Beautiful Plains Medical Clinic, Valley Optical is in the process of renovating and moving into the former Harris Pharmacy building, located at 424 Mountain Avenue.

"The nerves are up for sure," Dr. Papegnies confided, adding later, "I've never had to move an office before; I'm learning on the fly, so-to-say."

Dr. Papegnies shared a brief portion of the business's history, noting that it first began within the medical clinic in 1992—making it nearly 34 years old.

"Sept. 16, 1992— We ended up finding the original appointment book buried in the bottom of a filing cabinet, [and it recorded] Dr. Perkin's first

day. It's been a while," said Dr. Papegnies.


Of the available spaces on the market, the former Harris Pharmacy building best fit the bill for Papegnies, and a lease was signed for October of 2025. Renovations rang in the new year for Valley Optical's upcoming location, with the process beginning early in January of 2026.

**Continued on Page 16**




PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX


Although the season didn't end as many had hoped for in Neepawa, the Titans are still very thankful to fans, both young and old, for the unbelievable support throughout the 2025-26 MJHL season. A wrapup of the Titan's post season, as well as a look ahead can be seen on page 10.

 **BUSINESS AFTER 5**

Neepawa and Area Chamber presents Stride Credit Union Business After 5! Stop by Neepawa Stride Credit Union for a night of networking, snacks, refreshments & door prizes!

**THURSDAY APRIL 9, 5:00 - 6:30 PM**





# Nearly two decades of dedication in Neepawa

## Farm & Leisure Lotto concludes its' early bird schedule

By Eoin Devereux  
Neepawa Banner & Press

For the past 18 years, local volunteers with the Neepawa & District Farm & Leisure Lotto have started their spring working the phones to make our community a little bit better. And for those same 18 years, you've been on the other end of that phone call opening your heart and your wallet or purse to do the very same.

The Neepawa Town Office was frantic with activity on Mar. 26 to 28, as a portion of the space was taken over by members of the Beautiful Plains Community Medical Committee. Each year around this time, that group assembles to operate the lottery, whose proceeds help to fund improvements to Neepawa's medical services. This year's support will aid in renovations to some office space to assist with the Doctor's residency program

Leisure Lotto Coordin-

ator Mary Ellen Clark noted that it takes an incredibly dedicated group of people to make this local fundraising effort work. She thanked those workers who volunteer their time to make those calls. Clark also thanked those on the other end of the line, for seeing value in supporting them.

"The money goes to a great place, and we've received support from not only around the community, but across the province and even beyond those borders," explained Clark. "We have regular [lottery] buyers that purchase from us year after year, that have never even used our medical facilities. But they see what we're trying to do as a community and they're so happy to help."

The early bird draw wrapped up last weekend. In terms of those sales, the early pace of ticket purchasing was slightly behind previous years, but picked up in a noticeable way just before the deadline on Saturday, Mar. 28. The winner of the



Mary Ellen Clark presents Crystal Stewart of Rivers a cheque for \$10,000, the prize for the early bird draw for the 2026 Neepawa & District Medical Committee Farm & Leisure Lotto.

PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

early bird draw was Crystal Stewart of Rivers, MB.

Tickets are still available for purchase for the main lottery, which features \$130,000 voucher from Enns Brothers (Option #1),

a pair of \$55,000 credits from both McLaughlin G.M. and Four Seasons R.V. Sales (Option #2) or \$100,000 cash (Option #3). As well, there is the 50/50 add-on draw, which as of

the publication deadline was sitting at \$59,410.

To purchase tickets, call toll free 1-877-876-8555 or order online at [www.neepawalotto.com](http://www.neepawalotto.com).



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NEPAWA **Banner & Press**



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TO STRIDE CREDIT UNION'S  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026  
7PM

THIS MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE VIA ZOOM

Attendees must pre-register at  
[www.stridecuagm.ca/2026](http://www.stridecuagm.ca/2026)  
by April 8, 2026

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CREDIT UNION

**CO-OP**

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**Annual General Meeting**  
**MEMBERS OF**  
**NEPAWA-GLADSTONE CO-OP LTD.**

TAKE NOTICE THAT the annual meeting of the members of the Neepawa-Gladstone Co-operative Limited will be held at ArtsForward on

**Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 7 p.m.**

Agenda items will include:

- Report of the Board of Directors
- Financial Statements and Auditor's report
- Election of Directors
- Appointment of Auditors

**NEPAWA-GLADSTONE CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED**  
by order of the Board of Directors

## 1976: 'The Swimsuits' showcase Summer Games song

By Casper Wehrhahn  
Neepawa Banner & Press

**125 years ago,  
Tuesday,  
April 1, 1901**

Union: J. B. Govenlock proposes making an experiment with the sugar beet this season. His example should be followed by others and experiences could be compared at a meeting of the farmers institute.

Union: Geo. Brydon has sold his farm, the east half of section 25-14-15, to David Lawrence, of Neepawa. Mr. Brydon proposes going to Alberta. He will sell his goods and chattels on the 12th inst.

Jas. McElveney, one of the early settlers here and who carried on a carriage making business in town for some years, died on Friday last and was interred in Riverside cemetery on Saturday. He was 68 years old.

Wm. Gaham, of Wellwood, has bought cut [in] the Stewart Bros. livery stable in Neepawa, including horses and rigs and will continue business under the name of the Neepawa Horse Exchange. The Messrs. Stewart have not decided on their future avocation.

It is rumored that a

Neepawa gentleman is negotiating for the purchase of Tom Ogden, the pacer, that made a great race with Lone here on July 1 last but was beaten. Ogden was withdrawn from the track after that race and is now said to be in good going trim again.

**100 years ago,  
Friday,  
April 2, 1926**

McCreary: The government forage car visited McCreary on Mar. 31 and was well attended. Everyone seemed to appreciate the privilege of having the opportunity to hear matters discussed for the betterment of farming and to come in touch with the working of our farm service from the college at Winnipeg.

Franklin: Hugh Orr was a passenger to Neepawa on Wednesday, where he has accepted a position in the power house.

Franklin: Wilfred Brown left the beginning of the week to accept a position in Pedlar's Garage, Neepawa.

Kelwood: The Egg Pool commences operations next Monday. First shipment of eggs from Kelwood for Neepawa are to be delivered at the station Wednesday morning, Apr. 7. Wednesday will be

shipping day here.

**75 years ago,  
Thursday,  
April 5, 1951**

Kelwood: Two 87-year-old sisters of Kelwood stand today as Manitoba's oldest twins. They are Mrs. Harriett Derry and Mrs. Helen McMillan, born at Belleville, Ont., on Nov. 4, 1863.

Their brother, William Fletcher, of McCreary, celebrated his 82nd birthday on the same date as his twin sisters.

Mrs. Derry and Mrs. McMillan make their home with a nephew, Mr. and Mrs. Charles McMillan, north of Kelwood.

Hurrell's Bakery and Coffee Bar open each Saturday until 10:00 p.m. commencing Apr. 7.

The latest edition of "Sporting News", the baseball periodical which is read by thousands of players and fans all over North America carries announcement that A. D. "Dick" McKenzie, of Neepawa, has been named on the honor roll of the National Association of Umpires. Seven thousand "men in blue" belong to this organization. There are only 20 members in Canada. Mr. McKenzie was the only umpire honoured in Manitoba.

Mrs. Loiusa Still, a pioneer resident of Neepawa, marked her 87th birthday Saturday Mar. 31 at her home, 165 Hamilton St.

Kelwood: In honour of Andrew McCutcheon, a reception was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Geo McCutcheon, Kelwood, on Mar. 20. Supper was served for 34 relatives and friends....

He was born in Arthur Village, Ont. in 1852 and came to Manitoba in 1896.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

Seen here are some of the members of a local group, The Swimsuits. The occasion of the photo was a presentation of the Summer Games song to those attending the Rotary Club's Sportman's Dinner in 1976. This photo is from the Apr. 1, 1976 edition of The Press.

Members of the Swimsuits were: Ann Lee, Chris Heywood and Shirley Briese on vocals; and Sherryl Reid, who accompanied on piano.

He has made his home in Kelwood district for the past 17 years and still enjoys comparatively good health.

**50 years ago,  
Thursday,  
April 1, 1976**

Expansion of Direct Distance Dialing in south-western Manitoba continues in April as almost 5,000 telephones serving 10 communities receive DDD.

On Apr. 1, McCreary, Kelwood and Alonsa begin direct dialing: Shoal Lake, Eden, Arden, Neepawa, Pipestone, Reston and Sinclair customers receive DDD on Apr. 22.

Neepawa and the 1976 Manitoba Summer Games will be featured on a special half-hour, live television program on CKY-TV in Winnipeg, Apr. 21, as part of the first draw in the new Western Express Lottery.

Judging from the response of the crowds on Friday and Sunday night the rock opera "Stoning of Stephen" was very much enjoyed by all.

Eden: The Eden Home Ec. 4-H Club held a potluck supper on Friday, Mar. 19, at the Eden Community Hall to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the organization.

McCreary: A nice new sign has been erected at the senior citizen home, giving it the name of Mountain View Home.

**20 years ago,  
Monday,  
April 3, 2006**

The dreariness of last week, punctuated by Tuesday's heavy fog, is supposed to give way to

sunnier skies this week.

Viper Vacuum and Jetting Services discovered one broken and one cracked sewer line while cleaning Neepawa sewers, Utilities Committee chairman Bill Stillwell said.

*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.*

**But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.**

Isaiah 53:5-6 (New International Version)

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Neepawa

NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

Acropolis Fashions, of Neepawa, had this ad in the Apr. 1, 1976 edition of The Neepawa Press.

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**Highlights of the week**

**March for Dimes Presentation**  
Apr. 10 at 6pm | Apr. 12 at 8:15 pm

**Multicultural Festival - Opening Ceremony**  
Apr. 6 at 12:20 pm | Apr. 8 at 12:30 pm | Apr. 11 at 1pm

**Multicultural Festival - Metis Fiddler**  
Apr. 7 at 10:30 am | Apr. 9 at 6:30 pm | Apr. 12 at 9:30 pm

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## Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



## He is Risen, he is risen indeed!

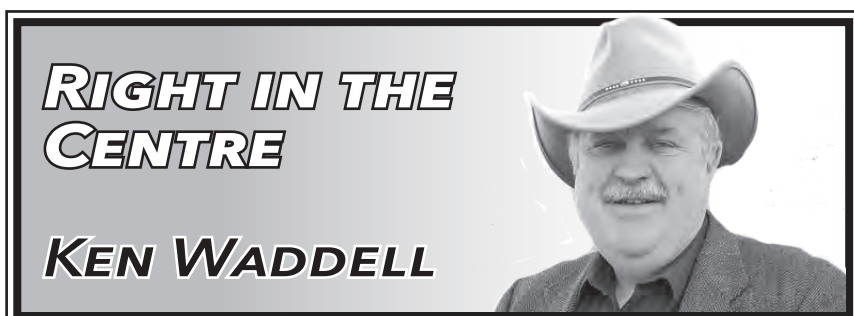
I believe it was back a few years ago, possibly at our 50th wedding anniversary, that I greeted the family and guests with the words of Fanny Crosby's great hymn.

*"To God be the glory, great things He hath done, so loved He the world that He gave us His Son, who yielded His life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in."*

I truly believe the title of this column and I truly believe the words of the hymn quoted above. To me those words are the bedrock of the Christian faith, along with John 3:16 which says:

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

Many years ago, a man was working for me, who at an earlier job site had a near-death experience. The particular equipment he used in his work was needing an overhaul of the same type as when he had his brush with death. Naturally, he was very afraid to tackle that task again so he started drinking. After a period of drinking, he looked at me and said, "I died in that accident and I went to the Heaven's Gates and by Jesus, they were closed." While he did recover and regained nearly full health again, he was convinced that Heaven's Gates were closed to him. I could understand and appreciate his fear but I said something that I hope encouraged him. I said, "I think you are wrong because it is by Jesus that those gates are opened"



“ Who goes and doesn't go to Heaven, that's up to God and the individual. ”

Over the years, I think a lot of time and energy has been expended by Christian churches and members trying to determine who goes to Heaven and who doesn't. I have been involved in the Christian church in one context or another for all my life and that is over 75 years. I have concluded that while I may have spent some time on the question of who goes and who doesn't go to Heaven, that's up to God and the individual.

I posed a question to a person recently by saying, "If Jesus died to save people, all people, then it is possible that Hitler is in Heaven." Now that concept may not sit well with some folks and I will admit it makes me ponder for a bit. However, if God's grace is complete and His blessing is for everyone and anyone, then Hitler may be in Heaven. And then there's another concept that I have pondered and that is when someone does something

wrong, are we prepared to forgive. The Lord's prayer says "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." See, there's a catch. If we don't forgive, does that mean we are limiting God's forgiveness to us. I believe that if people believe in Jesus (as in John 3:16) then they will have everlasting life. But I also believe that, aside from going to heaven, we hamper ourselves and others by not forgiving one another. Unforgiving won't keep you out of heaven but it can certainly hamper your life on earth.

Happy Easter to each and everyone and if you want to offer an opinion on what I have written, please do so.

*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.*



## 'Are you having fun yet?'

Any one of the family would be deeply involved working on a project: it could have been a piano student trying to master a piece of music; it could have been a lad constructing a model; it could have been a lass creating a masterpiece of art; a son reconstructing a transmission system or me — up to the end of my patience with a sewing project or household task, and Ed would stroll by, observe the intense concentration and casually ask, "Are you having fun yet?"

It really wasn't much of a conversation starter! But it put life in perspective. We were working diligently in an attempt to achieve a goal. Hard work often precedes success...

The oft used expression resounded as I pattered at my garden projects. There are a number of grow lights nurturing seeds and seedlings. I have planted climbing petunias and sprawling petunias. They have germinated and I had no idea that those beautiful hardy colourful annuals start out hairlike. They are so tiny, so fragile...I never knew. Among the healthy plants are mini tomatoes, red and yellow, already blooming but not many setting. The first planting of sweet peas, even after an overnight soaking, only had one plant emerge. So I have another batch soaking. The peppers are planted and I'm waiting,

As do I wait for the tomatoes to sprout. Some of the seeds are nestled in the individual pod trays and this year I am trying the snail method for indoor planting. I heard people speak of it, I googled it, and then I rolled up my sleeves and worked at it. It was as I was carefully coiling the bubble wrap strip loaded with very moist starting soil, that I heard - are you having fun yet? Hands covered with wet dirt, surrounded by seeds and growing things, grow light glowing...indeed, I was having fun.

I heard the words again as I was twisting like a pretzel painting in the laundry room/bathroom! I really did ok, I had the first coat on before the washer and dryer were in their places. The second coat was mostly on before the toilet was installed, just an occasional spot to recover. It was the set of shelves that I asked for. They are exactly what I wanted and exactly where I wanted them. They are narrow and deep. And they needed painting. A primer and a colour. It was as I was on a ladder, the smallest roller and tray I could find balancing in one hand while I stretched and reached to paint the very back, that I hear — are you having fun yet? Honestly, not at that precise point! But moments later when the job was finished, and looked great — that the having fun was realised.

It is helpful to keep in mind the end result when starting a project. There are a couple of quilting projects that I really want to undertake. Within my skill set certainly, perhaps requiring more patience than I wish to give. Oh, I am certain, that more than once, I will hear again "are you having fun yet?"

NEEPAWA **Banner & Press**

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## Thumbs up, thumbs down

When driving on the highway you're not allowed to pass or cross on a double line! But when driving on the Main Street of this town (Neepawa), you're allowed to cross the double line and park on the opposite side of the street! Is this something new in the Drivers Testing Course?

**David Burton**  
Neepawa, MB



## The Netanyahu dilemma: What is real?

This is going to be a different blowing the dust off, not one of books, lost media, or old technology, but one of fiction blurring the lines of reality.

On June 2, 2023, I wrote about AI monitoring and weighed the pros and cons.

At the time, our concerns were largely lighthearted. I remember watching videos just three years ago of Will Smith eating spaghetti generated by AI, truly horrific uncanny valley and comical videos at the time. Today, that is no longer the problem. AI systems like Veo, Sora 2, and Kling are blurring the lines between reality and fiction in ways that were previously unimaginable. I watched a video of Ted Kaczynski, Ted Bundy, Ted Cruz, and Mister Rogers have a four-way Chinese Kung-Fu fight on top of World Trade Centre just last week. It looked realistic and did not look overly CGI. Something that would have taken years of editing and programming was done in an hour with a prompt.

I bring this up as, after an attack on the Prime Minister of Israel following "Operation Epic Fury", numerous reports of his death started to



emerge with AI photos and videos proving his death. It took three days of proof of life videos and finally a LIVE press conference to put these rumours to bed. But the horrible thing is that all these proof of life videos were being shown as AI, not real. People especially habitually online (guilty) are constantly scrutinizing everything people are publishing to prove whether it is real or AI; many a times I have been sent videos and I had to explain to my wife and my family that "sorry, this is AI."

But this raises a chilling question, in a world where we can no longer distinguish lie from fact, what are we to do? When we can no longer even trust what we see with our eyes, when fact is believed to be fraud and verifiable photos and media can be dismissed as artificial, trust erodes, trust in government and in the

media collapses. The very tools that once reinforced truth (video, photos, eyewitness testimonies) are now weaponized to erode everything.

So, what do we do? Well, the Neepawa Banner & Press (got to plug it when I can) states that it will hold fast to traditional reporting, no AI will be used in producing, writing or generating content that will be published by the Neepawa Banner and Press. (Advertisers and outside sources are not guaranteed)

We are committed to first and second-hand reporting. If we are not on scene, we will talk with those who were.

In an age of hyper-realistic AI, truth is under siege. The line between reality and fiction is vanishing faster than even I suspected. As a society, we need to figure out how to confront a future where "Seeing isn't believing." – The Santa Clause 1994

## HELEN DRYSDALE

### OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

# Easter

The tradition of Easter eggs and the hunt to find the eggs originated in Germany in the 17th century. In many pre-Christian societies eggs were associated with spring and new life. Early Christians adapted these beliefs, making the egg a symbol of the resurrection and the empty shell a metaphor for Jesus' tomb. German folk tales had an egg-laying hare called Oschter Haws. Hares give birth in the spring, so it seemed natural to incorporate them as a symbol for spring. The hare had the ability to lay eggs of all different hues. The Easter egg hunt and the hare story came to England through Queen Victoria who as a child enjoyed Easter egg hunts at Kensington Palace put on by her mother, the German-born Duchess of Kent. The Easter hare was introduced to America by the German immigrants who brought with them their stories of an egg-laying hare who later became the Easter bunny.

Today's recipes are simple ideas to let the kids be involved in preparing for Easter celebrations. They are easy enough to do without adding too much chaos in the kitchen especially around the busy Easter weekend.

In this recipe it calls for colouring the coconut green. You can leave the coconut as it is if desired and forgo the colouring of it.

#### Easter Rice Krispie baskets

- 3 Tbsp. butter
- 1 bag mini marshmallows
- 6 cups Rice Krispies Cereal
- 1 cup coconut
- 1 or 2 drops of green food colouring
- mini coloured easter eggs

Lightly grease muffin tins. In a large pot, melt butter over medium/low heat. Add marshmallows and continue cooking, stirring occasionally until marshmallows are melted. Remove the pot from heat, pour in the Rice Krispies, and stir gently until cereal is coated. Grease your hands with cooking spray or butter to help keep the sticky mixture from sticking to your fingers when pressing it into the muffin tin cups. Press the rice Krispie mixture into the cups of the muffin tins. Make an indentation in the center of each to create little nest. Work quickly to form the nests with the cereal mixture before it begins to harden. Allow the nests to set up and then remove from the muffin tin. Add the food colouring to the coconut and mix until the coconut is green. Place a little bit of coconut into the indentation of each nest. Place several easter eggs in each nest.

#### The big Easter cookie

- 1/2 cup margarine, room temperature
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 1/3 cups flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup mini chocolate chips

Mini chocolate easter eggs such as Easter M&M's or mini-Cadbury eggs  
Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray a 9-inch pie plate or round cake pan with non-stick cooking spray. Set aside. Mix the margarine and sugar together, then stir in the egg and vanilla. Mix the baking soda and salt with the flour. Add the flour mix into the creamed mixture and stir just till combined. Add the chocolate chips. Put the dough into prepared pan and gently pat down. Bake for 25 minutes or till the top is golden brown. Remove from the oven and gently press the easter eggs into the warm surface while it's hot. Cool before slicing.

Poke cakes are so easy to whip up using a cake mix and they're just a whole lot of fun for the kids to make.

#### Strawberry poke cake

- 1 package of white cake mix
- 1 cup of boiling water
- 1 small package of strawberry Jello
- 1/2 cup of cold water
- 1 container of Cool Whip
- fresh strawberries or frozen sliced strawberries thawed

Instructions:

Prepare the cake mix according to package instructions and bake in a greased 13x9-inch cake pan at 350°F. Let the cake cool for about 15 minutes when it comes out of the oven. Then poke holes in the cake using the handle of a wooden spoon. Dissolve the Jello in 1 cup of boiling water, then add 1/2 cup of cold water. Pour the Jello mixture in the holes of the cake. Refrigerate the cake until needed. Then top the cake with whipped topping and top with fresh or thawed strawberries. Enjoy with your favourite people.

## Gladstone auction mart

By Blaine Huston  
Gladstone Auction

We sold 1,162 head on Tuesday, Mar. 31.

We had about 150 butcher cattle to start the day on a very strong market, here's how they sold:

- D1-D2 cows \$2.20-2.40.
- D3 older cows \$1.90-2.19.
- Feeding type cows \$2.40-2.67.
- Bulls \$2.65-2.85.

Here are some market

highlights from Tuesday's sale:

- We had a package of four black steers weighing 995 pounds bring \$4,4250 a pound (\$4,400 a head).
- Thirty-two char steers come in the ring weighing 775 pounds and cash in at \$5.3950 a pound (\$4,179 per head).
- Thirty-eight char steers weighing 675 pounds stamp there ticket at \$6.10 a pound (\$4,114 a head).

### Gladstone Auction Mart

Cattle Market Report  
Mar. 31, 2026

Steers	
4-500 lbs.	\$7.50 to 8.30
5-600 lbs.	\$6.60 to 7.37
6-700 lbs.	\$5.70 to 6.55
7-800 lbs.	\$4.90 to 5.75
8-900 lbs.	\$4.50 to 5.22
900+ lbs.	\$4.00 to 4.72
Heifers	
4-500 lbs.	\$6.70 to 7.67
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# Conflicting reaction to MB budget details

**Banner Staff**  
Neepawa Banner & Press

To say that the Manitoba Government's new budget is drawing a 'mixed response' feels a little like an understatement. The official opposition party, along with several prominent provincial and national organizations, have been quick to add their perspective to the document, announced by Finance Minister Adrien Sala on Tuesday, Mar. 24.

Progressive Conservative (PC) leader Obby Khan was one of the first to criticize the NDP government's budget, calling it disappointing and out of touch with Manitobans.

"Broad strokes, I will say that I am surprised and disappointed," Khan said in an interview for the Opposition Leader's Report. "If this is the best they have to offer Manitoba, then we're in trouble on so many factors."

Khan said affordability is the biggest issue, arguing the government's move to remove PST from some grocery items offers little real relief. He contrasted that with the P.C. party's proposal to double the basic personal exemption to \$30,000.

## AMM cautiously optimistic

Meanwhile, the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) is offering a slightly more cautious response, applauding some welcome investments, while also raising concerns about infrastructure gaps. AMM President Kathy Valentino said the plan delivers progress in many areas, such as public safety and predictable funding.

"We are pleased to see increased funding for public safety, particularly the \$14 million for corrections, and we know changes to bail reform may be coming federally, so preparation is important. Additional police resources, even with details still to come, are also a positive step, and public safety is something municipalities consistently raise as a top concern."

Valentino did add, however, that the budget's two per cent increase in funding to

municipalities is not enough to keep up with rising costs.

"We appreciate the two per cent increase in operating funding. However, in many ways this budget maintains the status quo in other funding areas. Municipalities are being asked to continue delivering services at the same level, but they simply cannot afford to keep doing things the same way without additional support."

Valentino concluded by saying the biggest disappointment for municipalities is the lack of new investment in water and wastewater infrastructure, which leaders say is essential for growth.

## CUPE unimpressed

As for Manitoba's largest labour union, it said while the 2026 Manitoba budget hit the target, it's still far from a bullseye. In a media statement, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) stated that a glaring omission from the budget is the continued refusal to legislate staffing levels for health care support workers in personal care homes. CUPE was pleased, however, to see new mental health support for HSC, but we are concerned there is no plan to reduce private agencies or end mandatory overtime for support workers. The union was also hoping to see real improvements for frontline education support workers, like Education Assistants.

# 'It just falls flat'

## MLA Byram unimpressed with new provincial budget

**By Eoin Devereux**  
Neepawa Banner & Press

The MLA for Agassiz is raising concerns about a lack of substance within the Manitoba government's latest budget.

Jodie Byram said the budget, which was unveiled on Mar. 24 by the Minister of Finance, is underwhelming. Byram added in advance of its release, Premier Wab Kinew was created some big expectations for the document; expectations that were not met.

"This premier was building this up to be something and we were waiting for something big and shiny to come out of this budget. It was so disappointing to Manitobans, there's nothing in this budget that is going to help with some of the concerns that we're seeing in people related to affordability and even health care," explained Byram. "It was a lot of talk, but there didn't seem to be any action that was going to be behind those words."

One of the most talked about items from the new budget was the removal of the seven per cent Provincial Sales Tax (PST) on all food items in grocery stores. Byram said that's not enough, as the tax change is aimed specifically at larger corporate grocery stores. She expressed concern regarding the exclusion of smaller, independent grocers and restaurants.

"We're in an affordability crisis right now, and this premier has gone out and toted about the PST and grocery stores, but he's leaving a whole other component missing to that. I mean, this is large grocers. In smaller, rural communities, the smaller independent grocery stores aren't going to see the benefit of this," said Byram. It's leaving out small grocers and also restaurants. We're hearing from restaurants too, that aren't happy with this either."

Byram also raised concerns about just how little affordability for families was addressed. She shared that the opposition is bringing something to the pre-verbal table for the NDP to consider.

"Our critic for finance, the M.L.A. for Midland, brought forward a resolution where the \$30,000 basic personal tax exemp-

tion. This is something this government can work with us on. We can have a plan moving forward and this would help take some of the pressure off families today. This can put dollars in our pockets every payday that can end up in our kitchen table, that would have an effect on families today. Puts dollars on the table, not pennies."

An effort to lower wait times at emergency rooms was also a big headline within the budget. The 2026 budget addresses the wait times by allocating funding to create new zones where specialists can see some patients. Funding is also earmarked for social workers at E.R.s. Byram said the initial details on this plan are missing a few specifics on hiring and retention of staff to make it work.



FILE PHOTO

Agassiz MLA Jodie Byram.

"We've seen this in health care time and time again, where they make a move, but they don't have a plan to back it up. So they make these decisions without consulting. And we heard that from doctors in Manitoba, as well. There's no consultation that take place, but here's what we're going to do, and then there's no plan. So again, it just falls flat."



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11:59 PM, Sunday, April 19, 2026



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# Minnedosa-based handivan service seeking support

By Casper Wehrhahn  
Neepawa Banner & Press

Whether for important appointments or for fun, the Minnedosa Centennial Handivan Association has a long-standing history of getting people where they need to go. Since its inception in 1984, the association has served individuals in Minnedosa, the Rural Municipality of Minto-Odanah, and the Rural Municipality of Oakview who are unable to use other modes of travel.

Now, the Minnedosa Centennial Handivan Association is seeking some aid of its own.

“As a new year begins, the Minnedosa Centennial Handivan Association is reaching out for your support in an effort to allow us to continue offering transportation to mobility challenged

individuals in Minnedosa and area,” said Len Luker, chairperson. “Funds are needed to assist in the operation of this much needed essential service.”

Luker noted that travel via the Minnedosa Centennial Handivan Association’s services are provided on an equitable basis. Additionally, the service is essential in aiding people with a variety of travel related needs.

“Most of our trips are medical related, but we also transport users for shopping and social/recreational outings,” Luker explained. “We transport to various communities

including Brandon, Winnipeg, Neepawa, Rivers, Shoal Lake, and other locations for various appointments and events. In 2025, we drove to approximately 160 medical appointments.”

Luker added, “Donations of any amount will help our organization.”

Anyone wishing to support this community service’s operations may do so via the Minnedosa Centennial Handivan’s post office box (2081), or by calling 204-868-8164 for alternative options. All donors will be recognized publicly.

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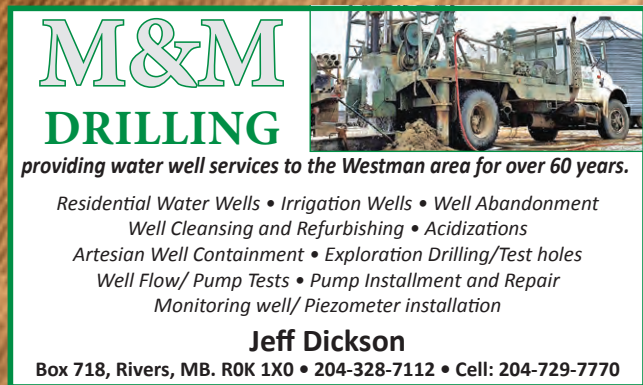
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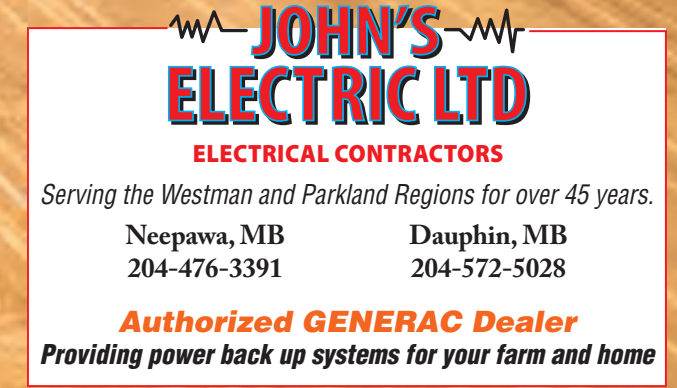
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# Preparing to face the best across Canada

## Minnedosa-based bowlers to participate in national competitions

By Casper Wehrhahn  
Neepawa Banner & Press

Congratulations are in order for six Minnedosa-based bowlers as they prepare to head off to various national competitions this year. The contingent is a mixture of adult, junior, and bantam bowlers.

### Youth division

The competitors for the 2026 Bowl Canada Youth Nationals, which will be held in Winnipeg on May 4 to 6, are:

•**Owen Robinson:** Robinson qualified for the 2026 Nationals at the Manitoba Youth Bowl Canada (YBC) Singles Tournament, emerging in first place as the Bantam Boys Singles Rep.

At 10 years of age, this will be Robinson's second national event. His first was in 2025, where he bowled in a tie breaker game to become Canada's Silver Medal Youth Bowler.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MINNEDOSA BOWL

Pictured left and centre: youth bowlers Tyler Dyck and Owen Robinson. Pictured right: Adult bowlers James Boxshall (back left), Curtis Madden (back right), Matthew Dunn (front left) and Kody Calen (front right).

"He has been bowling with the Minnedosa Bowl Youth Program for four years, bowling twice a week, and has an average of 169," said co-coach Debbie Tarn. "He'll be advancing to the Junior Division in September."

The young bowler provided some insight into what he enjoys about the sport, stating, "[My] favourite parts of the sports are attending tournaments, the fun, [the possibility of winning money], and the cookies from the coaches."

•**Tyler Dyck:** Fourteen year-old Tyler Dyck has a number of prior experiences as a national competitor in his youth bowling career. He has competed nationally in 2020 and 2022 on the Bantam Boys Team, and in 2025 on the Junior Boys Team.

Having qualified at the 2026 Manitoba YBC Singles Tournament by placing first, he is now on the Manitoba team for this year's nationals as the Junior Boys Singles Rep.

"He's a hardworking, dedicated individual who

doesn't stop trying," said Tarn.

Dyck has been with the Minnedosa Youth Bowl program approximately 10 to 11 years, bowling twice a week and holding an average of 207.

Much like Robinson, Dyck will also be advancing divisions in September. He will become a part of the Senior Division.

Dyck shared that the things he loves most about the sport are the people and atmosphere, stating,

"Through bowling, [I] met two of [my] best friends, Daniel and Douglas."

### Adult division

The bowlers in the adult divisions will find themselves competing at locations such as Winnipeg, St. Johns, Newfoundland; and Hamilton/Burlington, Ontario. The competitors are:

•**Kody Calen:** At 21 years of age, Kody Calen will be competing in the Canadian Five Pin Bowler's

Association (C5pba) 2026 Interprovincial Nationals held in Winnipeg from Apr. 23 to 25.

Calen qualified in the zone round, then went on to the IP Provincials. There, he and his team placed first, qualifying them to advance to nationals.

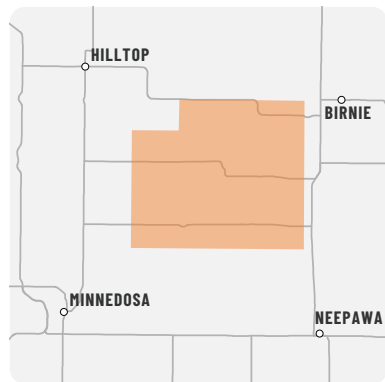
Calen got his start through the Minnedosa Youth Bowl program and participated in YBC tournaments, and the Manitoba Five Pin Bowling Association's Youth Challenge (2020, 2021, and 2022). He has bowled in the adult leagues for 12 years, including a C5pba Nationals in 2024, and holds an average of 170.

"[My] favorite parts of the sport are the sportsmanship, camaraderie, and the enjoyment of the sport of bowling," said Calen, noting that nationals also gives him the opportunity to compete at a higher level.

**Continued on Page 14**

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# Sports

## A year of mixed emotions for the Neepawa Titans

A solid season ends sooner than hoped for MJHL club

By Eoin Devereux  
Neepawa Banner & Press

lied we were capable of," stated Pearson.

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League season has come to an end for the Neepawa Titans much sooner than we had all hoped for. The team's postseason hopes were dashed by a strong Virden Oil Capitals squad, who bested Neepawa in the opening round, 4-games-to-0.

Neepawa's 2025-2026 regular season record was 28-28-1-1, a slight dip from the previous year's results. Those numbers, however, are still an example of a consistency within the program that has not seen in over two decades. This was the third consecutive year the Titans had earned a playoff spot, something not accomplished locally since the early 2000s.

Titans head coach and general manager Ken Pearson said the club's expectation was always to be playing deeper into the postseason, so there is definitely some disappointment there in this end result. And now that there's been a bit of time to step back and evaluate the year, Pearson believes that this is a season that can be looked at with mixed emotions.

Pearson acknowledged that over the course of the year, the team showed flashes of high-level play, but sustaining, at times proved to be the key challenge.

"We saw a lot of growth from our group, especially in terms of competitiveness and identity, but ultimately we fell short of what we be-

"There were a lot of positives in how this group came together and pushed forward, [and] at our best, we showed we could compete with anyone in the league, but part of taking the next step is finding that level every night."

In speaking with the players as part of the standard

exit meetings, Pearson said all of them are competitors, so there was definitely some disappointment in how things ended. At the same time, though, a lot of them spoke really positively about their experience here in Neepawa.

"They appreciated the support from the community, the atmosphere at the rink, and the relationships they built. That's something we take a lot of pride in as an organization."

"It turns pretty quickly into off-season mode. Right now, our focus is on preparing for Prospects Camp. Finalizing teams, organizing logistics, and making sure we're set up to evaluate properly. There's also a lot of internal work happening with recruiting, player evaluations, and planning for next season. It's a busy stretch, but an important one for setting the foundation going forward."

In closing, Pearson did want to acknowledge and thank the fans for their ongoing dedication to the team.

"I just want to thank our fans for their continued support. They show up, they care, and they create a great environment for our players every night. We know we didn't give them the playoff run we all wanted, but their support doesn't go unnoticed. We're committed to building something they can be proud of moving forward."

### Looking to the future

With the offseason now underway for Neepawa, Pearson, along with the rest of the coaching staff and management will look to build on the progress made this year and return stronger for the next campaign. That focus has already begun with attention turning to the Spring Prospects Camp, set for Apr. 10 to 12 at Minnedosa's Sunrise Credit Union Centre.

### MJHL Playoffs

Oil Capitals 0000  
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### MJHL semi-final series

Oil Capitals 0000  
Titans 0000

### Game results

**Thursday, Mar. 26**  
**Virden 7-2 Neepawa**

**First Period**  
18:35 VDN C. Worthington (2)  
ASST B. Bryant (4), C. Lewko (2)

**Second Period**  
06:35 NPA K. Weisgarber (1)  
ASST J. Clark (1), E. Walters (2)  
07:41 VDN D. Drake (4)  
ASST B. Bryant (5)  
09:32 VDN A. Osiowy (1)  
ASST L. Goertzen (1), M. Light (2)  
10:29 VDN C. Wright (1)  
ASST: L. Hoilett (1), L. Goertzen (2)  
12:06 VDN B. Laing (1)  
ASST: D. Drake (2), O. Schroeder (1)

**Third Period**  
01:37 VDN B. Bryant (2) PP  
ASST C. Worthington(3), J. Deschamps(2)  
11:07 VDN B. Bryant (3)  
ASST D. Drake (3), O. Schroeder (2)  
17:27 NPA L. Paquette (2)  
ASST K. Weisgarber (1), J. Brown (1)

Scoring	1	2	3	Total	PP
VDN	1	4	2	7	1/3
NPA	0	1	1	2	0/3

**Goaltender**  
VDN - B. Burdeny - (W) 17/19 saves  
NPA - Z. Burleigh - (L) 22/29 saves  
Attendance: 354 - Yellowhead Centre

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**Men's High Single:** Chuck Morden 235. **Men's High Triple:** Darrell Gabler 554. **Other Good Scores:** Muriel Porada 153; Darrell Gabler 228, 169, 157; Caroline Harding 162; Vivian Oswald 169; Chuck Morden 183; Frank Porada 173, 179; Elsie Slimmon 159; Russ Taylor 166, 176; Iain Greig 163; Rene Yochman 178. **March Bowlers of the Month:** Elsie Slimmon & Iain Greig.

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## Titans played hard, but came up short

By Austin Lewis  
Freelance writer

Up until the third period, after a combined 105 minutes between games one and two of the series, Titans right wing Ryan Harris scored not only the first goal of the playoffs for the Titans, but his first career playoff goal.

For the third consecutive year, The Neepawa Titans have competed in playoff hockey. This year they were taking on the first place in the MGEU West Division Virden Oil Capitals for the second time in three years.

It would not be enough for a comeback, unfortunately, as the Titans fell short by a score of 4-1 in Game 2 to the Oil Caps. They trail the series two games to nothing, for the first time in franchise history.

With the Titans suffering a 6-0 loss in Game 1, They were looking forward to picking up their first home playoff win since Game 4 of the 2024 playoffs to the same Oil Caps team.

The Neepawa Titans played a little bit better in Game 3, but still dropped a 6-3 loss back in Virden on Tuesday Mar. 24. They headed back to the Yellowhead Arena for Game 4 with their season on the line, and hoped to avoid the sweep.

Game 2 was underway at the Yellowhead Arena, and things just went from bad to worse for the Titans, as their sloppy performance cost them four goals in the first period.

Titans goaltender Zach Burleigh, back between the pipes had a very impressive performance throughout the first period stopping the first eleven shots of the game, up until close to the last minute



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

of period one where the Oil Capitals scored to claim the 1-0 advantage.

two more goals to now trail the Oil Caps 7-1.

At the start of the second period, Kyle Weisgarber scored his first of the series, and fourth of his playoff career, to tie the game at one goal a piece. Six minutes apart from the tying goal, was a complete disaster for the Titans as they gave up four unanswered goals in the second to trail 5-1.

Although Logan Paquette cut the deficit to five goals in the final three minutes, the Titans dropped this game by a score of 7-2 and were swept by the Oil Capitals. This is now the third consecutive year, and the fourth time since 2017, in which the Titans failed to win a playoff series. The Oil Capitals once again advance to round two, and the Titans season officially comes to an end.

It didn't get any better for the Titans at the start of the third period, as they gave up

# CLASSIFIEDS

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- 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

## To PLACE AN AD:

**Telephone:** 204-476-3401  
**Email:** ads@neepawabanner.com

**All word classifieds must be prepaid before printing**

### 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

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

### Notice

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

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

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

### Notice

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

### Help Wanted

Jenner Farms Ltd. is a grain farm located 11 miles south-east of Minnedosa, MB. We are looking for responsible and motivated individuals to join our team. We operate modern equipment, and offer competitive wages based on skills and experience. Responsibilities include operating and maintaining farm equipment, such as swathers, tractors, heavy harrows, grain carts, and auto-shift grain trucks, as well as general farm duties. Training is available. Full-time and part time positions are available. Flexible hours in non-peak seasons. Class 5 license required. Class 1 preferred. Minnedosa, MB Contact Justin jwjenner@hotmail.com 204-724-2477

### Coming Events

Expressive Dance with Crystal, "Choose Your Path" which features dancing and acting. 37th Dance Show 2025-2026 Fri., May 8, 7pm; Sat., May 9, 1 pm, Strathclair Bend Theatre. Advance tickets sales begin Friday, April 3, 8:30 am. Call 204-867-2446.

GIGANTIC ANNUAL GUN AND HOBBY SHOW in Dauphin, Manitoba, Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, April 12, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 304 Whitmore Avenue (8 Avenue Hall). Admission \$7, under 12 free with adult. Approximately 80 eight-foot tables. May contain guns and related items, military items, hobbies, crafts, antiques, hockey cards, Indian artifacts. Something of interest for everyone. This is a buying, selling, trading show. Bring your guns and collectibles. Buy-sell-trade or have appraised. For information phone (204) 444-4690.

### Auctions

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

### For Sale or Rent

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

### For Rent

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

### Notice

#### Municipality of Glenella - Lansdowne PUBLIC NOTICE Regarding the 2026 Financial Plan

Public Notice is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act, that the council of the Municipality of Glenella - Lansdowne intends to present its proposed 2026 financial plan for the municipality. The public hearing will be held in the Glenella Community Hall, 100 Ray Street, in Glenella on the 9th day of April, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

Council will hear any person who wishes to make representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the financial plan, as provided.

Copies of the proposed financial plan can be viewed online at www.glenella.ca

Questions and comments can also be directed to Wendy Wutzke, Chief Administrative Officer, or by email to rmofglen@glenella.ca.

Dated this 13th day of March, A.D. 2026

Wendy Wutzke, BSc, CMMA  
 Chief Administrative Officer  
 Municipality of Glenella - Lansdowne

#### MUNICIPALITY OF McCREARY PUBLIC NOTICE 2026 FINANCIAL PLAN

**PUBLIC NOTICE** is hereby given pursuant to Subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act, that the Council of the Municipality of McCreary intends to present its financial plan for the fiscal year 2026 at a public hearing:

**April 28, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.**

**Council Chambers at the Municipal Office  
 432 First Avenue, McCreary**

Council will hear any person who wishes to make representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the financial plan, as provided.

Copies of the proposed financial plan will be made available for review and may be examined by any person during regular office hours of the municipal office located at 432 First Avenue. Questions and comments may also be directed by letter to the Chief Administrative Officer or by email to municipality@mccreary.ca.

Dated this 25th day of March 2026.

Lorilee Ryzner, CMMA  
 Chief Administrative Officer  
 Municipality of McCreary

### Help Wanted



## TURTLE RIVER SCHOOL DIVISION

invites applications for the following position  
**Speech Language Pathologist**  
 September 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Applications close at noon on Friday, April 10, 2026.

For more information  
 Contact Bev Szymesko  
 Submit letter of application and resume to:  
 bevs@trsd.ca

Bev Szymesko, Superintendent  
 Turtle River School Division  
 Box 309, McCreary, MB. R0J 1B0  
 Phone: (204) 835-2067 Fax (204) 835-2426

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



## TURTLE RIVER SCHOOL DIVISION

invites applications for the following position  
**School Social Worker Clinician**

Full Time Term  
 September 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Applications close at noon on Friday, April 10, 2026.

For more information  
 Contact Bev Szymesko  
 Submit letter of application and resume to:  
 bevs@trsd.ca

Bev Szymesko, Superintendent  
 Turtle River School Division  
 Box 309, McCreary, MB. R0J 1B0  
 Phone: (204) 835-2067 Fax (204) 835-2426

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



## TURTLE RIVER SCHOOL DIVISION

invites applications for the following position  
**McCreary School Grade 3 Teacher**

Full Time  
 Starting September 8, 2026

Applications close at noon on Friday, April 10, 2026.

For more information contact  
 Jason Nadeau  
 Submit cover letter and resume to:  
 jnadeau@trsd.ca  
 or

Jason Nadeau, Principal  
 McCreary School  
 Box 220, McCreary, MB, R0J 1B0  
 Phone (204) 835-2083, Fax (204) 835-2660

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

### In Memory

#### In Loving Memory of **TED GREENHALGH** May 24, 1945 - March 31, 2025

*We will always remember how you took care of us. Thank you for the love left behind... in our homes and in our hearts.*

Jackie  
 Marjorie  
 Don and Liz  
 Michele, Barb and Glen  
 Scott and Katie

### Obituary

#### Ronald Wilfred Le Boutillier

October 23, 1936 - March 12, 2026



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of the greatest man in our family. Beloved husband, Dad, Grandfather and Great Grandfather, Ronald Le Boutillier.

He was the eldest son of Wilfred and Lillian Le Boutillier of Neepawa, MB.

In December 1959, he married the girl of his dreams, Carole (Piett). For over 66 years they built a beautiful life full of love and commitment with their three children Darrell, Sandra and Rhonda.

Ron was a hard-working man and took great pride in his work. He spent 36 years working as a mechanic at Murrays of Neepawa where he built not only a career but lasting friendships. After that he was able to enjoy working at TIC along side his son, something that meant a great deal to him. He also found great joy in grain farming and livestock. Well let's be honest, the livestock didn't bring him joy all the time. He was always busy and could rarely sit still. Always finding a tree that needed to be cut down or something to fix or build. A planter, a birdhouse, a bench or an arbor. Anything for the family to enjoy.

He was the heart of the family, our guide, our protector, and our steady presence through every stage of life. His strength, kindness and quiet wisdom and his sense of humor shaped who we are today. He loved deeply and showed it in the ways that mattered most – through his actions, his support and simply by always being there.

His words of advice, "Don't work too hard and take time to enjoy life", will stick with us. However, from a man who always worked hard and instilled in us those same values, we may need some reminding of that now and again.

In his final weeks, he would also remind us that he "Lived a Good Life and would miss us". Our hearts will carry that with us always. We will miss him more than words can express and we are so grateful for the life he lived and the love he had for our family.

Ron was predeceased by his parents and sisters, Ada, Phyllis, Ruth and brother David.

Ron leaves behind his loving wife Carole, children Darrell (Val McEwen), Sandra (Grant Larsen), Rhonda (Perry Clarke). His brother Doug (Sheryl McMillan), sister-in-law Lois Le Boutillier.

He was a proud Grandfather to Amanda (Justin), Kate, Amy (RJ), Chantele (Ben), Bryce (Jade)

Logan (Jordan), Jordan (Catherine), Echo

He was also a proud Great Grandfather to Hanna, Kyra, Paige, Madison, Weston, Greyson, Liam, Katie and Azera,

As a husband, father and grandfather he gave us his unwavering love and strength. He was the best of us all and will be forever cherished in our hearts.

If friends so desire, memorial donations may be made to Palliative Care, Neepawa.

We would be honoured to have you join us in his celebration of life at the Neepawa Legion Hall, April 9, 2026 at 2:00 pm.

White's Funeral Home were in care of arrangements.

### Notice

#### Public Notice



Public Notice is hereby given that the Whitemud Watershed District intends to conduct a weed and brush control program on Watershed Drains in the Rural Municipalities of McCreary, Alonsa, Portage la Prairie, Rosedale, Glenella-Lansdowne, North Cypress-Langford, Minto-Odanah, Westlake-Gladstone, Elton and North Norfolk.

The projected dates of application will be from April 1, 2026 to November 30, 2026. The herbicides to be used include:

- 2, 4-D Amine    ■ Banvel            ■ Roundup
- 2, 4-D Ester    ■ Garlon 4            ■ Dichlorprop
- Estaprop        ■ Princep Nine-T    ■ Amitrol 240
- Tordon 22K    ■ Vantage            ■ Vanquish
- Tordon 101

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

Manitoba Environment and Climate Change  
 Environmental Approvals Branch  
 Box 35, 14 Fultz Boulevard, Winnipeg MB R3Y 0L6  
 pesticideusepermit@gov.mb.ca

#### FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for the property situate in the MUNICIPALITY of MINTO-ODANAH and described below will be received by:

**SIMS LAW CORPORATION**  
 76 Main Street South  
 P.O. Box 460 Minnedosa, MB R0J 1E0  
 Att: Norm Sims, K.C.

**W1/2 18-15-18, WPM**

includes three (3) 1900 bushel flat bottom bins, one (1) 3400 bushel flat bottom bin, and one (1) 2150 bushel flat bottom bin.

#### CONDITIONS OF TENDER

1. Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on any representations made by or on behalf of the Vendor.
2. Tenders must be received on or before **2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2026.**
3. Tenders must be accompanied by a **\$10,000.00** deposit cheque payable to Sims Law Corporation. Deposits accompanying unacceptable bids will be refunded.
4. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

5. The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
6. The closing date of the sale shall be Thursday, April 30, 2026 on which date the Vendor shall provide a registrable Transfer of title and the Purchaser shall pay the balance of the accepted tender or provide evidence that the balance will be available under conditions acceptable to the Vendor. If the balance is not paid in accordance with these conditions, the deposit may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
7. Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
8. Mines and minerals will be reserved from any tender.
9. The successful bidder will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2026.

**For further information contact  
 Peter Harrison at (204) 867-5444**

**Imagine your ad here!**  
 For details call 1-888-436-4242

## 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 \$22.20/hour with incremental increases to \$23.55/hour based on tenure as per our Collective Agreement**

#### Quick Facts:

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

#### What we can offer you:

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

#### Your duties may include:

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

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

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

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

#### Ways to apply:

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

**For inquiries contact:** Phone: 204.476.3393

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

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

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



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



### Hog Receiving Barn Worker (NOC85100)

#### Why join our team?

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

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

#### Quick Facts:

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

#### What we can offer you:

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

#### Your duties may involve:

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

#### To excel in this role, you should possess:

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

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

#### Ways to apply:

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

**For inquiries contact:** Phone: 204.476.3393

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

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

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



**REMINDER**

**AD DEADLINE TUESDAY NOON**



invites applications for the following position:

**Full-Time Term School Secretary/Educational Assistant**  
at Hazel M Kellington School

See Division website for more details on this position at

[www.beautifulplainsd.ca](http://www.beautifulplainsd.ca)

Click on Job Postings.



### Industrial Butcher (NOC 94141)

#### Why join our team?

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

**The current starting wage is \$16.45/hour with incremental increases to \$24.60/hour based on tenure as per our Collective Agreement**

#### Quick Facts:

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

#### What we can offer you:

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

#### Your duties may include:

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

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

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

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

#### Ways to apply:

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

**For inquiries contact:** Phone: 204.476.3393

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

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

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



## Help Wanted

### The Minnedosa Regional Archives is seeking a Part-Time Archivist

As our Archivist, you'll preserve fragile documents, bring order to complex collections, and enable researchers, students, and citizens to connect with their heritage in meaningful ways.

To view the Full Job Advertisement, please visit: <https://minnedosa.com/p/employment-opportunities>

Resumes can be dropped off at the Town of Minnedosa – 103 Main St. S. or emailed to [minarch@mymts.net](mailto:minarch@mymts.net).

Applications will be accepted until 4:00 pm on April 24, 2026



### HIRING SERVICE PERSONNEL

Lickity Splits Drive Inn Gladstone is looking for responsible servers for the 2026 Season

#### Duties include:

- Greeting customers
- Taking orders
- Completing monetary transactions
- Making Ice Cream
- Clean up as required
- Day, Evening and Weekend shifts
- Open Mid April – September/October

#### Requirements:

- Must be at least 15 years of age with the Young Worker Readiness Certificate
- Exceptional Customer Service Skills

For more information contact Mag Jenkins at 1-204-386-2128

Send resumes and references to: [lickitysplitsdriveinn2020@gmail.com](mailto:lickitysplitsdriveinn2020@gmail.com)

### Municipality of Glenella-Lansdowne SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Municipality of Glenella – Lansdowne is accepting applications for Green Team Summer Student Positions in both Glenella & Arden

These are seasonal positions to start beginning of June and finish end of August.

The successful applicants will be between the ages of 16 and 24, with Class 5 license and be able to physically perform the duties as assigned.

Interested applicants may submit a resume with references

**by 12:00 Noon, Monday April 6**

Municipality of Glenella-Lansdowne  
PO Box 10 Glenella, MB R0J 0V0  
Email: [rmofglen@glenella.ca](mailto:rmofglen@glenella.ca)

*We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those being considered for an interview will be contacted.*



### QUINTAINE & SON LTD. LIVESTOCK DEALERS

BRANDON, MB 204.729.8565

**P. Quintaine & Son LTD**

**is looking for an individual to work with cattle.**

- Flexible hours Monday to Friday
- Competitive wages
- Employer paid benefits package after 3 months.
- Experience with cattle is preferred but not required.
- Reliable transportation and a valid driver's license required.

For more information, please call Darren at 204-724-4625. If interested, please email resume to [lance@quintaine.ca](mailto:lance@quintaine.ca)

# Minnedosa contingent proud to represent Manitoba

*Continued from Page 10*

**•Curtis Madden:** Twenty-three year-old Madden will be competing at the C5pba Open Championships in St. Johns, Newfoundland, being held June 2 through 6. He qualified to be on the Manitoba Men's Open Team for the 2026 competition via the Manitoba Five Pin Bowler's Association (M5pba)'s Open Provincials.

"Nationals [gives] me a chance to compete with and against the best bowlers in the country in a sport [I] enjoy," said Madden.

"Anyone can join, everyone is welcome, [and it provides] good social outings meeting new people."

Madden has been bowling through Minnedosa Bowl for approximately 17 to 18 years, getting his start there in the youth program. He has participated in two youth nationals.

Madden bowls three times a week at two centers, holding averages of 208 and 226.

**•James Boxshall:** Boxshall, 38, will also be competing at the C5pba Open Championships at St. Johns this coming June. He qualified at the M5pba Open Provincials after a solid 18 games and averaging at 263, earning him a spot on the Mixed team to compete at the upcoming nationals in Newfoundland.

"Qualifying means I get to compete against the best bowlers this country has to offer," said Boxshall.

He also noted that he greatly appreciates bowling as a sport available to all ages and skill levels, and the friendships he has made across the country.

Boxshall has 33 years of bowling experience in his toolkit, starting out at the YBC program at Evans

Lanes in Neepawa, then joining the adult leagues in Minnedosa in 2006-2007. His bowling career has included four Open Nationals. These were in 2014, 2018, 2025, and the upcoming 2026 competition. Boxshall netted a gold medal win in 2014.

He also competed in National Classifieds in 2009 and 2011, and coached two teams at two Interprovincial Nationals. These were in 2018 (platinum medal, fourth place), and 2024.

Boxshall currently bowls twice a week at Minnedosa, averaging at 220.

Teaching Team to compete at the 2026 Masters Nationals to be held in Hamilton/Burlington, Ontario.

He has been bowling at Minnedosa Bowl for seven years now, starting in the Youth Bowling Program. He currently bowls once a week, averaging at 195.

Prior to the upcoming 2026 nationals, Dunn has competed in two C5pba Youth Challenge Nationals (2017 and 2018), and he represented Manitoba as the Men Singles Rep in the 2025 Masters Nationals in Surrey, B.C. From the 2025 Masters, Dunn secured second place to bring home the silver medal.

for a fundraiser draw, purchasable from Minnedosa Bowl or any of the youth. A pancake breakfast is also planned for the end of April. Proceeds from both initiatives will be used for the youth program and the trip to the 2026 nationals.

Providing a closing remark, co-coach Debbie Tarn extended words of gratitude to all who have supported the 2026 nationals bowling contingent of Tyler Dyck, Owen Robinson, James Boxshall, Curtis Madden, Matthew Dunn, and Kody Calen thus far.

"Thank you to all those who have supported the bowlers of Minnedosa Bowl, bowlers who are proud to represent Minnedosa and Manitoba," said Tarn.

**•Matthew Dunn:**

Twenty-five year-old Matthew Dunn competed his way through five tournaments with the Manitoba Masters 5 Pin, qualifying him to be on the Mens

**Proud to represent town and province**

Youth bowlers Tyler Dyck and Owen Robinson are currently selling tickets

## SERVICES GUIDE

**Count on Connie**  
Bookkeeping & Income Tax  
Connie Morton - Arden, MB  
countonconniebookkeeping@gmail.com • 204-720-9294

**Birnie Builders**  
Redi-Built and on site homes, cottages, huron PVC Windows  
Phone/Fax 204-966-3207  
Cell 204-476-6843  
Harold Klassen Birnie, MB  
"Let Us Custom Design A Home For You"  
harold.birniebuilders@gmail.com

**HILLSIDE ACCOUNTING**  
**INCOME TAX AND ACCOUNTING**  
Glenn Wohlgemuth  
Phone: 204-476-2847  
245 Hamilton St. Neepawa  
glennw@agapemail.com

**NorthWind AG**  
Custom planting  
Serving Western MB  
Set up for Corn, Soybeans & Canola  
Call or Text Trent at 431-351-0741

**TAC Ventures Inc.**  
**Garbage Bin Rentals**  
**Roll Off Bins**  
**We buy Scrap!**  
Phone 476-0002 for more information

## Manitoba Community Newspaper Association Province-wide Classifieds

### Help Wanted

**CLASS 1 TRUCK DRIVER**  
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# Fantastic results for Neepawa Ag Expo Auction

**Banner Staff**  
Neepawa Banner & Press

The final numbers have been tallied for the 2026 edition of the Neepawa Ag Expo Auction. Committee Co-chair Matt Lowry has confirmed to the Banner & Press that \$32,105 has been raised from his year's effort.

The annual Auction is the largest trade showcase for the region and serves each year as a fundraiser for the Neepawa Titans Junior 'A' Hockey Club. On top of that, Lowry explained that a portion of the proceeds are donated to a local organization. This year, that donation will assist the Agricultural Ground ball

diamonds

"It will be exciting to hand over a cheque for \$3,210 to the Neepawa Baseball Softball Facility to help get some more clay in and general upgrades on the facility especially since kids will hopefully getting out to the ball diamonds sooner than later," said Lowry.

Local businesses have traditionally supported the fundraiser with donations for the auction. There were a total of 37 items donated this year, and 467 total bids recorded from across the Westman region, as well as The Pas and Saskatchewan.



**Jodie Byram**  
MLA for Agassiz

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**Thanks for reading the Neepawa Banner & Press**

# 'It's exactly how I imagined it' -Dr. Derek Papegnies

*Continued from Page 1*

With the building's available floor plan, Dr. Papegnies noted that the space it provides is simply "just too good to give up".

"The biggest thing is I now have a second exam room," Dr. Papegnies enthused. "I'm currently booking, like, a month out- I'm almost too busy, if that makes sense. So I can hopefully, now that I have a second room, attract another Optometrist to grow the business a little bit more."

Dr. Papegnies also shared that the business will also have some newer equipment.

Additionally, as of Mar. 23, the new location is now pretty much move-in ready.

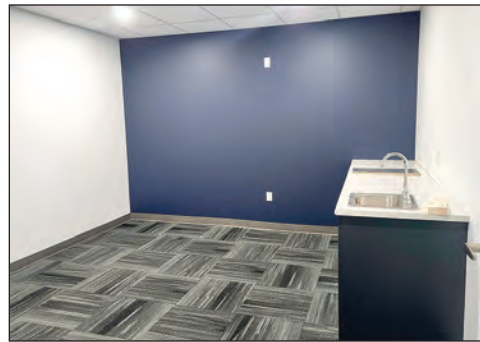
"We're looking at one more inspection, and there are a few more things I still need to get," said Dr. Papegnies. "A few little things, like getting the phone lines set up, a couple of tables, fire extinguishers- just all finishing touches."

Currently, Valley Optical has an estimated occupancy date of May 1 for the 424 Mountain Avenue office. The actual occupancy date, and the date for operations to begin may yet differ depending on when the transfer can fully be completed.

In the meantime, Dr. Papegnies has been excited by the space's gradual transformation.

"It's exactly how I imagined it when I first walked into the place," Dr. Papegnies shared. "We did deviate from the plan a little bit, but only just because as I was picturing the transformation, my blueprinter was like 'maybe think about having it here, because access to the plumbing is a little bit easier. So I had some help along the way to take it into the final step.'"

Dr. Papegnies did note that there may potentially be a period of service disruption and a re-arranging of appointments when the move itself takes place. However, all clients will be kept in the loop via the available communication options at Valley Optical's disposal, and an opening date announced when the details are set in stone.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VALLEY OPTICAL

The renovations for Valley Optical's new space at the former home of Harris Pharmacy (424 Mountain Ave.) are progressing steadily.

Shown above are some images from the early stages of the renovations, time stamped with the dates they were taken on. At right, a tremendous change in looks can be seen, breathing new life into the space.

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