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Inside this week

Pages 10-11: Home & Garden honours

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# 'I'm very honoured' -Ashley Nadeau

## McCreary School student wins third in national Legion contest

By Casper Wehrhahn  
 Neepawa Banner & Press

A student of McCreary School received national honours recently. On Monday, Apr. 27, Ashley Nadeau was officially recognized with a top three placement in the Royal Canadian Legion's 2025 Remembrance Day Poster Contest. The contest is held annually in coordination with Canadian schools.

Ashley competed in the Senior Black & White Category, securing first place at both the Branch level and Provincial level, before going on to win third nationally.

"Her artwork will be displayed at the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa during the two-week Remembrance period in November 2026, serving as a unique tribute to the Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP members who defend our nation," said Jill Petillion, secretary/treasurer of the McCreary Legion (Branch #173).

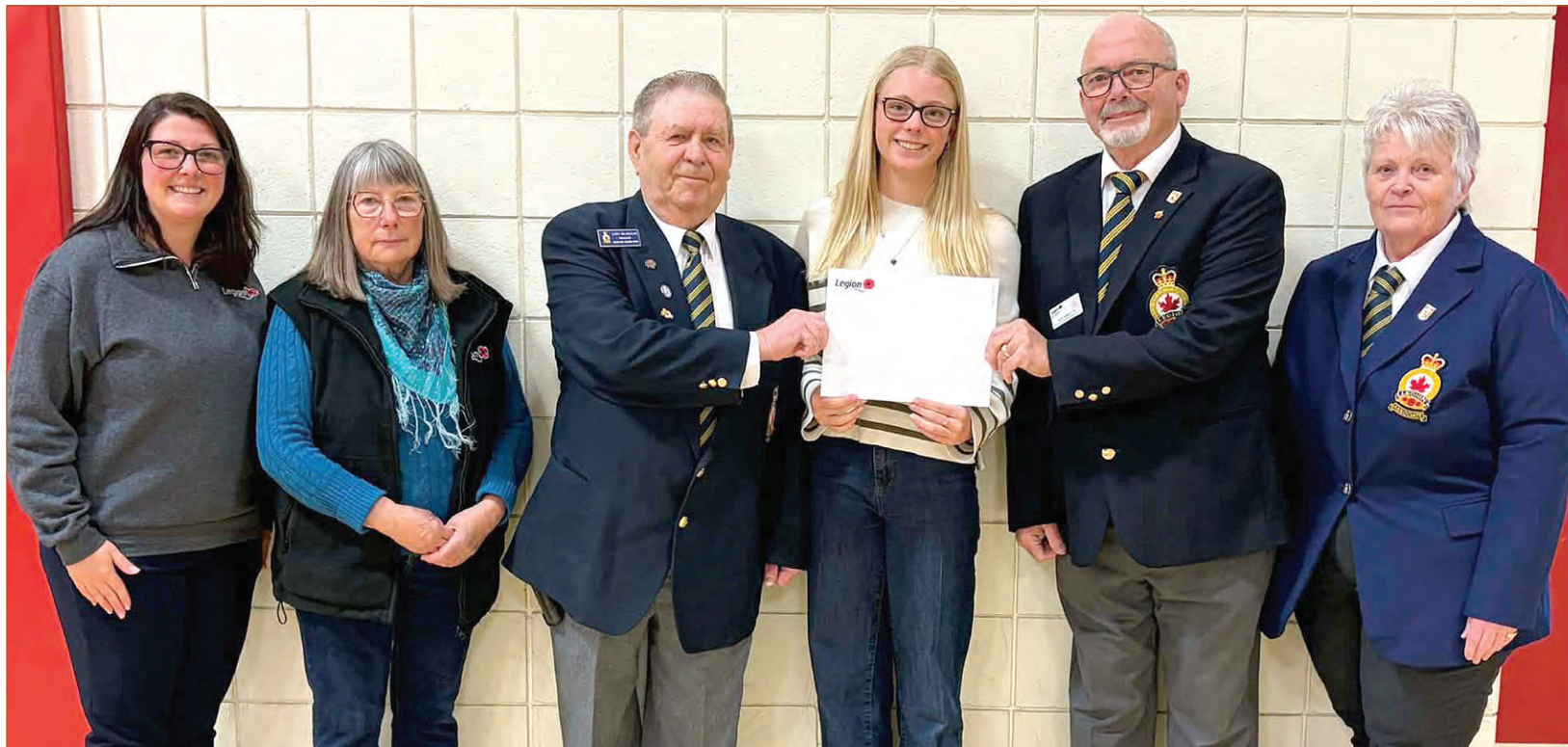


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MCCREARY LEGION

Pictured: McCreary Legion representatives Jill Petillion (secretary/treasurer), Norma Windle (first vice president), and Larry McLauchlan (president); McCreary School student Ashley Nadeau; and District 1 South representatives Neil Griffith (commander) and Glenda Foster (secretary). Griffith and Foster are also associated with Swan River #39 and Birch River #48, respectively.

Speaking on the poster's design inspirations, Ashley stated, "For my poster, I really wanted to include all the different forces. Remembrance Day is about

everyone who has served, and I wanted my poster to reflect that unity in it."

The District 1 South commander Neil Griffith and District 1 South secretary

Glenda Foster joined president Larry McLauchlan, first vice president Norma Windle, and secretary/treasurer Petillion at the McCreary School to recognize

Nadeau for her achievements.

"It was really special to be recognized. I never imagined that my poster would go that far. I'm very

honoured," said Ashley. "I just hope it helps represent what Remembrance Day stands for and shows respect to our veterans."

**Continued on Page 8**

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# Fun for all at the Arden Crocus Festival

PHOTOS BY DESI CAMERON

The Arden Crocus Festival, held over this past weekend, included a variety of entertainment avenues for all in attendance.

Among these were shows of impeccable balance, the Prancing Pony portable petting zoo, and more.

Shown here are a few scenes from the weekend. Some of the animals found in the petting zoo were goats, a pony and a donkey.



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## 1976: A 'Golden Jet' touches down in Neepawa

By Casper Wehrhahn  
Neepawa Banner & Press

**125 years ago,  
Tuesday,  
May 14, 1901**

The outside of Messrs. Gardiner and McConnell's machine shop has been treated to a new coat of paint. Inside of this establishment things are booming as every piece of machinery required for the work has been placed in position.

C. L. St. John, of Minnedosa, son of photographer St. John, carried off highest honours in the Mathematical course at the university examinations in Winnipeg last week. He was first in every subject and won a medal and a scholarship. This is a highly creditable showing— it is, perhaps, unprecedented—for a boy of 19 years; and is the reward of persistent study.

Messrs. Geo. and Jno. Stewart, who sold their stables here to Wm. Graham have bought a similar establishment at Pipestone and have gone over there to take possession and become residents of that rising town. The Stewart Bros. made a host of friends and accumulated some wealth during their five years residence in Neepawa; and that they will make a similar record at Pipestone is what may be expected of them.

**100 years ago,  
Friday,  
May 14, 1926**

Miss Mary Parsons is to be congratulated on having for the second time in three terms won a scholarship at the Winnipeg art school, where there is an attendance of 280 students. Miss Irma Howatt, a first term student, was also on the honour roll.

"Snooky", that tan-and-white bull terrier, so familiar to guests of the King Edward Hotel, is missing. She went out with an auto party the other evening, riding on the running board and jumped off to pursue a rabbit about eight miles south of town. Anyone returning or reporting her whereabouts will be duly rewarded.

**75 years ago,  
Thursday,  
May 17, 1951**

Fire of unknown origin early Thursday afternoon completely destroyed the barn, slaughter house and shed on the farm of Burnett, south of town.

Prompt action by the Neepawa fire department, who answered the call about 2:15 p.m., prevented the flames from wiping out the garage and large house on the farm. These buildings caught fire but were extinguished by the streams of water played on the buildings.



NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

The "Golden Jet" touched down, delivering "Mr. Hockey" (Bobby Hull) and two of his linemates to Neepawa in May of 1976. Pictured here, Hull is stepping out onto the wing of the Twin Beechcraft which brought him and his linemates to Neepawa. *Editor's note: this 1976 Press article referred to Hull as Mr. Hockey, though over the passage of time, that nickname has become synonymous with Gordie Howe.*

The fire swept through the grass over a wide area and crept to the border of the agricultural grounds before being checked.

Mrs. Walter Hunter of Neepawa received a letter recently from the Department of Veterans Affairs Ottawa, giving information on the burial of her son, Pte. Jack James Hunter, M.M. who lost his life in the Dieppe raid of Aug. 19, 1942.

The letter states: "Officials overseas have been carefully checking available records and from information in their possession it is evident the remains of Private Hunter were buried by the Germans in the cemetery which is now known as the Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery, Hautot-sur-Mer, France, and that the grave is one of the many unidentified ones in this burial ground.

A special memorial consisting of the normal type of headstone, will be erected and this will bear the usual service particulars, with the addition of the superscription 'Known to be buried in this cemetery'

carved above them. This special memorial will be erected in a suitable position in Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery.

This is a recognized military burial ground containing more than 500 identified graves of Canadians who perished in the action at Dieppe on Aug. 19, 1942 and the cemetery will receive care and maintenance in perpetuity."

**50 years ago,  
Thursday,  
May 20, 1976**

Clean streets, tired kids and adults, and a grand total of \$1,350 all resulted from the Touchwood Park Garbathon held Saturday morning, June 15.

Neepawa Rotary Club marked their 25th anniversary Saturday night with a social evening at the Legion Hall. District Governor D. A. "Biff" Crough and his wife, Lucille, of Regina were present for the occasion.

The Neepawa fire brigade was busy Monday afternoon and early Tuesday morning as they were called upon to douse

four fires. Three of them were out of town.

**Brookdale:** Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson McKee on the birth of their son, Warren Brent, born Monday, May 10, in Brandon General Hospital.

**20 years ago,  
Monday,  
May 15, 2006**

The town of Neepawa has shored up its commitment to bring in a beef slaughtering plant, and the man behind the proposed operation couldn't be happier.

"They've (town council) really come to the table," Kelly Penner said from his Douglas-area Natural Prairie Beef office last week.

The president of the Manitoba Teachers Society has joined a growing chorus of school administrators

questioning the NDP's plan to make high school phys-ed mandatory.

"Everyone's in favour of increased physical education for our kids," Brian Ardern said. "Our concern is the speed at which this is happening, and there are a lot of questions we don't have answers for."

*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.*

### Attention Fishermen!



**Get your SUMMER FISH DERBY Entries Now**

No derby tickets sold after May 15. Prizes for Jackfish and Pickerel. Open to both adults and children. Tickets now available at Wally's Jewelry or from Chas. Sneesby, fish chairman.

**Sponsored by Neepawa and District Wildlife Association**

(19-20)

NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

This Neepawa and District Wildlife Association ad is from the May 13, 1976 edition of The Neepawa Press.



## Roxy theatre

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**Highlights of the week**

**Coffee Chat: Quilts for Kids in Trauma**  
May 11 at 12:30pm | May 12 at 8:30pm | May 14 at 4pm

**Coffee Chat: Chamber Fair**  
May 11 at 8pm | May 13 at 4pm | May 16 at 1pm

**Community Meeting: Fleury Wind Project**  
May 12 at 12:15pm | May 14 at 8:30pm | May 15 at 5pm



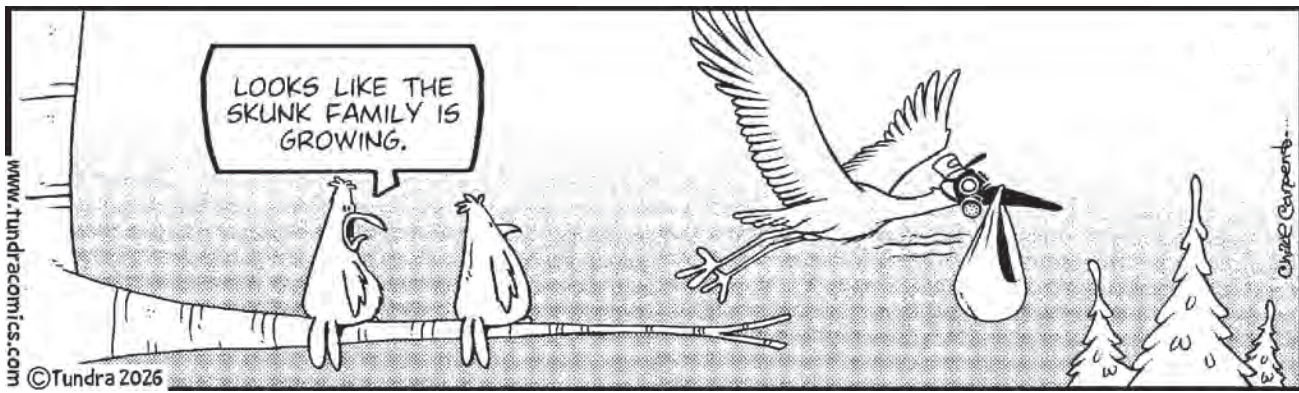
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## Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



## Give to us laughter...

Tucked into my hymnbook is a rather seldom sung hymn. Under the subtitle “Renewal Transformation” is a relatively new song simply entitled ‘Give to Us Laughter’ written by Walter Farquharson in 1974. For beauty and depth it stands solid with the ancient hymns from centuries past. On the second Sunday after Easter some faith families celebrate Holy Humor Sunday, a day that we can laugh at life and death, knowing that the Easter story proves the defeat of death and the promise of a life after the body dies. This is one of my favourite Sunday’s. We share cartoons and intersperse the service with good clean jokes. We are reminded that both joy and sorrow, laughter and tears are gifts from God’s good hands.

That’s the intro folks!

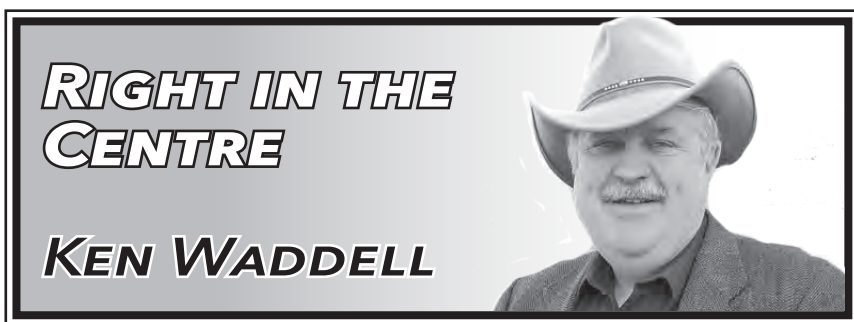
Once again I am privileged to play with babies and toddlers and many ages of little people. There is something so contagious about a wee one’s honest laughter. Whether playing the age-old peek-a-boo, or blowing raspberries on a baby’s bare tummy, hearing them laugh, that deep belly shaking laugh, brings me to laughter as well. Repetitive foolishness, of which I tire before they do!, can produce wave after wave of chortles and deep laughter, the eyes crinkling at the corners, the head thrown back... such delight. There can come the stage of the foolish giggles... those gaggle of girls going into spasms of laughter, and please, dear God, not at a meal table or when we are trapped in a moving vehicle! They feed off each other’s energy until nothing is sacred, and nothing can stop them. When I am in a good headspace I find it endearing... not always there though!

One of the verses in the hymn says ‘even in sorrows and hours of grief, laughter with tears brings most healing relief.’ A number of years ago I received a most kind thank you letter from a family member with whom I had met to create a fitting farewell service for a loved one. As the family shared stories about the life and antics of their father, and the wife recounted adventures shared with her husband, laughter and tears moved among us. The kind words thanked me for allowing laughter to flow for with it the healing had begun. Isn’t that a wonderful thought? ‘Why do we worry that we will lose face, why act like king for the whole human race?’ Mr. Farquharson surely understands humanity.

As adults, time spent with those we trust, allows us to laugh with others and at ourselves. Personally, as I age, there are more moments when I choose to laugh at situations I find myself in— did you know there is a skill to getting up off the floor? Those old hips and knees need help! Time with friends and shared laughter refreshes us. That never changes. Spending time with our elders, we find it has been a good visit when we can bring a smile to their face, and a great visit is we can share laughter, usually at a revisited memory, often from childhood.

Here’s to an abundance of laugh lines!

## Memory Lane



This week I want to walk down memory lane. I was born in 1948. On May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel in Tel Aviv, marking the end of the British Mandate. The declaration followed a 1947 UN partition plan for a Jewish and an Arab state. I have often made a mental note that my birth year was the same as the birth of modern day Israel.

In 1948, a lesser but still important event to took place. The Manitoba Liberal government of Premier D.L. Campbell began the rural electrification program. It was a game changer for farms and many rural towns. While some farms had windmill powered 32 volt electricity systems, most did not have electricity. Once “hydro” came along, life on the farm changed drastically. Farm homes got electric lights and electric appliances. Electric stoves, fridges, clocks, toasters and frying pans became commonplace.

Installing hydro was not automatic, there was a cost involved. My parents only bought the farm at Holland, Manitoba in 1946, after five years of dad’s army service and eight years of farming at Muir, Manitoba with what might have been called mixed results during the “dirty thirties”. Needless to say money was scarce and so it took until 1954 to get our farm wired. My uncle, who was a self-taught electrician, and my dad ran power to the house and the barn. No more milking cows in the short daylight hours by the light of a coal oil lantern. I can honestly say that I did my homework in grade one by the light of an Aladdin coal oil lamp.

The 1950s were eventful years where anything seemed possible. We could learn about the world by radio, by movie house newsreels and then television. In later life, when I asked my dad “What was the best invention you have ever seen? He was born in 1907 and so when we had this “best invention” discussion, he was about 65 years old. His unhesitating reply

was “Television”. While my dad could remember his Scotland childhood, the trip to Canada by ship, the hard scrabble existence in Montreal and then more hardship on a rock-infested rural Quebec farm, the criss-crossing of Canada with multiple jobs, he had seen a lot but with television he could see even more. Even after all that, his favourite was hockey night in Canada and he was a Toronto Maple Leafs fan. Yes, we watched the Stanley Cup play-offs the last time the Toronto Maple Leafs won in 1967.

The 1950s shaped my life for sure. 4-H clubs and school activities were all life-shaping activities.

The 1960s were tumultuous times as the world was changing fast. Cars were really quite good, the trucking industry came into its own. The music industry exploded with Rock’n’roll and many different music genres.

In 1966, I graduated from Holland High School. The Duff Roblin PC government brought in widespread school consolidation and Holland High School closed. It was deemed that a high school every second or third town was all that could be maintained and staffed.

In 1967, I met my wife Christine, who was raised at Scarth, Manitoba. In 1968, after two summers of working for the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, I came back to university

at the end of summer. Almost immediately, having been elected as Director of Student Services at the University of Manitoba Student Union (UMSU), I was appointed manager of the U of M newspaper, the Manitoban. That too was a career and life changer. Although it has not been continuous, we have been in the newspaper business over a period of 58 years.

1970 was a tough year but was also filled with blessings. Our oldest son was born, I graduated from University but I had four jobs in the months from May 1970 until January 1971.

We moved from Winnipeg to Carberry, back to Winnipeg and then to Neepawa by Jan. 1971. Our second son was born in 1971.

We started farming in 1975, started a dairy farm and an auctioneering business in 1979. Our farming career came to and end in the mid 1980s as ever-rising interest rates, some bad crop years and admittedly, some bad decisions on our part defeated our farming dreams.

I hope that you find my ramblings a little bit interesting. If anything interesting comes through let it encourage you. Don’t quit, learn from your mistakes and successes. Keep strong relationships with people and God.

I have often said and written, stick to the four Fs—Faith, Family, Friends and Finances and in that order.

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## Letters to the editor

### I'd like to meet 'Sumguy'

I have heard of this fellow named "Sumguy" for years and years. What he has said, seen, experienced and witnessed is legendary! "Sumguy" even posts on Facebook and if he says it, then it must be true because why else would he say it. Just this last week, I talked to numerous people about a major development happening north of town. Almost unanimously, anybody I talked to mentioned that some guy had experienced different things related to the topic. Whenever I asked what this person's name is, they all said, "I don't know, Sumguy".

Obviously, many people must have met this person named Sumguy. I have not been lucky enough to meet him; heck,

I don't even know if that is his first name or last name or both.

Many of the things that Sumguy has experienced in his life almost always seem to be of the negative aspect, but last month I overheard that Sumguy won the 6/49 lottery in Alberta so I guess not all bad things are happening to him.

Someday, I hope to meet Sumguy with questions about all he has said and done, but until then, I will have to rely on other people's sightings.

**Jim Krzyzaniak**  
Neepawa, MB

*P.S.* I sympathize with the emotions both sides are feeling. I'm sure that everybody thinks that they are right.

## A good experiment is now a costly failure

I am writing as a resident and taxpayer who feels very frustrated with what has happened at the Hylife Back Forty Bike Park. Many people in our community are asking why we continue spending money on something that is almost never used. Every time I drive there, after dodging potholes all over town, I arrive at the bike park and see the same thing: empty trails, empty parking lot, no riders, no activity. It makes me question why our tax dollars are still being poured into this project.

The lookout tower is another confusing decision. What exactly are we supposed to admire from up there? The lagoon? That tower could have been placed somewhere meaningful and beautiful, like Riverbend Park, where families actually go. Instead, we spent time and money on a structure that adds no real value.

Other communities

have bike parks that cost taxpayers nothing. In Dauphin, the Northgate Trails are fully run and funded by volunteers. Meanwhile, here in Neepawa, the Town operates the Back Forty, which increases costs every single year and also exposes the Town to liability if someone gets hurt.

Even the basics are not being looked after. The washroom doors have fallen off. Maybe vandalism caused it, or maybe the west wind ripped them away, but if it was the wind, then we must ask: who designed washrooms facing the strongest winds we get most of the year?

The sign at the park says the original price tag was \$687,500, but anyone paying attention knows that was only the starting point. Contractors have been going in year after year, doing more work. So how much has the Town truly spent? Will we ever see a full total? And can

anyone honestly say we will recover even a fraction of those costs when the park sits unused most of the time?

Where I come from, we believe money should be spent where it brings real value to people. Something helpful, something lasting, something appreciated. The Back Forty Bike Park is not that. It was maybe a good experiment, but now it has become a costly failure. It is time for the Town to recognize this and move away from the ongoing drain.

Let's focus our resources on fixing streets, improving infrastructure, and supporting facilities that people actually use. Neepawa has so much potential, but we cannot keep wasting money on a project that benefits almost no one.

**Althea Torres**  
Neepawa, MB

## Helen Drysdale

### OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN East View Lodge

This week's recipes come from the 1993 cookbook called "Our favorite Recipes" from Eastview Lodge. In 1963, Mr. John Marriott left part of his estate to the town of Neepawa to establish a fund to erect and maintain an "old folks home" in Neepawa. The Town Council looked to the neighboring municipalities, government grants and borrowing money to get this project off the ground. In 1967, the 75-bed facility was officially opened. In 1971, a 50-bed addition was opened.

The administrator at the time was Herb Osmond and Anna Lustig was the director of Nursing. The Lodge Board in 1993 was Velda Bradley (Chairman), Don Hockin (Vice Chair), Hugh McCamis (Secretary Treasurer), Lois Aitken, Darlene Gillies, Ron Goldade, Ken Hermiston, Jim Kuharski, Elviss Sumner, and Arnold Suski. This cookbook has 12 bran muffin recipes and six banana muffin recipes.

#### Clam chowder (Alice Peech for Tena Hrycak)

1 cup carrots, cut in cubes	2 cans baby clams with the juice
1 cup finely cut celery	1 can drained and rinsed broken shrimp
1 cup onions	
1 cup potatoes, cut in cubes	<b>White sauce:</b>
1/2 cup cut up green peppers	1/4 cup butter
1/2 cup cut up red peppers	1/2 cup flour
3/4 cup corn kernels	1 1/2 cup milk
1 1/2 tsp. salt	1/2 cup whipping cream
4 1/2 cup water	

Bring the first nine ingredients to a boil and cook until just tender. Do not overboil. Make white sauce. Add to the vegetables: stir and simmer for two minutes. Add baby clams with juice and shrimp; simmer for 3-4 minutes. Enjoy

#### Perogie Casserole (Beatrice Higgins, A. Rainka's daughter)

15 lasagna noodles	1 cup shredded cheddar cheese	1 cup butter
2 cups cottage cheese	2 cups mashed potatoes	1 cup chopped onion
1 egg	Salt and pepper	
1/4 tsp. onion salt		

Cook onion in the butter. Set aside. Cook and drain noodles. Place a layer of noodles, then cottage cheese with the egg mixed in, another layer of noodles, the potatoes and cheddar cheese (mixed together), another layer of noodles, then the onions and butter. Bake for one half an hour at 350°F. Serve with sour cream.

#### Welsh cakes (Doreen Howatt)

3 1/2 cups flour	1 tsp. salt	Crisco
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder	1/2 tsp. cinnamon	2 eggs, well beaten
1/2 tsp. baking soda	1 cup white sugar	1/2 cup milk
	1 cup margarine or	1 cup currants

In a medium-sized mixing bowl, whisk together the dry ingredients. Work in the butter until the mixture is evenly crumbly. Add the milk/egg mixture, mixing until everything is moistened. Mix in the currants. Roll out on floured board 1/4 inch thick; cut with a cookie cutter. Bake in an electric frying pan at 325°F for about three minutes on each side. I don't use oil in the frying pan.

#### Oat and honey bran muffins (Grace and Marion Moore)

1 cup rolled oats	1 cup butter milk	1 cup whole wheat flour
3/4 cup wheat germ	or soured milk	2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 cup natural bran	3/4 cup liquid honey	1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt	2 eggs beaten	1/2 cup raisins
1/2 tsp. cinnamon	1/2 cup oil	

Combine oatmeal, wheat germ, bran, salt, cinnamon, and buttermilk. Mix well and let stand 15 minutes. Add honey, eggs and oil. Mix well. Combine flour, baking powder and baking soda. Add to egg mixture. Stir just until moistened. Stir in raisins. Bake at 375°F for 20-25 minutes until set in the middle. Cool on a wire rack.

#### Strawberry Bavarian Cream (Lynne Deeley)

10 oz. frozen sliced strawberries, thawed	1 small pkg. Strawberry Jello
1 cup boiling water	1 cup whipping cream

Drain berries; reserve syrup. Pour boiling water over Jello and dissolve. Add enough cold water to reserved syrup to measure one cup, then add to the Jello mixture. Chill until almost set. Prepare whipping cream. Beat Jello until foamy. Fold Jello and strawberries into whipped cream. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

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# Heritage Co-op hosts its 97th Annual General Meeting



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Around 50 people attended Heritage Co-op's Annual General Meeting, on Wednesday, Apr. 29 in Minnedosa.

**By Eoin Devereux**  
Neepawa Banner & Press

Heritage Co-op held its 97th annual general meeting on Wednesday Apr. 29 at the Minnedosa Community Conference Centre. A total of 52 members attended in person in Minnedosa, with the event also being simulcast to members at Brandon Agro. This year's meeting carried the theme "Building with Purpose," which reflects what leadership describes as a year of both challenges and steady progress.

Despite rising costs and supply variability, the co-operative reported seven per cent sales growth in 2025, reaching approximately \$280 million in sales. That was an increase of about \$19.6 million year over year.

Agro and petroleum

divisions remained the co-op's primary drivers, accounting for 73.8 per cent of the total sales, which was consistent with the previous year. As for food and home centre operations, while those were smaller contributors financially, they were still seen as important contributors to local communities.

Membership also continued to grow, with 946 new members joining Heritage Co-op over the past year.

### Heritage CEO report

CEO Leanne DeVliegere described 2025 as a year defined by some very deliberate decision-making.

"When I think about 2025, what stands out is that it's been a year of building with purpose," she said. "That shows in our choices,

our discipline and how our team delivers results to members every day."

One of the most tangible outcomes for members is a \$3.77 million allocation for 2025, which will be distributed as a mix of equity and cash. DeVliegere stressed that such returns are the result of consistent effort across the organization.

"Patronage doesn't happen by chance. It's safe operations, controlling costs, making smart investments, and delivering real value," she said, adding that employees played a critical role in the year's success.

Looking ahead, DeVliegere expressed confidence in the co-op's direction.

"Heritage Co-op is in a strong position, and we're focused on building an organization that delivers value for the long term."

# Minnedosa approves budget for 2026

**By Eoin Devereux**  
Neepawa Banner & Press

Minnedosa has finalized its financial plan for the year, as Town Council formally approved the document at its Apr. 28 meeting.

The general operating budget has been set at \$7,551,991.38, while the utility operating budget will be \$2,142,886.44. The plan sets a general municipal tax rate of 24.214 mills, applied to all taxable property. Property owners will have until Sept. 29 to pay their 2026 taxes. Any outstanding balances after that date will be subject to a monthly penalty of 1.25 per cent.

to Centennial pumps, and variable frequency drive upgrades at Water Plant One.

### Community Grants

Council also approved \$18,475 in grants to be distributed to local organizations. The largest single grant will be \$6,500 to the Minnedosa Royal Canadian Legion. That money will help cover a portion of the cost to replace Remembrance Banners in compliance with Manitoba Hydro regulations.

### Capital Investments

The 2026 capital budget will total \$2,487,904.20, with a little over \$2 million funded through reserves.

Planned investments for 2026 focus on a wide range of municipal priorities. Equipment and road-related spending includes the purchase of a new fire truck, skid steer attachments and a Zamboni, as well as several paving projects.

Other notable spending includes funding for flood mitigation work at Taners Park, upgrades to civic centre windows, demolition of the old arena and new siding for the curling complex. Parks and recreation improvements are also planned.

Water and wastewater infrastructure will see continued investment, including line replacements, upgrades to sewage lift pumps and piping, improvements

## What's the scoop?



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# Persistence pays off in Farm and Leisure Lotto

Sifton based family win \$100,000 grand prize after decade of support

By Eoin Devereux  
Neepawa Banner & Press

A Sifton area couple is celebrating a life-changing win this week, after claiming the top prize in the 2026 Neepawa & District Medical Committee Farm and Leisure Lotto.

John and Verlie Tomlinson, long-time supporters of our local fundraising initiative, have been announced as this year's \$100,000 grand prize recipients. Meanwhile, Monica Ross of The Pas took home the 50/50 prize, receiving just over \$38,000.

For John Tomlinson, the lotto win comes after about a decade of dedicated participation.

"I can say, it's been about probably 10 years. Maybe, about that long, I think, that we've bought a ticket," Tomlinson said. "And then, I also buy for the Health Science Centre [lottery]. I buy those because even if we don't live in that

community, it's going towards something of value, something that's a good cause and helps out. So, we like being able to support something like that."

While the excitement of the win is still settling in, the Tomlinson's already have a few practical plans in mind for the prize money.

"Definitely going to help with the mortgage," John noted. "That's sort of the plan right now, to pay it right off."

Verlie Tomlinson added that some family members will also benefit from their windfall.

"We have got two grand-

children [as well], so I think we're going to help them out a little bit," she said.

The annual lotto, organized by the Neepawa & District Medical Committee, plays a crucial role

in supporting healthcare services in the region. Over the years, funds raised have contributed to physician

recruitment, facility upgrades and ongoing improvements to medical infrastructure in Neepawa and surrounding communities. She said

the lotto's impact extends far beyond Neepawa.

"Over the years, we have really noticed the support from the outlying communities, who see what we're trying to do and are supporters of the efforts, because a lot of the rural and northern communities do not have the physicians and they understand the importance," explained Clark.

"But the folks from the North have really supported us [over the years]. They have continually supported us from day one and we're thankful for that support."

Clark also extended her gratitude to the many volunteers and supporters who make the annual Farm and Leisure Lotto possible.

"We just want to thank the volunteers and everyone who helped and supported us."



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Mary Ellen Clark, Coordinator of the Neepawa & District Farm and Leisure Lotto, presents a cheque for \$100,000 to John and Verlie Tomlinson of Sifton.

## Neepawa approves its financial plan for 202

By Eoin Devereux  
Neepawa Banner & Press

The Town of Neepawa has officially given approval of its municipal budget for the year. The document received second and third reading and unanimous approval from Council on Tuesday, May 5. It will feature just over \$11.5 million set aside for operating expenditures and \$4.9 million for all utility operating funds.

But what will all those numbers mean for you? Well, for the average residential property owner, they will pay an additional \$57.03 in taxes per

\$200,000 of your assessed property value. Commercial property owners, meanwhile, will see an increase of \$648.07 per \$500,000 of assessed value.

As for capital purchases for Neepawa in 2026, money has been set aside for a variety of drainage and roadwork, including improvements for Adelaide Crescent, Second Avenue, Hamilton Street East, the

Co-op service road and roads related to the Project 320.

There is also \$503,000 proposed for new road construction. As well, plans are in place to complete the paving of the Fire Department's parking lot (Estimated cost: \$75,000), the Cemetery Project (\$10,000) and the purchase of a new mower (\$30,000).



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# Town of Neepawa to launch 'Business Walk'

## BR&E survey to target downtown core

By Casper Wehrhahn  
Neepawa Banner & Press

How does one better understand the needs of local businesses? By meeting with the very people they seek to serve. That's exactly what Neepawa's Economic Development intends to do. Next week, on May 14, dedicated teams will be out in the community meeting with local business owners/managers to conduct a Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) survey.

This will be the second time the Town of Neepawa Economic Development has administered a BR&E, with the first having taken place in 2025. That year, the Town of Neepawa hired the consulting firm known as Deloitte Canada to lead the inquiry.

"Because Neepawa had never done one before, I thought that would give a good baseline and get Neepawa started off on the right foot," said Marilyn Crewe, Neepawa's economic development officer. "79 businesses responded to the survey. The results were provided to me, and in a public-facing document. There was a lot of positive response to people willing to promote Neepawa as a great place to do business"

The Deloitte study gathered a 94 per cent satisfaction rating from a random sample telephone and email survey of 79 businesses, with a "20 per cent response rate".

### 2026 study changes

This year, the BR&E's structure will be a little different. The survey is still expected to take approximately 10 to 15 minutes, but will be conducted locally as a 'Business Walk' with a specific target area.

"This year, because I needed to choose an area, it's going to be all our downtown core businesses. So there's 50 or 60 businesses in the downtown core," Crewe explained. "There will be five teams of two people—an elected official from the council, and someone from the Town Office or Chamber will be with each elected official. One will ask the questions, the other will record the answers."

Crewe added, "It's not going to be as many questions as were done in the Deloitte study, but some of them are quite similar so that I can actually compare year over year in a very real way with the data."

Much like the prior Deloitte survey, the teams will mark any 'green' or 'red' flags during the interview sessions that may require immediate follow-up by Neepawa's Economic Development. Those follow-ups will be initiated by Neepawa Economic Development prior to the compilation of the survey data. The data compilation will also be conducted by Marilyn Crewe.

Crewe re-iterated the importance of the 2026 BR&E, stating, "[We'll be able to] see whether the results are similar to last year, or whether there's new areas of concern around hiring

or training, taxation—whatever they want to tell us. Then we can see how those kinds of responses compare and if there's been any shift. Pretty sure the ones around housing and daycare won't have shifted, because we haven't met that need yet."

Crewe added, "This will show me if there's areas where businesses need help. Then I can—maybe I develop a new program."

An example of one such program is the Storefront Improvement Incentive. That initiative in particular was noted by Crewe to have been really popular.

"It's really made a difference, I believe, in the downtown. A lot of businesses have taken advantage of that," said Crewe. "But maybe there's something else that businesses need, or maybe they just want to make sure that that program continues. So there will be ways to identify that, and then that will also help inform the Council."

Crewe added, "As I develop my budget every year, if I see that something new is needed, then I can develop that and include it in the budget. Then Council has also heard that same thing from the businesses as they're out and about, and know that we're making good decisions."

Anyone wishing to get re-acquainted with the full extent of results from the 2025 Deloitte study can access the report on the Neepawa Economic Development website.

# 'It's a way to say thank you'



ARTWORK BY ASHLEY NADEAU

A poster drawn by McCreary School student Ashley Nadeau, who received national honours for her work.

### Continued from Page 1

Ashley also shared her personal perspective on why activities such as the Royal Canadian Legion's annual poster contest are so important.

"They get people thinking about Remembrance Day. It is important in helping people stop and reflect," said Ashley. "Doing the poster made me think more deeply about it, and I hope it does the same for others. It's a way to say thank you and to make sure those stories don't get lost."

Ashley added, "I'm really grateful to the Legion for running this contest and giving people like me a chance to be part of it."

The Neepawa Banner & Press also had the opportunity to speak with Jason Nadeau, who is both principal of the McCreary School and Ashley's father.

Speaking first as principal on behalf of the school, Jason stated, "It is incredibly exciting to see our students recognized for their skills and talents. McCreary School is fortunate to have such amazing students who shine in athletics, academics, and the arts. I am very

proud of their outstanding achievements. McCreary School proudly participates in this Legion contest each year and sincerely appreciates all that the McCreary Legion does to support our school."

Then, as Ashley's father, he added, "As parents, we are incredibly proud to see her artistic talent recognized. Placing third in the entire country feels almost unbelievable, and our initial reaction was one of pure astonishment. We are proud of all our children and the values we work hard to instill—giving back to the community, making a positive difference, and taking pride in our country. Respecting and supporting those who serve is also something we hold close as a family."

In his final comments, principal Jason Nadeau drew attention to the area as a whole.

"There are many talented artists in our area. We are excited to see someone who lives in Neepawa recognized as well as a student from McCreary School," said Jason. "This is huge for our area and region."

## Finely dressed at the Arden Museum



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Crocuses were on full display on May 2 for the 25th anniversary of the Arden Crocus Festival. The fabulous Arden-Lansdowne Museum was open as well and these finely dressed ladies guided visitors all afternoon.

Left to right: Barb Nicoll, Myla Sumner, Taryn Sumner, Anna Pearson, Doris Shuttleworth

In Front: Shea Sumner.

# 'The Sister Act' performed live in Neepawa

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOB LEPISCHAK

The Beautiful Plains Community Theatre Group performed their live rendition of 'The Sister Act' this past weekend with a major response from patrons. Tickets sold steadily leading up to the event dates- even balcony seating was required! Pictured here are some scenes from both the dress rehearsal, as well as the public performance.



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# Area green thumbs receive provincial recognition

## MacPhee and Nelson families win Manitoba Good Roads Association awards

By Casper Wehrhahn  
Neepawa Banner & Press

Two local families received provincial honours for their green thumbs and hard work recently. These individuals are Glenda and Joe MacPhee, and John and Gerry Nelson. At the 114th annual Manitoba Good Roads Association (MGRA) dinner and awards evening, held Apr. 21, the MacPhees were recognized with the WSP Shield for Best Home Farm Grounds; and the Nelsons received the Carels Shield for Best Urban Home Grounds.

Both the WSP Shield and the Carels Shield cover a wide area, including past winners from locations such as Stonewall, Birtle, and Carman between the two.

“Ray Drayson nominated us, and I didn’t realize what kind of area it covered. When we did go, and we saw the other names they had on the shield go all the way out to Birtle... it’s a fairly large area, so that makes it quite an honour to be recognized,” said Glenda, who commented on behalf of herself and Joe. “We’ve had lots of positive feedback just from local residents over the years, so we’ve always felt good about our yard.”

Glenda added, “We enjoy sharing our yard with the public and different events, and it’s an honour to be chosen. We get to keep the shield for the year. We always work hard in our yard, but it’s nice to see some payoffs.”

**‘You feel honoured by it’**  
On behalf of himself and Gerry, John shared comments of similar surprise and gratitude.

“We were surprised to even be there, because we didn’t know such an award existed. We weren’t trying to win an award, we just like to have a nice yard. It keeps us busy,” said John. “So when the Town said ‘Gee, we’d like to nominate your



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Locals Joe and Glenda MacPhee, and Gerry and John Nelson were honoured at the 2025-2026 edition of the Manitoba Good Roads Association dinner and awards on Apr. 21, 2026.

Pictured left: Joe (left) and Glenda (middle) MacPhee receiving the 2025 WSP Shield and award for for Best Farm Home Grounds. Pictured right: Gerry (left) and John (right) Nelson receiving the 2025 Carels Shield and award for Best Urban Home Grounds.

yard for this Good Roads Association’, we thought ‘What do we have to lose?’. So we said ‘well, sure!’”

John added later, “Then we were quite surprised when they said ‘you’re winning that award with the Good Roads Association’. It was definitely a surprise, and definitely something that you feel honoured by. When you do it for yourself, and other people notice it and say ‘that’s really good’, it makes you feel good. You feel honoured by it.”

Both Glenda and John recalled the weather being on the rainy side prior to the local judgings. Addi-

tionally, the judging for the MacPhees was the day after an intense hail storm at the end of June. These conditions were noted by both to contribute to their surprise in being named winners of their respective shields.

**Beyond roads**

The Nelsons and the MacPhees were pleased to be able to share the MGRA awards evening together, a point which John expanded further upon.

“It was also very pleasant to be there, and at the next table over was the RM of North Cypress Langford with the MacPhees. We

know them well, and it was just good to be able to share that evening with them as well. They have a much much bigger property, and they have a lot more work involved than we do,” John chuckled.

In addition to the award win itself, John also shared in his final comments that he found the extent of the MGRA awards interesting.

“Their reach is far beyond just looking at gravel and asphalt surfaces. And while they’re looking at efficiency of transportation and all those things, they’re also looking at ‘oh, what are some of the benefits of hav-

ing good streets and roads?’. And part of it is people can go and see stuff— whether it’s events, and whether it’s

gardens and lawns,” said John. “We were surprised to see the extent of what Good Roads does.”

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## Cost-effective curb appeal boosters



PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

There are plenty of projects one can undertake to improve the outward appeal of a home and the landscaping surrounding it.

**Submitted**  
Metro Creative

One shouldn't judge a book by its cover. However, that often is hard to do, particularly when it comes to homes. Curb appeal bears significant influence regarding how a property is perceived. A property that is neat and aesthetically appealing probably will be preferable to one that looks like the homeowners did not maintain it.

Boosting curb appeal is a common focus of sellers before listing a property. But what can those who don't have big budgets for major overhauls do to improve their curb appeal? Plenty of projects can offer maximum output with minimal investment.

### Refresh the front door

Painting the front door can add brightness and improve the look of a home's entryway. Most exterior

paint costs between \$30 and \$40 per gallon, so this is undeniably a budget-friendly improvement. If money allows, replacing the door altogether will generate bang for your buck.

### Improve or add landscaping elements

Landscaping should be designed to highlight the home's best features. It should look symmetrical and feel manicured. If it's not possible to plant new flowers or bushes, simply cleaning up debris and weeds, and trimming existing greenery can make it feel neater and more polished.

### Clean up

Power-washing the siding, cement walkways and garage door can create instant impact. It's amazing how much dirt and mildew can reduce the luster of a home. Cleaning off years of grime can be a fast and inexpensive refresh.

### Reseal the driveway

Make sure the driveway is clean and tidy. If it has cracks or discoloration, filling in cracks and applying a new coat of sealer will make a big difference. Homeowners can hire someone to reseal the driveway or do the work on their own.

### Add more lighting

Updating front porch lights and accent lights around the property will cast a more positive glow on a home, both literally and figuratively.

### Add a seating area

If space by the front door allows, add a bench or some chairs to create a welcoming seating area. A potted plant or two nearby will help the area seem intentional.

Improving curb appeal doesn't have to cost a lot of money. A few easy touches can boost the look of any property.

## Gardening and mental health



PHOTO COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

**Submitted**  
Metro Creative Connection

Gardening and strong mental health seemingly go hand-in-hand. A study published in 2018 in the journal *Clinical Medicine* found that exposure to plants and green space, and particularly to gardening, is beneficial to both physical and mental health. Penn State Extension says working with the soil and plants can help relax the mind and

have a grounding effect on the gardener, as gardening can help to reduce stress, anxiety and even built-up anger. Gardening also helps a person connect to the current moment and not be caught up in their mind. Nearly all forms of exercise, gardening included, can lighten mood and lower levels of stress and anxiety. Also, routines, such as spending a certain portion of the day weeding or tending to gardening needs, creates a soothing rhythm to ease stress.

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# 'The anticipation is definitely mounting'

## Rotary: The New Wave Neepawa prepares for second annual Colour Run

By Casper Wehrhahn  
Neepawa Banner & Press

Smiles, camaraderie, and bursts of colour. These were abundant at the inaugural Colour Run held in 2025 by Rotary: The New Wave Neepawa. Now, New Wave Neepawa's preparations are well underway for the event's return during the upcoming Chamber Fair weekend.

Board member Jenna Lowry shared that the early response for 2026 has been good, stating, "We have about the same amount of registrants now as we did last year at this time, and are hoping for many more to still come in!"

For those who may be unfamiliar, the Colour Run is an un-timed 5km or 2.5km run or walk initially inspired by Holi, the Hindu festival known for its celebration of colours, love, and spring. Participants are invited to wear white clothing, which will get splashed with multi-coloured, environmentally safe powder (typically food-grade corn starch).

2025's Colour Run was truly well received, with 240 people attending and smashing New Wave Neepawa's expectations.

This year's run takes place on Saturday, May 23, starting at Neepawa's Rotary Park (Park Lake). Registration will be avail-



FILE PHOTOS

The inaugural edition of the Colour Run in 2025 was a smash hit. This year, the event is back with a positive early response, and some changes informed by last year's experience and feedback.

able on site, starting at 9:15 a.m. However, people are asked to pre-register if possible via the link on New Wave Neepawa's social media.

The event proper will start with the run at 10:00 a.m., followed by the walk at 10:15 a.m.

All proceeds raised from the Colour Run will support Rotary: The New Wave Neepawa's Playground Enhancement Fund.

### Some fine-tuning for 2026

With last year's success as a metaphorical feather

in their cap, Lowry shared how New Wave Neepawa is feeling leading into the 2026 Colour Run.

"We are excited and planning for an even bigger event this year," Lowry enthused. "We've made some adjustments and are hoping for a fun morning with good weather! The anticipation is definitely mounting."

Adjustments for this year's Colour Run have included an opportunity to acquire Colour Run

branded shirts during early bird registration, a slight increase in registration fees for adults (ages 16+) and youth (ages 5-15), availability of sponsorship options, and adjustments to the event's running and walking routes.

"We've changed the route to alleviate some of the confusion from last year's event," Lowry explained. "We will be doing two loops this year. An approx 2.5km loop, going around twice for the 5km route."

### 2026 route outline

The route is now as follows:

- Runners and walkers will begin their event on the west side of the loop near the Park Lake parking lot, and follow the loop north before travelling south and west to exit the Bird Sanctuary area via Park Lake Drive.
- Continue following Park Lake Drive until the intersection with Ada Street and First Ave is reached; then turn east onto Ada Street.

• Turn south onto Brown Ave, and continue travelling south to continue the loop around Park Lake, and return to the Bird Sanctuary once more.

• At this point, those doing the 2.5km loop can turn north onto the east side of the Bird Sanctuary loop, and follow it to the finish line.

• Those in the 5km event will bypass the Bird Sanctuary loop, travelling south on Park Lake Drive to loop the lake once more before proceeding to the finish line.

### Other support options

Those wishing to support the Colour Run via alternative means also have some options. While no additional volunteers are needed at this time, people wishing to get involved in some aspect are invited to leave their information at the registration table on May 23.

Additionally, a progressive 50/50 is available and well underway. Further details on this option can also be found on New Wave Neepawa's social media.

"Last year's take home was \$500, so get your tickets now," said Lowry.





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## Local players enshrined in Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame

Sherrie Hockin and Carrie White part of 2026 Induction Class

By Eoin Devereux  
Neepawa Banner & Press

One of western Manitoba's greatest sports dynasties was honoured last weekend in Brandon, as the 1998 to 2003 Westman Magic softball club was inducted into the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame.

That historic team has a strong connection to Neepawa, as Sherrie (White) Hockin and her sister Carrie were both key members of the roster during its most successful run.

The Westman Magic began play in 1997 as a collective of 15-year-old athletes competing in exhibition games and tournaments, before joining the Manitoba Ladies Super Softball League's Open Division. Over a five-year span, the team captured two gold medals and a bronze at the midget and junior levels, while also competing at three national championships.

Reflecting on the reunion and honour, Sherrie



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sherrie Hockin and sister Carrie White, along with the rest of the 1998-2003 Westman Magic, accept their induction into the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame.

Hockin said the bond between teammates remains as strong as ever.

"It honestly felt like it hadn't been 20+ years, and we picked up where we left off. I think of all the sports teams I played on over the years, and this group of women are something special. Always had each other's backs. Great friends and teammates. I don't so much remember the wins and losses so many years ago, but I remember all the

good times we had together on and off the field. It was so great to reminisce about all the good times we had together."

Hockin added the recognition extends far beyond the players themselves.

"It's a huge honour. Unexpected, but so cool. We couldn't have done it without the coaches who led us and put in so many hours, our parents who supported us and showed up time and time again.

It's not just the faces in the team pictures, it's all the people who aren't in the pictures that made it possible."

The Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame annually recognizes athletes, teams and builders who have made significant contributions to the sport.

The ceremony was held at the Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre on Saturday, May 2.

## The Santa Clara Baseball League is back!

By Eoin Devereux  
Neepawa Banner & Press

Even though it feels as though winter will never go away in Westman, a much-needed dose of the summer's favourite sport is just around the corner. The Santa Clara Baseball League (SCBL) has announced its 2026 regular season schedule will start on Wednesday, May 13, with all six member clubs out on the diamond for opening night.

The returning teams for this upcoming year include the Austin A's, Carberry Royals, Minnedosa Mavericks, Neepawa Cubs, Plumas Pirates and the reigning league champions, the Portage Padres. Each franchise will play a 14 game regular season schedule, which starts in mid-May and conclude before the end of June. As for the playoffs, those games begin in July and are usually wrapped up by early August.

The usual format for the post-season sees all six clubs qualify, though the first and second place teams do earn themselves first round byes, while the third place clubs plays the sixth; and the fourth seed is paired with the fifth. The first two rounds are best-of-three series, while the Championship series reverts to a best-of-five game schedule. As for opening night, the games are as follows:

- *Carberry Royals at Minnedosa Mavericks*
- *Portage Padres at Neepawa Cubs*
- *Austin A's at Plumas Pirates*

All these opening night games have a scheduled start time of 7:00 p.m.

## A 'hidden gem' no more

Neepawa Golf & Country Club earns national recognition

By Eoin Devereux  
Neepawa Banner & Press

The Neepawa Golf & Country Club (NGCC) is entering the 2026 season having been awarded a major accolade, one determined by those who know the game best, the golfers themselves

The local course claimed first place on GolfPass's annual "25 Top Public Golf Courses and Hidden Gems in Canada" list, as part of its Golfers' Choice awards.

These rankings are compiled based on reviews and ratings submitted by golfers across the country, highlighting courses that deliver strong experiences in playability, service and overall enjoyment. Neepawa has a 98.6 per cent recommendation level on

the GolfPass website.

In 2025, the platform analyzed 8,498 reviews covering 341 Canadian golf courses before finalizing this year's top 25. The list was curated each year by golf writer Jason Scott Deegan, an industry expert who has reviewed and photographed more than 1,200 courses in

28 countries.

For Neepawa, those reviews painted a consistent picture of quality and hospitality.

"This is a well-laid out and challenging course. It is in great shape this year. The staff is very friendly and the members are also welcoming," wrote one reviewer on

the platform.

The Golfers' Choice rankings are designed to help players discover standout public courses while offering good value, making Neepawa's top placement especially significant for golfers seeking high-quality experiences without the exclusivity of private clubs.

## Club 55 Bowling Champions

**LEAGUE CHAMPIONS: FAB 4!** Judy Gabler, Eleanor Scott, Frank Porada, Elsie Slimmon, Janice Absteiter. **LADIES' HIGH SINGLE:** Caroline Harding 261. **LADIES' HIGH TRIPLE & AVERAGE:** Vivian Oswald 596 & 161. **MEN'S HIGH SINGLE, TRIPLE & AVERAGE:** Darrell Gabler 294, 639 & 172. **MOST IMPROVED BOWLERS: Ladies' -** Caroline Harding +4; **Men -** Chuck Morden +9. **BOWLERS OF THE YEAR: Ladies' -** Elsie Slimmon +114; **Men -** Russ Taylor +45.

Congratulations to our Bowlers and we'll see you back at the lanes on Sept. 17, 2026.

## Neepawa Titans re-sign Ken Pearson

By Eoin Devereux  
Neepawa Banner & Press

The Neepawa Titans have secured some stability behind the bench and in the front office, signing Head Coach/General Manager Ken Pearson to a multi-year contract extension.

The Junior 'A' Hockey Club confirmed the deal via media release on Friday, May 1. In the media statement, Team President Jamie Denbow praised Pearson's impact on and off the ice.

"Ken has been instrumental in shaping the identity of this organization," Denbow said. "His commitment to developing our players, strengthening our community connections, and building a competitive culture is exactly what we want the Titans to stand for. We're thrilled to have him

leading us into the future."

Pearson, who has led the organization since 2019, expressed his appreciation for the continued trust that has been placed upon him.

"Neepawa is a special place and I'm grateful for the trust the organization and community have placed in me," Pearson said. "We've made great strides, and there's still so much potential here. I'm excited to continue building a program our town can be proud of."

Since taking over the team in 2019, Pearson has compiled an overall record of 144-180-32. Over the last three seasons, however, the Titans have turned the proverbial corner, and posted a combined a 60-49-7 regular season record, while also securing three consecutive playoff appearances.

# Kids quilt project

**Banner Staff**  
Neepawa Banner & Press

Well known Neepawa quilter Mary Murray and Spruce Plains RCMP Detachment Staff Sergeant Andrew Cowan have started a whirlwind and it's getting larger.

Murray has made countless quilts in her career but her latest project is to make small quilts for kids who have been through trauma. Kids get a quilt and a small toy to comfort them in a time of trauma. The quilt kits are distributed through the local RCMP, Ambulance Paramedics and the Neepawa Fire Department.

When Cowan came to Neepawa to take command of the local detachment last year, he inquired what all the quilt packages in the office were for and was advised of Murray's project. They got together and made some plans to expand distribution. The quilts have been dubbed Cowan's Cozies. Cowan says on the RCMP side, they are now

being distributed at Neepawa and through police detachments all the way west to the Saskatchewan border, to the US border to the south, and at some places in Winnipeg and northern Manitoba.

"We hope to spread this idea as far as we can. Obviously, Murray can't make that many quilts but there's a growing team of quilters, toy gatherers and material donors to expand the reach.

During a recent interview on Neepawa Access Community Television, Murray advised that the project has received a \$1,500 grant from the Beautiful Plains Community Foundation. In addition, there may well be another boost, as the Neepawa Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary are hosting one of their famous Roast Beef Dinners on May 15. People are encouraged to book tickets early by phoning the Legion Club Room at 204-476-5738.



IMAGE COURTESY OF NACTV

Spruce Plains RCMP Detachment Staff Sgt. Andrew Cowan (left) and Mary Murray (centre) were interviewed by Lyle Watson recently on NACTV. Murray is shown here explaining the Quilts for Kids project that she initiated where children experiencing trauma are given a quilt and a toy to help them through stressful times. The quilts are being handed out by RCMP officers, ambulance staff and firefighters.

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**ads@neepawabanner.com**

We'd love to feature pictures of local farms. If you have a photo you'd like to share, please send it to us at [news@neepawabanner.com](mailto:news@neepawabanner.com)

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Classified 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

## 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

A Bible Quote NKJV 1 Corinthians 2:14. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

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

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

### Livestock

Polled Hereford yearling bulls. Vern Kartanson. Minnedosa. 204-867-7315

### Livestock

Polled red Simmental bulls, including 1 born in fall of 2024. Acomb Valley. Bruce Firby. 204-867-2203 Minnedosa

### 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

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

### Auctions

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

### Obituary



#### Brian Walter Birch

Brian Walter Birch of Brandon, Manitoba passed away on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at the age of 75.

Brian was born in Neepawa, MB on October 20, 1950. Brian worked as "the parts guy" for most of his life. He was well known for his love of golf, curling and his grandkids accomplishments. He was also a coach, firefighter and a member of Kinsmen and UCT.

Brian is survived by his sons BJ (Diane, Avery and Kelsey), Bob (Ashleigh, Kennedy and Claire), Bryce (Christina, Hunter, Madison and Jaxson) and sisters Linda (Wayne) and Brenda (Arnold). He was predeceased by his parents Walter and Shirley.

A celebration of Brian's life will be held at the Riverview Curling Club, 420 Maryland Ave., Brandon, on Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. Donations in memory of Brian may be made to CancerCare Manitoba.

Arrangements are in care of Brockie Donovan Funeral & Cremation Services. (204)-727-0694.

### Notice

#### RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROSEDALE PUBLIC NOTICE 2026 DUST CONTROL PROGRAM

The Rural Municipality of Rosedale is now accepting applications from residents for the 2026 dust control program. Prepayment required. Payments accepted online banking, e-transfer or by mailing a cheque to the municipal office.

Applications and payment must be received by **May 13th, 2026.**

For more information please call the RM at **204-476-5414**,

email us at [Admin@RMRosedale.com](mailto:Admin@RMRosedale.com), or visit our website at [www.RMRosedale.com](http://www.RMRosedale.com)

#### MUNICIPALITY OF GLENELLA - LANSDOWNE 2026 Dust Control Program

The Municipality of Glenella - Lansdowne will accept requests for application of dust control, on a **PRE-PAYMENT BASIS**, on municipal roads in front of residences within the Municipality.

The cost is \$387 per 300 ft.

Upon request, forms can be emailed or downloaded from our website [www.glenella.ca](http://www.glenella.ca)

Deadline to submit request forms is **Friday, May 15, 2026.**

#### Payment Options:

- 1) Drop your payment through the mail slot in the door
- 2) Mail your cheque
- 3) Pay online if you bank with a credit union
- 4) Pay by e-transfer to [rmofglen@glenella.ca](mailto:rmofglen@glenella.ca)

Wendy Wutzke, CMAA  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Municipality of Glenella - Lansdowne  
204-352-4281



#### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION Municipality of Ste. Rose

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

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

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that an appointment may be made with the SEO regarding candidate registrations:

**For the office of MAYOR:** Between May 1, 2026 and September 22, 2026

**For the office of COUNCILLOR:** Between June 30, 2026 and September 22, 2026 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and to 12:00 Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the following location:

Municipality of Ste. Rose Municipal Office  
722 Central Avenue  
Ste. Rose du Lac, MB

To obtain registration information contact the SEO at the telephone number listed below or pick up your candidate package from Assistant Senior Election Official, Marc Dandeneau at the Ste. Rose Municipal Office.

Yvonne Tardiff  
Senior Election Official (SEO)  
Phone: 204-647-0162  
Email: [yltardiff@gmail.com](mailto:yltardiff@gmail.com)

Marc Dandeneau  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Assistant Senior Election Official  
Phone: 204-447-2229  
Email: [sterose@sterose.ca](mailto:sterose@sterose.ca)

Dated April 28, 2026

### Archives

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

### Tender



#### TURTLE RIVER SCHOOL DIVISION

Invites tenders for:

#### GRASS CUTTING for the 2026 season

Tenders will be received for grass cutting at the following locations:

Alonsa School McCreary School Ste. Rose School  
Glenella School École Laurier McCreary Bus Garage

Please tender separately for each location. Tenders are to be made on a per cut basis, including cutting and trimming per location. Please include a list of equipment that will be used, in your submittal. A performance bond may be required. \*For further information regarding yard sizes and areas to be cut, contact the undersigned.

**Tenders close: @ 12:00pm, Monday May 11th, 2026**  
**Mark envelopes: GRASS CUTTING TENDER**

Please send tenders to:

Stephen Oversby, Maintenance Supervisor  
Turtle River School Division  
Box 309

McCreary, Manitoba R0J 1B0  
Phone: (204) 835-2067  
Email: [soversby@trsd.ca](mailto:soversby@trsd.ca)

\*\*\* The lowest, or any tender not necessarily accepted. \*\*\*

### Obituary



#### Diane Margaret Cottingham

Diane Margaret Cottingham, born December 9, 1955, passed away unexpectedly on May 1, 2026.

Diane was the beloved daughter of Peter and Muriel Cottingham, both predeceased. She was a cherished sister to Marilyn Cottingham Shinyei of

Dartmouth, Nova Scotia; David Cottingham and his wife Rebecca of Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts; Karen Cottingham of Calgary, Alberta; and Joy MacLean and her husband Cam of Matlock, Manitoba. Diane's cousin Lois and her husband Allan Hyndman of Cardale, Manitoba were also like a sister and brother in their care and devotion to her.

Diane adored her many nieces and nephews, as well as their children, and they had a special place in their hearts for their Auntie Diane. All of them conceded that she was hard to beat at cards, especially a game called Donuts. She rarely turned down a chance to start a new round.

She was an integral part of the Touchwood community for decades, attending the workshop and working in their store. Touchwood's staff and life-skill workers helped her to live in her own apartment and maintain her independence until just the last few years. For many years she was a familiar sight around town, bravely pedaling her chain-driven trike. As her mobility declined, she switched to an electric scooter but continued to be seen regularly on downtown sidewalks.

Her favourite movie was The Sound of Music, which we watched together often. Diane had a beautiful singing voice. She sang in the United Church choir for at least three decades, and loved singing along to her CD collection. In the minutes before she died, waiting for paramedics to arrive, she and a healthcare aide sang "Amazing Grace."

Diane's family extends heartfelt thanks to all the people in Neepawa who supported Diane with their friendship—especially Deb Goossen, Yvonne Ferguson, Brian Bailey and the best ever next-door neighbours, the Huxleys. A special thanks to the caring staff at Country Meadows who made Diane's well-being their priority and always took time to make her laugh.

A celebration of life will be held at a date to be announced. In lieu of flowers, donations in Diane's memory may be made to Touchwood Park Association, Inc.



#### Lyle Bruce Kelly

Lyle Bruce Kelly, 83 of Woodside Manitoba passed away on August 31, 2025 in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

He was born May 4, 1943 in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba to Barbara Mary Ann Sneesby and Derrick Sullivan.

Lyle attended Red River College and earned his refrigeration certification.

He married Shirley Elizabeth Mayor on July 17, 1965; and they had two children.

Lyle was a farmer, ambulance attendant, bull rider and a repairman to mention of a few of his careers. He was an avid fisherman and loved to be around people.

He is survived by his spouse Shirley; children daughter Rhonda Mante, and son Trevor Kelly, grandson Kyle Kelly and great grandchildren Alison Kelly and Victoria Kelly.

In lieu of flowers, donations maybe made to a charity of one's choice.

Service to be held on July 18th at the Gladstone United Church at 11am, followed by the Celebration of Life at the Gladstone Golf and Country Club at 1:30pm

Clarke's Funeral Home Gladstone ~ MacGregor  
in care of arrangements

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### Coming Events



Join the fight  
against  
Prostate Cancer  
**RIDE DAY  
Saturday  
May 30, 2026**

**10am**  
**Earls Polo Park**  
(Winnipeg)

Visit  
[ridefordad.ca/  
manitoba](http://ridefordad.ca/manitoba)

to register or  
make a pledge

#### Escape TRAILER

**NOW IN WINNIPEG!**

Escape Trailer is proud to partner with **ReVolution Trailers** Now selling fiberglass RVs built for comfort, durability and adventure.

You are invited to the **Revolution Trailers OPEN HOUSE**  
May 8 - 11:00 - 4:30  
May 9 - 10:00 - 3:30

**Phone: 204-955-7377**  
[www.revolutiontrailers.ca](http://www.revolutiontrailers.ca)

## 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 \$24.00/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, 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

**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.

**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, 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*



### Industrial Butcher (NOC 94141)

#### Why join our team?

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

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

#### Quick Facts:

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

#### What we can offer you:

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

#### Your duties may include:

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

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

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

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

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

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



invites applications for the following position:

**Transportation Supervisor**  
at the Bus Garage located in Neepawa, MB

Deadline: 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 19th, 2026

See Division website for more details on this position at [www.beautifulplainsd.ca](http://www.beautifulplainsd.ca)  
Click on Job Postings.



### Public Works Administrative Assistant June 2026 – December 2027 (Term Position)

This position performs administrative work for the public works department. This position reports to and receives direction from the Public Works Foreman and CAO. The Municipal Office is in Gladstone and hours of operation are 8:30am – 4:30 pm Monday to Friday. Although this position is advertised as a term position, there may be opportunity for permanent employment at the end of the term.

Please see our website for more information at [www.westlake-gladstone.ca](http://www.westlake-gladstone.ca)



invites applications for the following positions:

**Permanent School Bus Driver**  
Route # 5 – Transports students to and from JM Young School in Eden.

**Spare School Bus Drivers**  
needed to ensure consistent service for regular routes and extracurricular sporting/educational trips.

See Division website for more details on these positions at [www.beautifulplainsd.ca](http://www.beautifulplainsd.ca)  
Click on Job Postings.



### Rural Municipality of Rosedale

#### Summer Employment Opportunity

Applications are currently being accepted for the positions of Summer Students for the RM of Rosedale in Eden, MB.

#### Position Description:

- Summer employment (June – August) depending on candidates' availability
- 40 hours/week @ \$16.00/hr

This position will assist the Transportation Services Department with:

- Mowing grass & ground maintenance
- Installing & maintaining signage
- Cleaning and organization
- Assisting with additional municipal projects

#### Candidate Requirements:

- Valid driver's license or transportation to and from the job sites
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Applicants must be a student or youth between the ages of 15 & 29

Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until the position is filled.

Rural Municipality of Rosedale  
Box 100, Neepawa, Manitoba R0J 1H0

Phone: 204-476-5414  
E-mail: [cao@mmrosedale.com](mailto:cao@mmrosedale.com)  
Website: [www.rmrosedale.com](http://www.rmrosedale.com)

*We thank all candidates for their interest. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.*

## Manitoba Community Newspaper Association Province-wide Classifieds

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We thank you for your interest.  
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# Thumbs up, thumbs down

A thumbs up to the directors, performers, musicians, lights and sound crew and backstage supporting cast of the inaugural Beautiful Plains Community Theatre production of "Sister Act"!

It is my firm belief that in our small town, the performing arts are building more than just a stage- it will be the heartbeat of our community. It's where talent finds its voice, friendships take shape, and stories come alive.

From school productions to local performances, the performing arts bring people together, inspiring creativity and pride in every corner. Here, the arts don't just entertain-they connect us, remind us who we are, and show us what we can become together.

Bravo to all that made this community theatre production a reality!

**Danielle Carefoot**  
**Neepawa, MB**



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# History lessons with Helen: Agassiz

By Helen Drysdale  
Neepawa Banner & Press

Where do our town, business, lakes and other names come from? What historical or cultural significance do they reveal? Today I will explain some of the names we have around Neepawa and Manitoba.

In the Neepawa area we are in the provincial electoral division of Agassiz. Before we had Dairy Queen in Neepawa we had “The Agassiz Drive-In” for many years. It was the place to go for burgers and Neepawa’s rich “Velvet” ice cream. As well Agassiz Insurance Agencies was in Neepawa for many years managed by Harvey Ebner. At the present time we have Lake Agassiz Builders who can build you your new dream home. The Escarpment of Riding Mountain has spectacular view spots and Mount Agassiz is one of the must-visit destinations. Many other businesses in Manitoba carry this name.

At one time, northern North America was covered by the Laurentide Ice Sheet. As the ice moved it created large depressions and basins and moved rocks and soil for miles. When the climate started warming and the glaciers began melting forming a lake. This lake stretched across parts of modern-day Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario, North Dakota, and northwestern Minnesota. It was officially named Lake Agassiz in 1879 after Louis Agassiz, a scientist who studied glaciers.

Lake Agassiz is long gone, but it left behind many remnants. The flat, fertile lands of the Red River Valley in Manitoba and North Dakota were once the bottom of the lake. The present site of Winnipeg was at times below 213 meters of water. These lands are now excellent for farming due to the silt that sank to the bottom of the lake. Lake Agassiz is responsible for the gravel in the Brandon area, sand



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BEAUTIFUL PLAINS MUSEUM

The Neepawa Court House/Beautiful Plains Couty Court Building as it appears today.

in the Carberry area, silt in the Portage la Prairie area and clay in the Winnipeg area. Several river valleys, including the Red River, and the Assiniboine River were originally cut out by water entering or leaving the lake. Upper Campbell Beach is the largest beach ridge of Lake Agassiz, and the Arden Ridge is the largest prominent part of that beach. These ridges served the First Nations people as roadways, places for encampment, ceremonial grounds and at times burial grounds. The lake drained

south for a time, then east, then it eventually drained into what is now Hudson Bay. It left behind Lake Winnipeg, Lake Winnipegosis and Lake Manitoba.

Beautiful Plains School Division, Beautiful Plains Community Medical Clinic, Beautiful Plains Community Foundation, Beautiful Plains Museum. Where did the name Beautiful Plains come from?

Due to the influx of mainly Ontario settlers from 1876 to 1881, the Manitoba border was expanded in 1881. The Legislative Assembly

of Manitoba passed legislation to redevelop the entire Province into municipal counties. The area surrounding Neepawa was the county of Beautiful Plains. The county comprised four municipalities—Glendale, Lansdowne, Osprey and Rosedale. The town of Neepawa was incorporated in 1883 and became the county seat the following year. Being the county seat meant that they had to build a courthouse with jail and a place to hold town and municipal meetings. The County Court Building was

built in 1884 and still stands proudly today.

I have heard the story that the name Beautiful Plains County was named for words from Adam McKenzie who looked out west to the Carberry/Neepawa area saw the flat land and exclaimed, “Oh what a beautiful plain.” I can relate to that story as Neepawa and larger area has flat land

with top quality soil ideal for growing grain crops on its beautiful plain.

In many Indigenous cultures, place names are descriptive of an outstanding physical characteristic of the land or the relationship to the land. The name “Canada” comes from “kanata,” the Iroquois-Huron word for village or settlement. In 1867 the British North America Act created a confederation of colonies and called it the Dominion of Canada.

Our province’s name, Manitoba, derives from two Cree words. Manitou meaning “Great Spirit” and waba meaning “narrows”. They believed that the narrows of Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis were a sacred place where the Great Spirit could be contacted. Métis leader Louis Riel preferred the name Manitoba over the proposed name of “Assiniboia.” Manitoba was accepted in Ottawa under the Manitoba Act, 1870.

Neepawa is also derived from a Cree word meaning land of plenty or abundance. It had an abundance of water, wild game and trees for their use. The town of Neepawa emblem is the Cornucopia to represent the abundant fruits of the earth. *To be continued in the next History Lessons with Helen.*



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An image of the Court House from the early 20th century.

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# Special feature: 'So, let's get a boat'

By Nancy Jo Moller  
Submitted

*Publisher's Note: Adventures in Camping is a special feature that appears in the Virden Empire Advance and Rivers Banner, and will be showcased in the Neepawa Banner & Press over the next few weeks as part of the special Camping Feature.*

"Fictional names Herb and Zelda have been used to protect the innocent from laughter."

You said what? Zelda, we don't know the first thing about them. "But Herb, you can google about them." After successfully passing their boating licenses on the internet. 'Safety first was going to be their motto.' They were set to discover the World of Boating.

Since they never operated or owned a boat before, economical prices were a concern. So, like every good farmer, Herb said, "Let's watch e-Brandon for one". After all, that was where all good purchases are discovered. So off they went to look at every boat advertised. Some were too small and looked like they could easily capsize. But did they want a motorboat, pontoon, seadoo, kayak or canoe? No discussion was ever had, Zelda just knew to take the chequebook every time and they would agree when the right one appeared.

Finally, Herb and Zelda both said, "this one looks perfect." It was a 24 ft pontoon, with lots of seating for when friends come visit, it even had a change room, bathroom and deck

for a BBQ. Its length would make it stable. No thought was given on how to launch or operate it, would there be room at campgrounds to park it? These all seemed like minor obstacles until it went home with them. But it was gently used and at a reasonable price. Perfect.

After shrewd negotiation, the boat and trailer were purchased. Once headed home, down the TransCanada Highway with a boat that threatened to bottom out on each bump, the realization came that transporting this around may not be easy. So, with much 'friendly' discussion, all arrived home safely. Now where to park it, didn't want it getting rained on. Yes, wouldn't that be foreign for a boat to be rained on. So, let's rearrange the shed, 3 hours later the 'new to them' pontoon was installed under a roof. Now let's outfit it. We need a bimini top, anchor, and bumper pads. Those were found at a John Deere dealership—a place farmers can trust. A portable camp stove was found at a local outdoors store. Life jackets were a lengthy process, thinking of all friends' sizes and purchasing one for each.

Herb looked over the boat and like all good bargains, some fixing was



required. New wiring and lights were installed. The gas tank was portable and attached to the back of the boat with a gauge installed on the top. 'Remember, watch it closely.' Now, when to launch it, should friends be present to help or just launch when there is no traffic at a nearby lake. It was decided that no one else should be present to see the comedy show. Off to the lake they went, backing in perfectly to the dock despite the heated hand signals. Herb said, "Okay, Zelda, stand on the dock, and I'll back it off the trailer and pull up. You can hold it while I get the truck/trailer out of the way." Eeks, how to hold it against the dock when it is so long and no dock tie stakes. Now, Herb is saying, "jump on", didn't he realize that the boat had drifted away from dock. Okay, they were both on and ready to tour. It was a beautiful night on the lake, and all discussions were forgotten and this purchase seemed worthwhile.

Friends came and joined them on their boat, enjoying fishing and sunset cruises. There is never enough company when newly retired.

Pontoon 'Annie' became a point of frequent discussion. There were few lakes nearby that could be launched at, never mind figuring out how to clean and haul it. It was too long to haul with the camper

motor died. Zelda grabbed the rope and yelled to a bystander on the dock, "Catch the rope". Luckily, they did and tugged Herb and Zelda in.

Launching the pontoon seven times in three years had Herb questioning did they really need a boat. The preparation time was more than the float time and the decision was made to sell. E-Brandon, here

so, they could either go boating or camping. The last time they used it with friends, one friend was reading the gas gauge and said, "no problem, we have lots of gas left." The motor sputtered and they quickly headed to the dock, as they surged forward the

comes the advertisement. How many tire kickers would they get before the ideal family arrived? Well, soon after advertisement was published, an interested family arrived. The kids were so excited climbing on the boat that Herb suggested to their parents that they probably didn't even need water.

How much easier would life have been if they talked to local professionals that could advise them on Pro's and Con's of Boating, researched lake sites and finally talk to their friends. A proper-sized boat for their needs could have been purchased, maybe they could have rented one to see if they enjoyed it first. With proper advice, a suitable boat and necessary equipment would have been purchased that could have saved their hard-earned money.

So, the boat was sold, what does a retired couple do next? Stay tuned next week.

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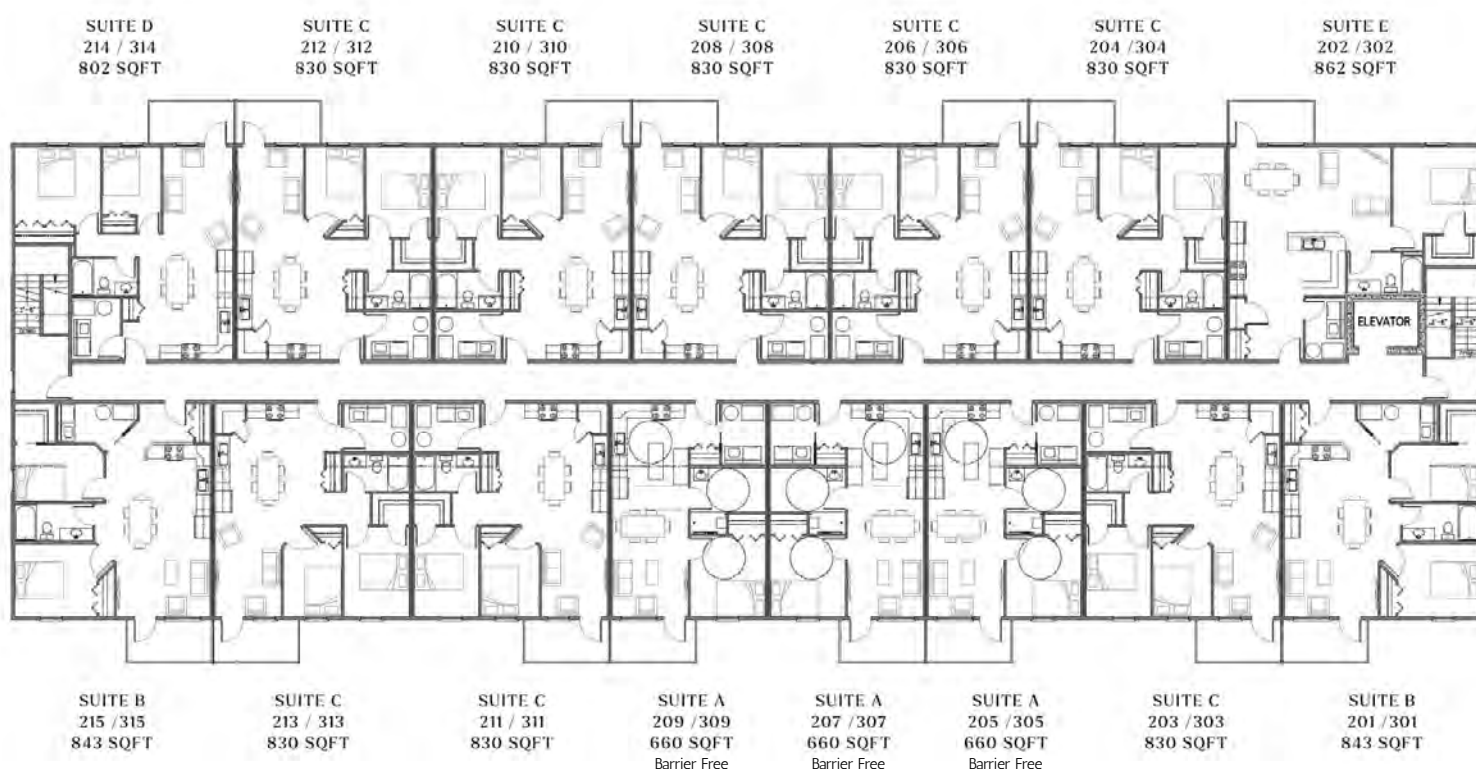
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