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**Inside this week**



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# Major milestone achieved by Ken Pearson

By Joshua Jackson  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Neepawa Titans Head Coach and General Manager Ken Pearson has surpassed a major milestone in his coaching career, with over 1,500 regular-season games coached under his belt in the Canadian Junior Hockey League, and 750 career regular-season victories.

According to Elite Prospects, Pearson first broke into coaching in 1994, serving as the Neepawa Natives assistant coach. He would land roles as an assistant coach and scout in the WHL, served as head coach and GM roles in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League, Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League, and the Alberta Junior Hockey League.

Pearson reunited with the Titans as a GM/head coach during the 2020/2021 season. Since then, Pearson has transformed the club from a perennial bottom dweller to a hockey club that keeps breaking team records year over year and has made back-to-back post-season appearances.

With the milestones now etched into the record books, we sat down with Pearson to reflect on his journey, his philosophy, and what junior hockey means to him.

Continued  
on Page 19

Neepawa Titans bench boss coaches his 1,500 MJHL game



# Join Our Board

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# Hope in our own backyard

## Waves of Hope to support B.U. based breast cancer research

By Eoin Devereux  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The Waves of Hope Dragon Boat Club has set itself an ambitious new goal for 2026... help world altering breast cancer research in their own backyard.

The non-profit organization of breast cancer survivors hosted a lecture from Brandon University researcher Dr. Mousumi Majumder at Neepawa's Grit Force Fitness on Saturday, Jan. 10.

Dr. Majumder runs B.U.'s Breast Cancer Cell and Molecular Research Laboratory (BCCMRL). For the last few years, that lab has been working on research aimed at developing a simple blood test for early-stage breast cancer detection. In basic terms, this would detect tumors before they are visible on mammograms. If successful, it will radically change the outcomes of cancer for millions of people across the globe.

### 'It means something'

Dr. Majumder's 45 minute presentation went through all the technical aspects of the research, as well as the specific work being done by the 20 plus grad students involved in the research.

After the lecture, Dr. Majumder spoke with the Banner & Press, and she explained that ultimately, the goal here is not to replace mammograms, but to support them.

"If we are able to identify cancer signatures in blood, we will be able to alert doctors and help patients earlier on in the process. That includes younger women, who might not yet qualify for routine screening," explained Dr. Majumder.

As for taking the time to travel to Neepawa, and speak with Waves of Hope, Dr. Majumder said it was a privilege for her to share the day with these people, who have been directly affected by cancer.

"It is like you are looking into the mirror, and you can see it through, like someone is looking through your soul, meaning that they are the

end user. It means something. That emotional sort of connection," stated Dr. Majumder. "These women, they have been through the journey. Some of them going through the journey. So, I feel that today. That in a way, connects us. I'm ever grateful to have an opportunity where I can really talk and interact with this group."

### Supporting a cause worth supporting

But this gathering was about more than just a sharing of information, it was about creating a plan of support for the future. Waves of Hope has decided that its fundraising efforts for 2026 and beyond will go directly towards Dr. Majumder's research. While the lab already receives support from the University, as well as an array of grants, it is still in need of more dollars to assist the effort.

Michelle Gerrard, who is a member of Waves of Hope, said the group is very excited about doing everything in its power to support this potential life changing scientific breakthrough.

"We're so excited about moving ahead with this. The name of our campaign is going to be 'Hope in our



PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Members of the Waves of Hope Dragon Boat Club pose with Dr. Mousumi Majumder (at centre of above picture), as well as some of her grad students and husband (on far right). Dr. Majumder is the lead for Brandon University's Breast Cancer Cell and Molecular Research Laboratory.

backyard', because it's right in our backyard. We already have a pot of money that we have fundraised up to this point. We're going to personally kickstart her program with \$25,000."

Gerrard explained that the group already has a specific fundraising number in mind over the next three years. She did note, however, that they won't share those specifics publicly just yet, as the non-profit organization is planning to meet with Brandon University to "Run it all by them first."



We welcome **Ian Delichte** to the Sales team at **Drummond's Farm Services in Holland!** Ian grew up on a mixed farm, has his Ag diploma, and is a practicing Agrologist. Ian is eager to help you! Contact him at 204-526-4521 or [ian@drummondsfarm.ca](mailto:ian@drummondsfarm.ca). You can see him at Ag Days Jan 20-22/26. Long Live the Family Farm!!



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## 1976: Long-time Viscount School custodian retires

By Casper Wehrhahn  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

**125 years ago,  
Tuesday,  
January 15, 1901**

The final meeting of the Beautiful Plains Horse Breeder's Association will be held in the Richardson house on Friday, Jan. 18 at three o'clock, when a distribution of the cash on hand and a settlement of the affairs of the association will be made. It is to be hoped every member will be present.

E. H. Leeson, formerly of Neepawa, has located in Carberry. He has accepted the position of bandmaster at a salary of \$2 a week.

**100 years ago,  
Friday,  
January 15, 1926**

Mr. and Mrs. John Allan, late of Cordova, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at Victoria, B.C. on Jan. 2, when they received

a purse of gold to which all members of their family contributed generously.

**75 years ago,  
Thursday,  
January 18, 1951**

Gnr. Orville Pielt, a member of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery recently in Korea with the United Nations forces was home this week on a short leave. He was scheduled to leave Thursday for Fort Lewis, Wash., where it is expected regrouping of units will take place before re-assignments to a strategic area.

Slightly more than the required 65 per cent sign up may bring power to Mountain Road and Polonia this year, D. Fearn of the Manitoba Power Commission has advised Rosedale council.

The lines will be built this year and all the northern part of the municipality

would be constructed by the end of 1952.

Arden: Funeral service was held in Neepawa Presbyterian church, Neepawa, on Jan. 11, conducted by Rev. D. Curry, resident of Arden, who passed away in Neepawa hospital on Jan. 9...

Mr. McCurry was born in Limavady, County Derry, Northern Ireland on Jan. 11, 1897 and came to Canada in 1925 and resided in the Lyleton district for 24 years and moved to Arden in the fall of 1948 on the farm east of town formerly owned [by] H. Brown.

**50 years ago,  
Thursday,  
January 15, 1976**

In these days of high housing costs, not many seven year olds can boast that they own their own house. But for seven year old David Guy of Brandon, the right to make such a



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Howe display an engraved tray, which was presented to them on Jan. 6, 1976, at a dinner held in their honour by the trustees of the Beautiful Plains School Division. Mr. Howe was head custodian of the Viscount School for many years and had retired on Dec. 15, 1975.

statement came last Friday when his name was drawn as the winner of the model home constructed by Grade 9 students at NACI.

An estimated \$40,000 damage resulted from a fire Sunday afternoon in the building occupied by Meyers, Norris, Penny and Company, a firm of chartered accountants in Neepawa.

Glenella: Hockey action in this part of Manitoba will center around Glenella as they host their fifth annual Minor Hockey Tournament this weekend, January 15, 17 and 18.

McCreary: A wake-a-thon sponsored by students of McCreary Collegiate last weekend raised a total of \$1,047.10 to be used to cover expenses of the 1976 graduation exercises.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Clare Montgomery held a Come and Go tea in the Christian Education Building Sunday afternoon, Dec. 22, in the honour of their parents' 50th wedding anniversary.

Brookdale: Happy Birthday to Mrs. A. W.

Moffat who will celebrate her 84th birthday Thursday, Jan. 22.

**20 years ago,  
Monday,  
January 16, 2006**

The man behind a proposed beef slaughtering plant for Neepawa says he remains committed to building here— provided the province comes through with funding by spring.

"Neepawa is still in the picture, but I need a real commitment from the province," Kelly Penner of Natural Prairie Beef said from his Douglas-area home last week.

A black rottweiler-cross was ordered destroyed at an emotionally-charged council meeting, only weeks after being declared a dangerous dog under the town's new animal control bylaw.

*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.*

**Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.**  
1 John 4:20-21 (New International Version)

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This is a portion of a larger ad from Hainstock's featuring a selection of men's wear, which is dated to the Jan. 15, 1976 edition of the Neepawa Press.

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# Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Joel Runyon, who operates a web site called IMPOSSIBLE has offered up a version of a very old Asian parable. I have included it below as an example of how to have some measure of peace with circumstances and the uncertainties of life.

"Once upon a time, there was an old farmer who had worked his crops for many years.

One day his horse ran away. Upon hearing the news, his neighbours came to visit. "Such bad luck," they said sympathetically, "you must be so sad."

"We'll see," the farmer replied.

The next morning the horse returned, bringing with it two other wild horses.

"How wonderful," the neighbours exclaimed! "Not only did your horse return, but you received two more. What great fortune you have!"

"We'll see," answered the farmer.

The following day, his son tried to ride one of the untamed horses, was thrown, and broke his leg. The neighbours again came to offer their sympathy on his misfortune. "Now your son cannot help you with your farming," they said. "What terrible luck you have!"

"We'll see," replied the old farmer.

The following week, military officials came to the village to conscript young men into the army. Seeing that the son's leg was broken, they passed him by. The neighbours congratulated the farmer on how well things had turned out. "Such great news. You must be so happy!"

The man smiled to himself and said once again.

"We'll see,"

This story is often bantered back and forth between my son and I as it speaks to the need to avoid panicking when facing decisions both big and small.

My father had a similar approach to life. He faced some hard times with bereavement and with what we would call poverty today.

He would quote Wilkins Micaw-

## We'll see

### RIGHT IN THE CENTRE

KEN WADDELL



**"I have adopted a summation of those family traits and that is the Four Fs- Faith, Family, Friends and Finances and be sure to keep them in that order."**

ber, a fictional character and David Copperfield's landlord in Charles Dickens' 1850 novel David Copperfield. Micawber was known for his optimistic outlook and the phrase "something will turn up".

By the time I came along in 1948, my Dad and Mum had gained a bit of financial security so I didn't directly experience the depths of their hardships. Before I was born, my parents had each lost a sibling and both their parents, they had to give up their little "Dirty Thirties" farm, worked their way through World War II and then started farming all over again. Their lives had many "We'll see" and "Something will turn up" moments.

Let's just say that since my father's birth in 1907 until this present day, our family has its share of problems, but we have never been overcome with long terms of despair. For sure, there have been tough times but pessimism and despair have been kept at a distance.

While Dad gets credit for bringing

the Dickens quote into our family story, Mum gets credit for another quote she brought into the family story. "When the wolf comes to the door, love creeps out the window." It's a proverb from the 1500s. Both my parents, but especially my mother, worked hard to make sure that even when the wolf was walking up to our door, love was not allowed to escape out the window. Yes, there were tough times, but beating back the tough times and learning from them became a family trait.

I have adopted a summation of those family traits and that is the Four Fs- Faith, Family, Friends and Finances and be sure to keep them in that order.

There's terrible turmoil in our world today, at all levels, but follow the advice of the ages and always be ready to say, "We'll see!"

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

### Homebodies

RITA FRIESEN



## What is in your library?

There was a random quote that caught my attention; so much so that I jotted it down on a paper serviette found in the car's console; 'the titles in your library reveal a great deal about who you are.'

With that in mind, I checked out which books have survived the moves and the culls. What they tell me is that I am rather boring and nostalgic. Well loved is, 'The Covered Wagon- Emerson Hough' has an inside cover inscription "To Grandma with love from Evelyn. October 1924" That makes it over a century old, and the price pencilled in is 35¢... That one is a hard cover treasure, 'The Virginian - Owen Wister' is a paperback published in 1969 and certainly shows signs of being well read. The hero to his opponent 'When you call me that, smile.'- well, that quote comes to mind frequently. Tattered and torn and taped, half coverless is 'Rilla of Ingleside - L.M Montgomery', the only book I have ever purloined from a school library. Little wonder it is so worn, my youngest daughter is named Rilla. I find comfort and solace in a good re-read. Bits of poetry on the shelf as well- 'Robert Frost - The Road Not Taken' is a collection of many of his words and works and I enjoy them all. His prose is poetry, John O'Donohue's 'Eternal Echoes' speaks clearly to my heart and spirit. For lighter reading there is 'Something Old, Something New' a treasury of Lynn Johnston's cartoons. They are more a graphic novel than cartoon. A boxed set of 'The World of Charlie Brown' has seen better days! It is so well loved, seeing any one frame allows me to see the story.

There is a collection of local history books, reference books for flora, fauna and wildlife. That would be evidence of my love for the out of doors, along with several how to garden books!

The largest collection pertains to spirituality. Books about the saints, the women of the Bible, devotional books, study books, reference books. Some were accumulated through my studies, many are gifts, and some have been purchased. That row in my little library would declare that I am a seeker, a searcher, and one who wishes to delve deeper into my faith journey.

It's what is not in my library that is also noteworthy. There are no suspense, action packed, fantasy, nor science fiction books. I have not read the Tolkien series, nor any of C. S. Lewis books, nor any of the Harry Potter series. I don't do well with suspense or tales of man's inhumanity to man. Reality is that when I start reading a book, if I think I may like it, I check out the last chapter. If I like the ending, I read the book. I have used that method for a lifetime and find it works well for me. I don't need trigger books; books that will cause me to review and relive difficult portions of my life. I don't need to be rigid with suspense or horror. That's not fun for me.

Yep, stable, boring, seeking, nostalgic and devout. Pretty accurate.

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## Why our New Year's Resolutions burn us out

As the New Year rolls in, we evaluate the year that we just had. We look at what worked, what didn't and then we tweak and re-tweak our current life to match the reality that we hope to achieve. Evaluation is not necessarily a bad thing but the level of intensity that we expect is not sustainable, leading to burnout and frustration, rather than growth.

Ah, the annual life audit. Where people sit down in the first few weeks of January and ruminate about their past year. Some folks write about it, others sit down and have planned discussions with family and some even review old photos, workout logs and social media posts from the last year. The level of depth varies of course but some folks get very into it, even going so far as to map out a plan for the upcoming year. We ask ourselves what worked and what didn't, a very important question that makes us want to create change. As a society we have an inherent desire to "fix" ourselves, this drive to constantly improve. A drive for improvement isn't in and of itself a bad thing but it's the intensity from which you dive into this that becomes problematic.

The problem with intensity is that some folks will set an expectation for

**YOUR  
LISTENING EAR  
DELSIE MARTIN**

themselves that they need to change all things all at once. The reality is that we cannot change all things all at once, we simply don't have the time or capacity. Goals that are too complex or unrealistic timelines are a great way to make yourself feel like a failure. We tend to strive for perfection when perfection is an impossible reality that clashes hard with the realities of a busy and imperfect society. There is an emotional wear and tear that comes with constant self-critique that can take a real toll on your mental wellness.

Sustainable change looks like slow improvements over time. Choosing one small and realistic goal that you can meet and then once you meet that goal, set another small goal. Instead of reinvention, we should be striving for gentle course correction. Real change comes from building small habits, not dramatic resolutions. As an example, let's pretend I'm wanting to add a workout routine to my life. Instead of saying, "I will go to the gym every day for an hour", a more achievable goal might be

to say, "I'm going to go to the gym once a week for the first week, then twice a week for the second week, maintain that for a month and then increase my frequency of attendance". You want to work your way up to your goal in small steps rather than diving right in with an all or nothing mentality.

Reflection is not the enemy. We need to distinguish healthy reflection from perfectionism. Evaluating the year can be helpful, the issue lies with unrealistic timelines and expectations. This year, choose reflection without pressure. Allow yourself to be imperfect, allow yourself to fluctuate in how intensely you go for your goal. Allow yourself the time, grace and space to mess up. Choose to ground yourself in self-compassion this 2026.

*Delsie Martin (BA, MSW, RSW), is a Registered Social Worker and an instructor at Assiniboine College in Brandon. If you have any questions or suggestions related to these columns, your enquiries can be sent to [news@neepawabanner.com](mailto:news@neepawabanner.com) and they will be forwarded.*

**HELEN DRYSDALE**

## OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN Soups

*Helen's note: Last week in the carrot salad recipe, I missed that the carrots needed to be grated. Sorry about the inconvenience.*

The earliest evidence of soup comes from the Stone Age, where people boiled ingredients in animal hides or clay pots over a fire. Over time soup has been a staple food in many cultures offering nourishment and versatility. It has been served to kings in grand banquet halls and in peasant homes alike. Many families rely on soup as an affordable and filling option. When the weather starts to get chilly I find myself craving something warm and comforting. My slow-cooker is the unsung hero of many bowls of effortless soup. I just toss everything in the slow cooker, set it, and let it simmer all day while I am busy with other tasks like quilting.

### Mushroom, barley and lentil soup

This hearty, meatless soup is full of flavorful veggies, barley, lentils and warming spices, making it the ideal supper for cold winter nights. If you are not a fan of curry, cumin and ginger leave it out and substitute with 2 tsp. Italian dried herbs and two bay leaves.

1 Tbsp. oil	1/2 cup pearl barley
1 onion diced	1/2 cup green lentils
2-3 cloves of garlic, minced	1 Tbsp. minced ginger root
500 g of sliced cremini mushrooms	1 tsp. curry
1-540 mL canned diced tomatoes with juice	1 tsp. cumin
6 cups beef, chicken or vegetable broth	1 tsp. salt
1 large potato, cubed	1/2 tsp. pepper
2 ribs celery chopped	3 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley or 1 Tbsp. dry
1 carrot, peeled and sliced	

Heat oil in a frying pan and cook onion and garlic, 3-4 minutes. Add to the crock pot. Add remaining 1 Tbsp. oil to the frying pan and cook the mushrooms for about five minutes. Combine all ingredients in a slow cooker. Cook on low 6-7 hours or on high 3-4 hours until barley is tender. Enjoy.

### Seafood chowder

This seafood chowder recipe is packed with whitefish, shrimp, and crabmeat, all simmered together for a creamy bowl of seafood goodness! I use evaporated milk for my chowders as regular milk can separate or curdle during long slow cooking. Evaporated milk stays smooth and creamy for hours. You can use low-sodium broth for a healthier option.

4 strips bacon, sliced into 1 inch pieces	1/2 tsp. red pepper flakes, or to taste
1 onion, diced	1 lb. whitefish like cod, tilapia or haddock, cut into chunks
2 cloves garlic, minced	1/2 lb. uncooked small to medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
6 cups chicken broth	1/2 lb. fresh crab meat or 120 g can crabmeat
2 stalks celery, diced	1 354 mL can evaporated milk
2 large potatoes, diced	2 Tbsp. cornstarch
2 large carrots, diced	
1 cup frozen corn kernels	
1/2 tsp. black pepper	
1/2 tsp. salt	

Cook and stir bacon in a skillet over medium heat until browned, 5 to 8 minutes. Drain excess grease. Add onion and garlic to frying pan; cook and stir until onion is slightly soft, about 3-4 minutes. Transfer all to a slow cooker. Add chicken stock to slow cooker. Stir in celery, potatoes, carrots, and corn; season with black pepper, salt and red pepper flakes. Cover slow cooker. Cook on high for 3 hours. Stir the fish, shrimp, and crab into slow cooker; cook on high 30-45 min until fish is opaque. Mix the cornstarch to the evaporated milk and while stirring gently slowly pour this mixture into crock pot cook about 10 minutes before soup is ready. Serve with fresh bread.



## Looking to the future?

Be sure to book your ads and submit all necessary info and materials **prior to the deadline!**

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# Neepawa Town Council held its first meeting of 2026

By Eoin Devereux  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The first council meeting of 2026 arrived a little earlier than what had been usual for the Town for Neepawa, as it was the first under the new 5:30 p.m. start time. But despite the change, the important work that needs to be done by council and the administration remains the same, including:

- **Councillor Yvonne Sisley** provided an update on the most recent meeting of the Health Action Committee. The main purpose of the gathering was discussing ways to support resident doctors and healthcare workers.
- **Councillor Jason Nadeau** attended the most recent Rossburn

Subdivision Trail Association meeting. The board is in the process of redoing its policy manual and also applying for grants to replace trail signs.

- **Councillor and deputy mayor Murray Parrott** offered his appreciation for the members of Public Works for their efforts during the snowy season. Over the past few weeks, multiple storms have passed through the area, which have kept them occupied keeping roadways as clear as possible.
- **Councillor Marijka Kostenchuk** shared the Handi-Van Coordinator's report, which detailed the staging of events such as the Christmas Tea and a Sand Hills Casino road trip. As well, a chili fundraiser is set on Jan. 23 at

ArtsForward. All proceeds raised will go toward the operation of the Handi-Van.

### Manager of Operations report

Denis Saquet informed Council of the ongoing snow cleanup across the community. Front end loaders and truck have been out in several areas collecting and removing the accumulations of snow. A new water main extension project close to the Town's workshop is proceeding.

Later this year, the Town is planning for the development of a new grease program for residents to properly dispose of surplus grease. Details on how to properly participate in the program will be made public soon. A question was asked related to how the program would be distributed, and if it

would be a door to door set-up. Saquet noted that they are still brainstorming the ideas on how to roll the program out, but that it would not likely be a door to door pick up.

"At this point, I think we'll try to [have] residents bring it to us, and try to put some control measures in there, so it doesn't become cross contamination," replied Saquet.

### Misc.

Administration shared with Council a correspondence from Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM). Multi-Materials is a not-for-profit that funds and provides support for the province's residential recycling programs for packaging and printed paper. An amount of financial supports given each year to every community, and is

calculated by the amount of tonnes sent over the course of the year. In 2026, Neepawa will receive \$87,351.79 for 2026.

A funding request has been received from the Neepawa District Disabled Persons Association for a per capita donation, which will be considered during the upcoming budget deliberations.

A five-year lease agreement with the Yellowhead Farming Committee for 369 acres of town-owned land was approved. The agreement includes an increase in rate from \$20 to \$25 per acre, which is necessary to cover property taxes

As well, Scott Boxall and Matthew Barrett have been appointed as weed inspectors within the town for 2026.

## A relatively quiet December for Spruce Plains RCMP

By Eoin Devereux  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Staff Sergeant Andrew Cowen of the Spruce Plains RCMP presented a report to Neepawa Town Council on Tuesday, Jan. 6. One of the most notable positives within the discussion was that December was a relatively low crime month. There was only one roadside suspension applied for impaired driving and no criminal impaired charges.

"It was a good month. Relatively low on the crime spectrum there," shared Staff Sgt Cowen. "We administer a lot of [roadside screening] of every traffic stop we do, especially with traffic services. Lot's of traffic stops, lots of traffic tickets, but from that no impaired, other than the [lone] roadside. That's very good to see that."

### Selling safe zones at RCMP detachments

RCMP are continuing their efforts to combat fraud, especially types within the region targeting seniors. Staff Sgt Cowen stated that nothing really spiked in December.

In a combined effort with both communities, RCMP have established

safe exchange zones at the Neepawa and Minnedosa detachments to deter online transaction fraud.

"I encourage anyone using any type of social platform or any type of exchange where they don't feel comfortable, or even if they feel comfortable and just want a third party location. I encourage them to utilize our locations. It has cameras that cover every angle. We are not liable, however, if an exchange goes wrong, but we will certainly investigate it to the fullest. But, it is a safe location for dealing with people on the internet."

### RCMP staffing numbers

There are positive staffing updates for the region, with three new members

recruited and plans for a tenth constable, who is experienced officer. The plan is to have that individual placed on the rural side in Minnedosa. Neepawa's municipal positions, as of right now, are full. RCMP has received approval for the hiring of a new detachment service assistant position to help with administrative tasks.

### Questions for Staff Sgt. Cowen

At the conclusion of the report, a question came from Council related to the removal of a car in the ditch between Neepawa and Minnedosa. Staff Sgt Cowen answered that at this point, it is the vehicle owners responsibility to remove the vehicle, but they will look the situation.

An update was requested on the crime proceeds program. Staff Sgt Cowen informed Council that an application has been submitted, which if approved could supply funding for speed control signs.

One last item brought up was in relation to drivers in Neepawa essentially pulling u-turns across the lanes to park in open parking spaces, with Giant Tiger being cited as a particular area of concern. It was asked that if RCMP are able to crackdown on this practice, it would be helpful. Staff Sgt Cowen said they will convene the message to patrolling officers.

## Speeder caught near Gladstone by Neepawa RCMP

Submitted  
RCMP MEDIA RELEASE

On Wednesday, Jan. 7, just after 8:30 p.m., Neepawa RCMP pulled over a male driver on Highway 16 near Gladstone after his vehicle was recorded travelling 159 km/h in a 100 km/h zone.

The 46-year-old male was issued an \$822 ticket for speeding and issued a serious offence notice that could result in his driver's licence being suspended,

cancelled or disqualified. RCMP remind all motorists that saving a minute or two by speeding is not worth it.

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# Request for information: World War I quilt

By Casper Wehrhahn  
Neepawa Banner & Press

The Neepawa Banner & Press is extending to the public a request for information regarding the item pictured with this article (shown at right). The photo showcases a Patriotic Quilt for Neepawa, which included the names of some World War I veterans stitched into it. It is believed that it was raffled off after it was made.

If anyone has any information regarding this historic item, such as who made it and its current location, please contact Casper at the Neepawa Banner & Press via email at [newsroom@neepawapress.com](mailto:newsroom@neepawapress.com).

## Legible stitching

While much of the stitched-in information and names are

difficult to read in the original photograph, some details were able to be made out. Some of these have been included here for the interest of the readers.

As can be seen at the centre, the large text in the middle reads "Live for your Flag ye builders of the North. Canada, Canada, in God go forth."

The rectangular patch below the inset of maple leaves appears to read "Made by Red Cross Soldiers Aid Society Neepawa Sept. 1915".

Some additional legible text from the patches reads as follows (in quoted text):

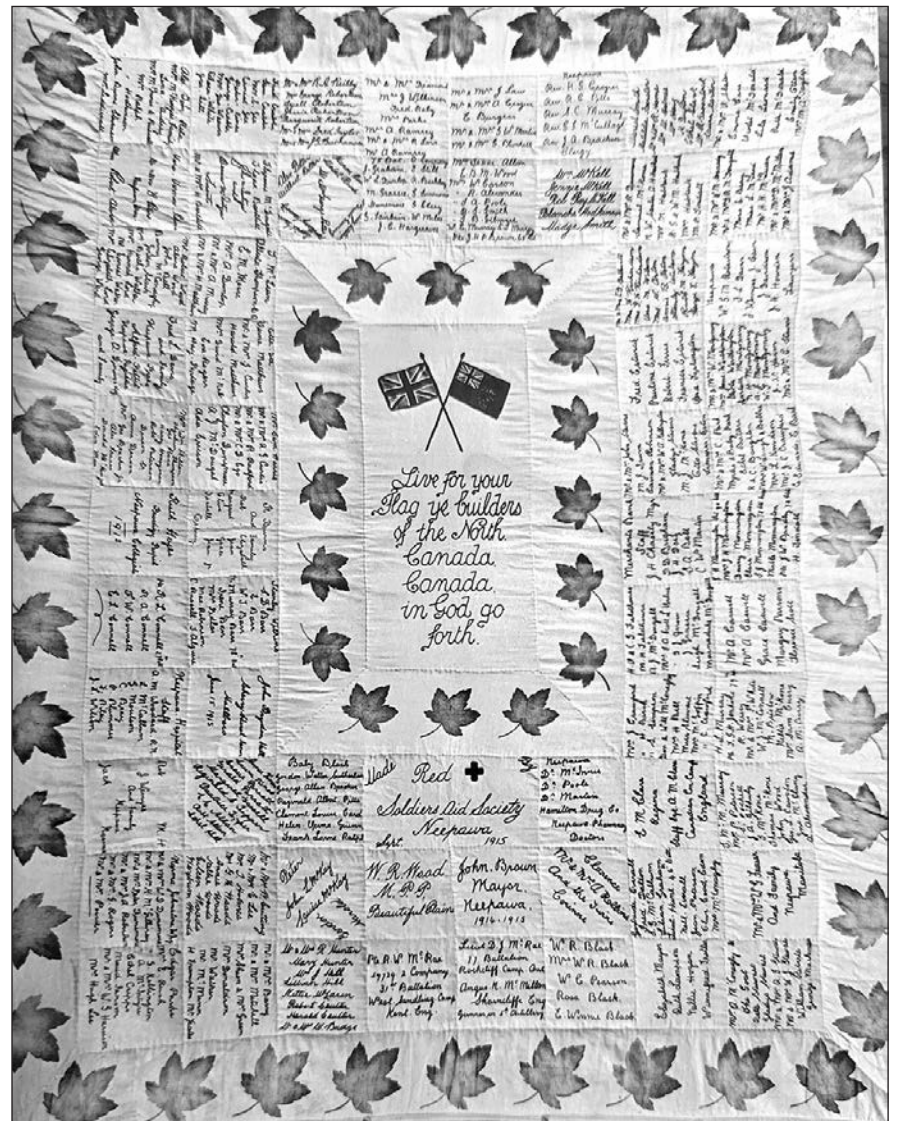
- "W. R. Wood M. P. P. Beautiful Plains"
- "John. Brown Mayor. Neepawa. 1914 • 1915"
- "Pte. R. W. McRae sq739 2 Company 21st Battalion West Sandling Camp Kent. Eng."
- "Lieut. D. J. McRae 11 Battalion Rockcliff Camp Ont."

and "Angus N. McMillan Shorncliffe Eng. Gunner".

- "W. R. Black", "Mrs. W. R. Black", "W. C. Pearson", "Rosa Black", and "E. Winnie Black".
- "Neepawa Dr. McInnis Dr. Poole Dr. Martin Hamilton Drug Co Neepawa Pharmacy Doctors".
- "Ruth Heyes prodigy pupil Neepawa Collegiate 1915".
- "EM Clare Regina Staff Sgt. A M Clare Canadian Con. Camp England".

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured right: A photograph of a Neepawa World War I patriotic quilt, which appears to have been made by members of the Red Cross Soldiers Aid Society of Neepawa. The whereabouts of the actual quilt are not currently known.



## ArtsForward hoping to draw a little more funding support

By Eoin Devereux  
Neepawa Banner & Press

Representatives with the ArtsForward Cultural Centre appeared before Neepawa Town Council on Tuesday, Jan. 6, seeking additional dollars for the facility. Ron Nordstrom and Diane Martin presented their annual funding request, which highlighted the diversity of the programs staged at the facility. This evolution of ArtsForward's mandate over the last few years, combined with the rising operating costs are why the facility is asking for \$25,000 in grant funding in the next municipal budget. ArtsForward received \$15,000 in support last year. That amount has

only increased by \$3,000 since 2010.

Nordstrom and Martin cited that the board and management have exhausted every available grant and fundraising option that is out there, but that they still face fiscal challenges.

"We do so much more than we did 15 years ago. We do so many things. We have a much larger budget. In 2010, [the budget] was under \$100,000. Now, it is near \$200,000 in total," said Nordstrom. "[A solution could be] taking some of the tourism and recreation funds and redirect them to our programming,

capital projects and special events."

To better express the point, examples of ArtsForward's significant evolution into a tourism role were cited. Those included the staging of events such as the annual ArtFest, which includes visual and performing arts and the Amazing Race. As well, promotion of Indigenous Culture Day and the Farmers Market and program for activities like Pilates, Zumba, and karate.

Council will review the request, as part of its upcoming 2026 municipal budget deliberations.

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# Local auctioneers compete at world qualifier

By Eoin Devereux  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

A pair of Gladstone and area auctioneers recently showcased their skills south of the border. On Wednesday, Jan. 17, Blaine Huston of Gladstone and Tyler Slawinski of McCreary each competed at Livestock Marketing Association (LMA) Qualifying Event in Bowman, North Dakota. This event is one of several regionals that selects individuals to compete on the 2026 World Livestock Auctioneer Championship. Huston and Slawinski were two of the 27 participants from across the United States, Canada and Mexico at the competition.

The judging for the LMA qualifier is based on each auctioneer showcasing their livestock knowledge, rapid-fire chant, bid catching and overall salesmanship. Both Huston and Slawinski, who work at the Gladstone Auction Mart, have competed at similar events over the years, including an award winning effort for each of them at the 2025 Canadian Livestock Auctioneering Championships. For this event, however, the pair were unable to secure their tickets to the World Championship, despite solid calls atop the sales ring.

For Huston, this was his



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Blaine Huston (pictured left, sitting), of Gladstone and Tyler Slawinski (pictured right), of McCreary competed with 25 other auctioneers at the Livestock Marketing Association's Qualifying Event in North Dakota recently. Individuals in the Westman area may recognize Huston and Slawinski from the Gladstone Auction Mart.

first time competing at a World qualifier, and went into the event with tempered expectations. He noted to the Banner & Press that it was a tremendous opportunity.

"It was a great experience, met a lot of great people and it was a lot of fun. Getting the chance to go to other markets and see how operations are run, it

was a learning opportunity as well," noted Huston. [As for the competition], it was a very tough, skilled group of competitors. So of which, I have watched since I was a kid, so to be in that, and representing Gladstone Auction Mart, I was honoured."

As for the official results, the top three placings at the qualifier went to Jace

Thompson of Montana (overall champion), South Dakota's Zach Ballard (Reserve Champion) and Brenin Jack (Runner Up Cham-

pion) of Virden, Manitoba. Those individuals, along with the qualifiers from other events held over the past few weekend now ad-

vance to the semi-final, for the chance to compete in the World Livestock Auctioneer Championship set for South Dakota in June.

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# Warm weather fun at the Winter Park



PHOTO BY ROB WADDELL

Shown here, people of all ages were recently enjoying the extra fine weather out at the Winter Park. A crowd of people took in the beautiful scenery while partaking in some sledding. A Canadian winter classic!

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**The Keystone Centre - Brandon, MB. - January 20, 21 & 22, 2026**

# Canada's largest Ag show nears



ARCHIVED PHOTOS

Now in its 49th year of operation, Manitoba Ag Days has become a staple on the prairie agricultural calendar. This year's edition runs from Jan. 20 to the 22, and the theme is "Produced on the Prairies."

**By Joshua Jackson**  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

It's that time of year again, when farmers and agriculture enthusiasts will be gathering in Brandon for Canada's largest indoor farm show, the Manitoba Ag Days.

The annual three-day exposition of agriculture production expertise, technology, and equipment attracts exhibitors and visitors from across Canada and the United States.

Now in its 49th year of operation, Manitoba Ag Days has become a staple on the prairie agricultural calendar, serving as a meeting place for producers, researchers, and industry leaders looking to connect, learn, and prepare for the upcoming growing season.

The event takes place

from Jan. 20-22. This year's theme is "Produced on the Prairies," which aims to highlight people, products, and opportunities that are made right here in the prairies. The theme reflects the strength and innovation found within prairie agriculture, showcasing locally developed solutions that help producers adapt to changing market conditions, environmental challenges, and evolving technology.

This year's Ag Days features a whopping 580 exhibitors spread across the Keystone Centre, including 27 exhibitors taking part in the Innovation Showcase, highlighting products and services across a wide range of applications, which helps contenders and producers bridge from innovative ideas to on-farm adoption.

This year's Ag Days speaking program features over 60 speakers, with topics ranging from disease pressure, global markets, and animal care.

The program also includes several panel discussions with topics like how to prioritize when making on-farm decisions and how cooperation improves choice for farmers.

Speakers include industry experts, economists, veterinarians, and producers, offering practical insights designed to help farmers navigate the increasingly complex agricultural land-

scape and make informed decisions for their operations.

Ag Days kicks off on Jan 20, with a Made in Manitoba Breakfast at the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Dome Building, which raises money for Ag In The Classroom- Manitoba.

Early bird tickets are \$15 per day, and three-day passes are also available for \$40. Tickets will be available during the show for \$20 per day and can be purchased online or in the Keystone Centre. Youth 17 and under do not require a ticket.

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# Neepawa student nets scholarship



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured is Carson (left), along with Scholarship winner receiving the Bob Gordon Memorial Award from Bruce Gordon, for the Top Beef Judge of the Weekend.

### Submitted MANITOBA YOUTH BEEF ROUNDUP

Congratulations to Carson Baker of Neepawa for winning the \$1,500. Scholarship presented by Manitoba Youth Beef Roundup.

Baker was the recipient of the 2025 Manitoba Youth Beef Roundup Scholarship. Carson grew up at Neepawa and is in his second year at Lakeland College taking a Diploma in Agribusiness. Carson has attended and participated at Round Up for 11 years. He is active in his community but something he is very proud of is, the high school hockey team held Cancer Care fundraising games that raised over \$ 5,000 in two seasons, which he was on the hockey team at that time. The money raised was donated to various cancer care units around Manitoba, with the majority staying in Neepawa. After college Carson plans to be involved in the agriculture industry while continuing to have his own herd of cattle. Congratulations Carson!

The Manitoba Beef Roundup invites you to join them to join at the Roundup in Neepawa from July 31 to Aug. 2, 2026.

Open to Junior Livestock Members who are interested in an educational weekend with competitions and cattle shows. Watch our Facebook for updates or [www.mbyouth-beefroundup.weebly.com](http://www.mbyouth-beefroundup.weebly.com)



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# Sports

## Neepawa hosts pair of hockey tournaments

### Local U9 and U11 events held on consecutive weekends

By Eoin Devereux

NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The heart of hockey in a rural town can be found in their local rink on any given weekend. That heart was beating strong in Neepawa recently, as a pair of minor hockey tournaments packed the Yellowhead Centre.

The first of these was Neepawa Minor Hockey Under-9(U9) Tournament, held over the first weekend of the new year. Our local U9 Titans hosted a 12 team tournament and it was a huge success, with just over 200 weekend passes sold.

As for the results on the ice, it would be the Dauphin Dark Knights winning the weekend, besting the Neepawa Titan (Lowry) in the A-Side final. As for the other results, the Minnedosa Bombers (McNabb) won the B-Side final, while the Gladstone Lakers were the C-side champs.

#### U11 Tournament of Champions

The very next weekend, the Yellowhead was jam-packed once again, this time for the Annual Under 11 (U11) Tournament of Champions. In total, nine teams were assembled for this four day event.

The U11 Neepawa Titans opened up their schedule with a game against the Wawanesa Jets on Thursday, Jan. 8. In this showdown, Neepawa proved to be just way too much for Wawanesa, as the Titans won easily 12-0. Greyson Uyaivato had a massive impact out on the ice for the host team, scoring five goals. Tristan Loewen also contributed in a big way, with a hat-trick.

As for the other goalscorers for U11 Neepawa were Logan Eros, who picked up a pair and Nico Pounder and Jake McConnell, who each chipped in with one goal as well. Shots on goals for the game were 37-8 in favour of the Titans.

#### Neepawa 12-0 Dauphin

The Titans returned to action in the round robin on Friday afternoon with a



PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX

The Pilot Mound Pilots defeated the Neepawa Titan 4-3 in the Tournament of Champions Final on Sunday, Jan. 11.

#### Semi final win over Grand Plains

With a 2-0 record from the round-robin, Neepawa advanced to the Championship bracket on Sunday, Jan. 11, with a matchup against the Grand Plains Hawks (2-0). This semi-final was another one-sided romp, with Neepawa cruising to a 17-4 win.

Both Tristan Loewen and Greyson Uyaivato

scored what is known as a 'double hatty', picking up six goals each and 12 of the team's 17 overall. Those five goals the duo didn't collect were still enough for the win, however, as Jake McConnell scored twice and Logan Eros, Conner Murray and Jaxson Braun all added one.

*Continued on Page 18*



PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Greyson Uyaivato (#15) scored five goals for Neepawa in the U11 Titans' first game of the weekend, a 12-0 win over Wawanesa.



IMAGES COURTESY OF THE NEEPAWA MINOR HOCKEY FACEBOOK PAGE

The Dauphin Dark Knights (top picture) bested the Neepawa Titans (Lowry) in the A-Side Final of the U9 Tournament in Neepawa. Meanwhile, the Minnedosa Bombers (McNabb) won the B-Side final and the Gladstone Lakers were the C-side champs.

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Western Division	G	W	L	OTL	SOL	Pts
Virden Oil Capitals	32	20	10	2	0	42
Dauphin Kingss	35	20	14	1	0	41
Neepawa Titans	35	19	15	0	1	39
Waywayseecappo Wolverines	36	15	19	1	1	32
Swan Valley Stampeders	32	7	21	3	1	18
Northern Manitoba Blizzard	31	5	22	2	2	14
Eastern Division	G	W	L	OTL	SOL	Pts
Niverville Nighthawks	35	32	2	1	0	65
Stienbach Pistons	35	27	7	1	0	55
Portage Terriers	33	24	8	1	0	49
Winkler Flyers	36	20	13	1	2	43
Selkirk Steelers	35	16	17	2	0	34
Winnipeg Blues	33	10	20	3	0	23
Winnipeg Monarchs	36	7	29	0	0	14

Game results

Wednesday, Jan. 7  
Niverville 8-3 Neepawa

**First Period**  
01:04 NIV M. Boles (16)  
ASST: A. Vigfusson (28), H Wheddon (33)  
05:17 NIV L. Leduc (15) PP  
ASST: A. Vigfusson (29)  
08:39 NIV K. Mears (9)  
ASST: R. Arran (11)  
13:45 NIV R. Arran (9)  
ASST: L. Wagner (6)  
17:54 NIV T. Phillips (5)  
ASST: L. Leduc (24)  
**Second Period**  
07:04 NPA J. Clark (18)  
ASST: K. Skrupa (16), R. Heaphy (3)  
11:58 NPA G. Slaney (3)  
ASST: T. Wamboldt (3), J. Faith (3)  
14:26 NIV M. Edwards (1) PP  
ASST: A. Krestanowich (17)  
**Third Period**  
05:20 NIV M. Boles (17)  
ASST: A. Vigfusson (30)  
14:32 NIV R. Arran (10)  
ASST: T. Bernier (5)  
19:08 NPA K. Weisgarber (11) PP  
ASST: K. Skrupa (17), J. Clark (12)  
**Scoring** 1 2 3 Total PP  
NIV 5 1 2 8 2/4  
NPA 0 2 1 3 1/2  
**Goaltender**  
NIV - A. Dubinsky - (W) 24/27 saves  
NPA - Z. Burleigh - (L) 28/33 saves  
NPA - A. Myers - 13/16 saves  
Attendance: 285 - Yellowhead Centre

Sunday, Jan. 11  
Neepawa 6-1 Wpg Blues

**First Period**  
04:35 NPA T. Wamboldt (5)  
ASST: T. Wallis (17)  
07:56 WPB R. Duchon (7)  
ASST: H. Ritter (3), C. Cabral (3)  
10:42 NPA J. Faith (1)  
ASST: L. Paquette (22), K. Weisgarber (17)  
17:21 NPA K. Skrupa (9)  
ASST: J. Clark (13), C. Kasprick (19)  
**Second Period**  
07:04 NPA A. McIntosh (3)  
ASST: G. Slaney (4), O. Durigan (16)  
10:16 NPA J. Kohut (2)  
ASST: J. Clark (14), R. Harris (4)  
**Third Period**  
10:21 NPA J. Clark (19)  
ASST: J. Faith (4), R. Heaphy (4)  
**Scoring** 1 2 3 Total PP  
NPA 3 2 1 6 0/2  
WPB 1 0 0 1 0/2  
**Goaltender**  
NPA - Z. Burleigh - (W) 26/27 saves  
WPB - J. Perreault - (L) 30/36 saves  
Attendance: 101 RINK Training Centre

Game results

Friday, Jan. 9  
Winkler 7-2 Neepawa

**First Period**  
02:28 WKR O. Wallace (6) PP  
ASST: T. George (23), W. Lyons (14)  
03:55 WKR R. Fequet (9)  
ASST: E. Lambert (5)  
**Second Period**  
00:18 WKR T. Dalton (8)  
ASST: O. Wallace (24), O. Schroeder (3)  
08:10 NPA L. Paquette (11) PP  
ASST: K. Weisgarber (16), O. Durigan (15)  
09:10 WKR C. Rieger (11)  
ASST: J. Michelson (18)  
16:00 WKR L. Carlone (11)  
ASST: N. Gudmundson (27), J. Ingram (1)  
**Third Period**  
04:12 WKR E. MacTavish (17) PP  
ASST: L. Carlone (16), N. Gudmundson (28)  
05:40 NPA L. Paquette (12) PP  
ASST T. Wallis (16)  
13:19 WKR J. Ingram (1)  
ASST: J. Swaenepoel (2), C. Vandal (12)  
**Scoring** 1 2 3 Total PP  
WKR 2 3 2 7 2/3  
NPA 0 1 1 2 2/5  
**Goaltender**  
WKR L. Ernst (W) 24/26 saves  
NPA A. Myers (L) 37/44 saves  
Attendance: 398 Yellowhead Centre

MJHL Player Stats

Leading scorers (MJHL)	G	A	Pts
1. Hayden Wheddon (NIV)	18	38	56
2. Adam Vigfusson (NIV)	20	33	53
3. Nik Gudmundson (WKR)	21	30	51
4. Rhett Platt (POR)	20	29	49
5. Merik Boles (NIV)	18	28	46
Leading scorers (Titans)	G	A	Pts
1. Logan Paquette	12	22	34
2. Jack Clark	19	14	33
3. Talen Wallis	16	17	33
4. Cooper Kasprick	10	19	29
5. Kyle Weisgarber	11	17	28

Club 55 Bowling Minnedosa

Jan. 8, 2026: Ladies' High Single: Laurie Kohnski 189. Ladies' High Triple: Vivian Oswald 493. Men's High Single: Chuck Morden 235. Men's High Triple: Russ Taylor 589. Other Good Scores: Muriel Porada 163; Darrell Gabler 176, 230; Caroline Harding 151, 157, 152; Vivian Oswald 178, 166; Chuck Morden 162; Carmen Barten 165, 161; Judy Gabler 159; Janice Absteiter 158; Russ Taylor 214, 232.

Titans drop two at home, win in Winnipeg



The Neepawa Titans faced a pair of tough opponents at home last week, in the form of the league leading Niverville Nighthawks, and the surging Winkler Flyers. Unfortunately, the Titans fell to both teams at the Yellowhead Centre, by the scores of 8-3 and 7-2. Neepawa would bounce back in Winnipeg on Sunday, Jan. 11, defeating the Blues 6-1. Pictured: Jackson Kohut ties up Niverville's Ryken Arran in the defensive zone.

PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Farmers lose two of three to begin 2026

By Eoin Devereux  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

It's been a hectic start to the new year for the Neepawa Farmers, as the team has already played three games in January. A pair of those were a back-to-back on Jan. 2 and 3. The first of these was on the road to Boissevain to challenge the Border Kings. (7-5-0). While Neepawa's Bret Levandoski opened up

the game with a goal early in the game, that's all the Farmers would muster, as they were humbled 6-1.

The team would bounce back at home just 24 hours later, defeating the Souris Elks (4-10-0) by the score of 7-3. Kyle McDonald registered a hat-trick, while Cohen Kulbacki, Callan Denbow, Riley Davie and Lincoln Murray all contributed goals for the victory. Bret Levandoski also chipped in with

a four assist effort for the Farmers. Neepawa's final game on the recent schedule was in Virden against the Oil Kings (10-4-0) on Saturday, Jan. 10. This trip down the Trans-Canada proved to be a bit of a waste though, as the Farmers were blanked 6-0. These results have dropped Neepawa down to sixth in the overall standing, with a 7-6-1 record.

Around the Tiger Hills Hockey League

By Eoin Devereux  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The final few weeks for the Tiger Hills Hockey League's regular season could feature a tight race to the top spot for five different teams. Only six points currently separate the first place Killarney Shamrocks (13-0-0. 26 points) and the fifth place Virden Oil Kings. (10-4-0. 20 points.) In-between those two clubs, sit the Hartney Blues, Rivers Jets and Minnedosa Bombers.

For Minnedosa, they have started 2026 with a

pair of games. The first was on Friday, Jan. 9 in Sandy Bay against the expansion Flying Feathermen. It has been a rough first year for Sandy Bay (1-10-1), and Minnedosa decided not to make it any easier, as they dominated in a 12-2 victory. Almost everyone with the Bombers was able to pad their stats, with multi-point performances. Shane Jury lead the way with seven points (2 goals - 5 assists). Matt Saler and Dallas Drysdale also had multiple goals.

The very next night, Minnedosa went from facing the league's last place squad, to taking on the

very best in the form of the unbeaten Killarney Shamrocks. While the Bombers kept pace for the entirety of the game, Killarney was just too much by the end and left Minnedosa with a 3-1 win. Zac Lamb had the lone goal for the home side.

Plainsmen bested by Rivers  
After winning 3-2 in a shootout over Wawanesa

on Jan. 2, the Carberry Plainsmen (3-9-1-1) have dropped two of their last two games, losing to Killarney 9-1 and Rivers 5-2. Jaren Waldner scored the only goal for the Plainsmen against the Shamrocks, while he and Nate Robson were the contributors in the match-up versus Rivers.

# Neepawa Titans

## Junior "A" Hockey team

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

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

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

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your games so we can  
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on our local teams!  
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# Sports

## NACI Tigers on a roll in Westman High School hockey

By Joshua Jackson  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The Neepawa Tigers are pushing to leave their mark on the Westman High School Hockey League (WHSHL) after picking up a pair of wins.

Currently, the tigers sit fourth in WHSHL standings with a 10-3-0 record and 20 points. The Tigers sit in good standing, considering the three teams above them have played more games, giving the Tigers a prime chance to rack up valuable points. Virden has 24 points and 19 games played, Swan Valley has 29 points and 15 games played, and Vincent Massey racked up 32 points and 18 games played.

The Tigers started their action last week, taking on the Dauphin Clippers in an afternoon game, with many students coming to cheer the team on. Neepawa would find itself ahead 2-0 after the first period, courtesy of Ian Foster and Kellen Hockin, assisted by Carter Cruickshanks.

Ian Foster would grab his second goal of the game halfway through the second, assisted by Kane LaPointe and Luke Nicholson. The Dauphin Clippers would charge back at the second with two unanswered goals to cut the lead to 3-2 for Neepawa.

It was all Tigers in the third period after they scored three unanswered

goals via Jude Carr, assisted by Kellen Hockin. Hockin (assisted by Carter Cruickshanks and Ethan Bray) would score one of his own, before Foster would wrap things up by scoring a hat-trick. Harley Smith-Bellisle would turn aside 26/28 shots to secure the 6-2 win.

### Tigers face the Huskies

The Tigers' next game was played on Jan. 9, as the team travelled down to Rivers to take on the HRES Huskies. The Huskies would strike first blood, but the Neepawa squad would put up five unanswered goals in the third period. Ethan Bray, Carter Cruickshanks, and

Ian Foster would contribute goals, while Zach Plett would score two. Harley Smith-Bellisle turned aside 18/19 shots for the win.

The Tigers' next action is on the road when they take on the Glenboro/Carberry/Baldur Wildcats in Glenboro on Jan. 15. The Tigers' next game is Jan. 18, when the Swan Valley Tigers come to town. Puck Drop is set for 5:45 p.m.

PHOTO BY JOSHUA JACKSON  
Pictured: Neepawa's Ian Foster celebrates one of his three goals in a 6-2 win against Dauphin on Jan. 8.



## Varsity/JV Tigers hit the hardwood for MHSAA basketball

By Eoin Devereux  
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

NACI's basketball program has seen a full slate of games to start off 2026. Both Junior Varsity teams hit the home court on Jan. 5. The JV Girls squad played William Morton and fell in regulation 39-15. Neepawa's JV Boys, meanwhile, dominated the Ebb and Flow Thunderbird on the way to a 103-23 win. The Boys team followed up on Jan. 8 in Carberry, winning 77-31 over the Cougars.

One tier up on the varsity side, the Neepawa Tigers (Boys) came into the new year with an 0-1 record, having been beaten by Carberry just before the Christmas break. In the past week, they played a pair of league games, going 1-1. First on Jan. 6, they lost to the Minnedosa Chancellors 85-66. They would bounce back, however with their first win of the year on Jan. 8, a 70-61 decision versus the MacGregor Mustangs.

Neepawa's Varsity Girls also came into 2026 with a 0-1 record, losing to Glenboro/Carberry/Baldur just before the break. Their first game back was not what they were hoping for, as they were beat by Minnedosa on Jan. 6 by a 66-10 score. Their next home game was much closer, though they still lost 50-46 to MacGregor



NACI's basketball season is underway with games featuring the Junior Varsity and Varsity squads. Recent home games include the JV Boys against Ebb and Flow and the Varsity girls challenging MacGregor (pictured).

PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX



### Northwest Handi Transit



**NEW CONTACT INFORMATION EFFECTIVE January 31, 2026**

Bookings: 204-871-1498 • NWHTbooking@outlook.com  
Accounts: 204-871-4788 • NorthwestHandi@outlook.com

Etransfers are accepted for bill payment and donations at  
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Mailing Address: Box 190, Gladstone, MB R0J 0T0

#### TOONIE TUESDAYS!

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#### SPECIAL THANKS

We sincerely thank Gladstone and Area Senior Support for their dedicated service over the past few years.



### REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR SPORTS PERSON OF THE YEAR Presented at the 18th Annual Neepawa and Area Sports Dinner SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026

Nominations will be judged on the basis of:

- The nominee's contribution to the growth or strengthening of sport and recreation in Neepawa
- Outstanding leadership skills
- Volunteerism and personal involvement in sport or recreation
- The impact and lasting contribution of the nominee's efforts

In order to assist the organizers assessment of the nominations, nominators are asked to provide supporting information in a formal letter of nomination.

Please email all nominations with

ATTN: NOMINATION - SPORTS DINNER to Debra at [deberic9@gmail.com](mailto:deberic9@gmail.com)

Deadline for nominations is Tuesday, February 10, 2026



# CLASSIFIEDS

## Classified Ad 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.
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## To PLACE AN AD:

**Telephone:** 204-476-3401  
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**All word classifieds must be prepaid before printing**

### Personal

Crisis Pregnancy Centre Winnipeg: Need to talk? Call our free helpline, 1-800-665-0570 or contact our Westman office: 204-727-616

### Notice

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

### Notice

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

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

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

### Notice

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

### 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

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### Auctions

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

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*Thank you for reading  
 the Neepawa Banner & Press*

### Thank You

#### THANK YOU

Our deepest gratitude to White's Funeral Home, Rita Friesen, Neepawa Legion (Branch 23), Legion Ladies (wonderful lunch), Samantha Cluett (for the slide show, memory table and beautifully (from the heart) written words about Grandpa Merv.)

Thank you for all the well wishes, cards, hugs and condolences in the passing of our dad (Merv Dagg)

Love to you all from:

Marilyn Noordenbos

Donna Freeman

Shelley Ravensdale

Lisa Cluett

and our families

### Obituary

#### Phyllis Lorraine Mauthe

1942 - 2025

On Tuesday December 30th, Phyllis (Phyl) Mauthe, loving wife and mother of two, passed away at the age of 83. Phyl was predeceased by her father and mother, Reynold (Lolly) and Neta Buschau, and by her husband Ted. She is survived by her son Kelly (Leslee Laing) and daughter Joy; step grandkids Mitchell (Regan) Cooper and Emily (Eric) Den Otter; brother Bruce (Laurel) Buschau; sister Valerie Buschau (Sam Marcotte); and numerous brothers and sisters in law, nieces and nephews.

Phyl grew up in Plumas, MB and worked in various family businesses, including the Plumas telephone exchange and babysitting Valerie while her parents ran the Rose Theatre. Phyl graduated grade 12 in a class of five including her lifelong best friend Delores Mauthe (Tonn).

Following in her mother's career path, Phyl attended Teacher's College in Winnipeg right after high school and began her teaching career near Brandon. Phyl married the love of her life, Ted Mauthe, in 1964 and moved to Alberta to support Ted's career. They started their family soon after. Phyl was devoted to supporting her husband and kids, volunteering for numerous school, sports and Girl Guide activities.

Family vacations consisted of many road trips around western Canada and the northern US states. Later, Phyl and Ted travelled extensively to Europe, Mexico, Hawaii, and enjoyed cruises with family to Alaska, the Panama Canal and the Mediterranean.

Phyl was an accomplished homemaker, cook, baker and gardener; a voracious reader; and a lover of bowling and curling. She did crossword puzzles throughout her life and often shared this pastime with her mom, sister, kids and grandkids.

Retirement brought Phyl and Ted back to Plumas to build a new house and settle into gardening, birdwatching and enjoying the company of old friends and family. They volunteered in the community in many different ways including with the Lions Club. After Ted passed in 2019, Phyl moved to Neepawa and enjoyed her last few years amongst new friends at Aspenlea Apartments.

Interment was held at 12 noon Sunday January 4th, 2026 at the Plumas Cemetery. Celebration of Life to follow at 12:30 PM at the Plumas Community Hall. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Phyl's memory to the Plumas Lions Club (Box 1, Plumas MB, R0J 1P0).

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

### Farm For Sale

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### Land For Rent

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

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 NW quarter 9-21-15 Approx 147 acres cultivated  
 NE quarter 9-21-15 Approx 160 acres cultivated  
 NW quarter 5-21-15 Approx 160 acres cultivated  
 SW quarter 32-21-16 Approx 150 acres cultivated  
 Tenders can be based on one quarter, any combination of quarters or the entire package. Tenders should be in dollars per acre and rent will be due in full on March 1st of each crop year. For any questions call 648-6021. Please submit written tenders to Pete Butterfield, Box 381, McCreary, MB. R0J 1B0  
 Closing date for tenders is Feb. 1, 2026. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

### Obituary

#### Joan Lila Popkes

September 16, 1935 - December 10, 2025



Joan passed away peacefully at the age of 90. She is survived by her girls; Wendy, Kim and Linda, grandsons; Kole Murkin (Brittany), Keith Murkin (Kelsey), and great-granddaughter Malia. She was predeceased by her husband, Doug, and her daughter Debra.

She enjoyed teaching, and loved children. She taught for several years before she and Doug married and started a family. Once all her girls were in school she was back at it. In 1975 she started with her Nursery school, and continued until retiring in 2001. She never tired of spending time with the little ones.

Her daughters were her pride, her grandsons her joy, and her great granddaughter the apple of her eye.

Joan enjoyed farm life, gardening, and knitting. She spent countless hours volunteering in Arden and Neepawa, she was very proud of the work she did with the Neepawa Medical Clinic committee and the results of that work.

Moving to Neepawa made her life much easier, she so enjoyed coffee with her neighbors every morning, and her gardening.

This last year was very difficult, with several moves and declining health, but having her family close by made her so happy.

Rest in peace, the journey is complete.

A very special thanks to the staff at Hillcrest Place Personal Care Home, for their care and compassion.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Beautiful Plains Community Medical Clinic or to a charity of your choice.

Cremation has taken place, and interment will be a private family event in the spring.

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

*Just a Reminder*  
**AD DEADLINE**  
**12:00**  
**NOON**  
**TUESDAY**

### Obituary



#### Rob Turner

On August 15, 2025 the Turner family celebrated the life of Rob, their beloved husband, father and grandfather after his passing on August 8.

On January 20, 1948, Robert George Turner was born to Victor and Annie Turner.

He was the middle child of 5 siblings. His early years on the family farm produced a trove of memories and many enthralling stories that would be told to his kids. After "country school" at Dumfries, Rob went to Neepawa - NACI where he excelled at track and field and basketball and met Maureen Topolinski - the love of his life. Rob worked as a high rigger in Esterhazy, SK, then for Alguire's Wholesale as a delivery driver. He hired on with PFRA, working at Gardenton and Pansy pastures. He and Maureen were married in 1968. Rob worked for Neepawa Truck Service and then Kooistra Trucking. By 1973 the family included Sheri, Tarra and Chris and they built their house on the acreage, and the first of several Kenworth trucks was purchased. As an owner/operator he travelled all over Canada and the US, making many friends along his way. Over time their life together included horses, rodeoing, hockey, hunting, fishing, cottage life, camping, boating, water skiing, downhill skiing, and golf. In 1994 they bought the Turner family farm and moved down the road. In 2006, along with son Chris and his wife Kerry, Brahma's Grill was built just east of Neepawa. By now Rob was an O/O with Gardewine, hauling Schwann's, then Giant Tiger freight across western Canada, then with CPX delivering to Vancouver. In 2011 the south Saskatchewan oil patch called and he and Kate (his last and favourite Kenworth) went to work. In October 2022 Rob retired from a job he loved and left Kate at Carlyle SK with Spartan Trucking to carry on.

Rob loved and was proud of his family, loved having family time at the farm and often travelled to watch kids and grandkids activities.

Travel for him and Maureen included trips to Canada's east and west coasts, the US, Hawaii, and many winter stays in Bucerias, Mexico.

He was a hard worker, able to operate, fix, repair and build just about anything. He was always thankful for what he considered his successes in life.

He is lovingly missed by wife Maureen, daughter Sheri (Rick) Grant, daughter Tarralean Turner, son Chris (Kerry), grandchildren Triston Grant, Alayna (Curtis) Carrigan, Mitchell Moulson, Shaelyn Moulson, Keli, Daxx, Trynity, Jett and Rocklyn Turner, great grandson Grant Carrigan and great granddaughters, Leah Carrigan and Emerson and Lillian Grant.

Rob was predeceased by his parents Victor and Annie Turner, in-laws Fred and Marjorie Topolinski, brother Wade Turner and granddaughter Faith Turner.

The family wishes to thank Rita Friesen for her support and guidance and Whites Funeral Home for their exceptional care and compassion.



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**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*



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@HyLife



HyLife

FOODS

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 \$17.45/hour with incremental increases to \$25.60/hour based on tenure as per our Collective Agreement**

**Quick Facts:**

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

**What we can offer you:**

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

**Your duties may include:**

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

**We are looking for people who are:**

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

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

**Ways to apply:**

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

**For inquiries contact:** Phone: 204.476.3393

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

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

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



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HyLife

FOODS

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 \$20.25/hour with incremental increases to \$21.55/hour based on tenure**

**Quick Facts:**

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

**What we can offer you:**

- Competitive Wage
- Vacation: 10 working days of paid vacation
- Comprehensive Benefit 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

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

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



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Apply to Shelley Wach, CAIB: [swach@jeminsurance.ca](mailto:swach@jeminsurance.ca)

Minnedosa Veterinary Services District Board

is seeking

Construction Management Services

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

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

Please include salary expectations in your application.

Send letters of interest to

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

Deadline is 5:00pm February 6, 2026

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Senior Election Official (SEO)  
MUNICIPALITY OF WESTLAKE-GLADSTONE

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

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

**Duties will include:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Notice

NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS  
By-Election  
The Town of Carberry

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on the following days:  
**February 3, 2026, to February 9, 2026**  
between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm at the following location:

**44 Main Street.**

I will receive nominations for the offices of Councillor of the aforesaid Local Authority.

**The nomination deadline is February 9, 2026, at 4:00 pm.**

Nominations cannot be accepted after this day.

All nominations shall be made in writing and shall be signed by at least twenty-five voters, or NOT less than 1% of the voters (whichever is the lesser) of the authority or ward (as the case may be), but in all cases by at least two voters. Each nomination shall also be accompanied by the candidate's declaration of qualification.

Nominations may be filed in person at the above location, on the date and hours specified, by an agent. To obtain a nomination paper, and / or candidate's declaration of qualification, contact the SEO at the telephone number listed below.

Nomination papers not accompanied by the required documents and not properly filed shall be rejected.

Callie Sudak  
SEO  
204-834-6628

Dated at Carberry Manitoba January 13, 2026

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE

TUESDAY NOON

Cancellations and corrections only within business hours and corresponding deadlines.

PUBLIC NOTICE  
of Municipal Pesticide use Permit

Public notice is hereby given that the Municipality of North Cypress-Langford (including Sandhills Golf & Country Club and all subdivision within the municipal boundaries). RM of Cornwallis and the Town of Carberry intent to conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2026:

1. To control noxious weeds on road allowances and boulevards within the municipalities. The projected dates of application will be from May 1, 2026 to October 31, 2026. The Herbicides to be used include:

- 2,4-D Amine
- 2,4-D Ester
- Aminocyclopyrachlor
- Aminopyralid
- Chlorsulfuron
- Clopyralid
- Dicamba
- Dichlorprop-P
- Diflufenzopyr
- Glyphosate
- Indaziflam
- Iron
- Lactic Acid
- Mecoprop-P
- Metsulfuron-Methyl
- Saflufenacil
- Triclopyr
- Adjuvants: Agral 90, Gateway, Hasten NT, LI 700

2. To control the following insect pests including grasshoppers, mosquitoes, elm bark beetles, cankerworms etc. The proposed dates of application for these programs will be from May 1, 2026 to October 31, 2026 The insecticides that may be used include:

- *Bacillus thuringiensis*
- Carbaryl
- Deltamethrin

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

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

Market report

By Blaine Huston  
GLADSTONE AUCTION MART

The market was very strong to start off the year. We sold 1,173 head on Tuesday, Jan. 13 here in Happy Rock.

We had 270 butcher cattle to start the day, and here's how they sold.

- D1-D2 cows \$2.15-2.30.
- D3 older cows \$1.70-2.00.
- Young feeding type cows \$2.25-2.45.
- Bulls \$2.20-2.45.

Here is a look at the feeder market (shown below)!

Here are some market highlights from yesterday's sale:

- Fourteen red and black steers weighing 723 pounds bring \$5.5950 a pound (\$4,045 a head).
- Seven Black steers come in the ring weighing 632 pounds and cash in at \$6.04 a pound (\$3,817 per head).
- Four Black steers weighing 511 pounds stamp there ticket at \$7.35 a pound (\$3,756 a head).

On the Hiefer side of things:

- Twenty-two red and black heifers weighing 790 pounds bring \$4.7550 per pound (\$3,756 per head)
- Seventeen charolais heifers weigh 667 pounds and fetch \$5.0950 per pound (\$3,398 per head).

Plainer type cattle are still seeing some discounts.

As you can see, we had a powerful market on Jan. 13 in Happyrock.

Public Utilities Board

Régie des services publics

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

January 9, 2026

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

The current and proposed rates are as follows:

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

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

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

(a) That any residence with more than one suite shall use apartment rate.

(b) Any use in conjunction with another use with a rate specification shall be subject to the total of both rates: i.e. Laundromats and Commercials, Garage and Cafés, etc.

(c) Duplexes shall be deemed as two single-family dwellings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Help Wanted

We are hiring!

We have a new opportunity to highlight:

Building Services Manager

Facilities  
Full-Time, Regular  
Brandon, MB  
Comp #44-25/26  
Salary: \$56,077 to \$74,964 annually  
(\$26.96 to \$36.04 hourly)  
Classification: Facility Manager 3

The Building Services Manager oversees building operations for all Assiniboine College campuses and locations. Reporting to the Director of Facilities, this role is responsible for managing custodial services. The Building Services Manager leads, supervises, and manages the team while working closely with various College departments and external community contacts.

**For more information, please visit [www.assiniboine.net/careers](http://www.assiniboine.net/careers).**

Assiniboine welcomes applications from all qualified candidates who are legally entitled to work in Canada, including Indigenous peoples, persons of all abilities, members of visible minorities, all genders and sexual orientations, and all other groups protected by the Human Rights Code.

Assiniboine College is privileged to provide learning opportunities on the lands of the Dakota Oyate, Nakoda Oyate, Ininiwak, Nehethowak, Nehiyawak, Anishinewuk, Denesuline, Anishinaabeg, and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

For accommodations or alternative formats, contact [careers@assiniboine.net](mailto:careers@assiniboine.net) or 204 725 8729.

If you are interested in this career opportunity, please email your resume and cover letter with reference to Competition #44-25/26 to:

[careers@assiniboine.net](mailto:careers@assiniboine.net)

We thank you for your interest.  
Those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

Assiniboine College

What's the scoop?

We love to tell our readers something they don't know!

So if you've got a news tip, give us a heads up!

Call, email or visit us at the office!

204-476-3401

[news@neepawabanner.com](http://news@neepawabanner.com)  
423 Mountain Avenue



# RCMP investigation uncovers over 150K in stolen property

**Submitted**  
MANITOBA RCMP

On Nov. 3, 2025, at approximately 8:30 a.m., Brandon RCMP received a report that a number of items were stolen from a property just outside of Brandon.

The victim advised police that between the evening of Oct. 31, 2025, and the morning of Nov. 1, 2025, various pieces of construction equipment were stolen from an area off Provincial Road 270 and Highway 1, north of Brandon.

Equipment, including a skid steer and cargo trailer, were missing along with



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MANITOBA RCMP

**Pictured: Two of several items in a major property recovery by Brandon RCMP late last year.**

numerous other items.

The investigation led officers to a residential property near PR 270 and Road 87 West where they

located the stolen skid steer. A male and female on the property were arrested without incident.

Brandon RCMP, along

with Manitoba RCMP Police Dog Services, later searched the entire property and located multiple stolen items. This included

a snowmobile, utility trailer, boat and boat trailer, various construction signs, and a golf cart.

Officers believe the value

of the recovered items total approximately \$150,000 and were stolen from property in and around Brandon/Westman area as far back as 2021.

The two people arrested at the scene, Gary Dyck, 45, and Jeanine Amond, 42, both from RM of North-Cypress-Langford have been charged with:

- Possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000 x 11.

They have been remanded into custody. Officers are working to return property back to their original owners. The investigation continues.

## U11 Titans face first challenge in TOC final



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

**Tristan Loewen (#14) and Jake McCannell (#8) celebrate after another Neepawa game, in their 12-0 win over Dauphin on Friday, Jan. 9.**

**Continued from Page 12**

For the final, Neepawa was paired against another team that had just dominated the weekend, the Pilot Mound Pilots. On the way to the championship, Pilot Mound was also a perfect 3-0 and have outscored their opposition by an impressive 32-3.

Within the game itself, the Pilots jumped out to a quick start, scoring three goals in the first period. Neepawa slowly clawed back in the second, as Tristan Loewen scored twice, including an impressive one with only six seconds left in the period. Those pair of goals brought

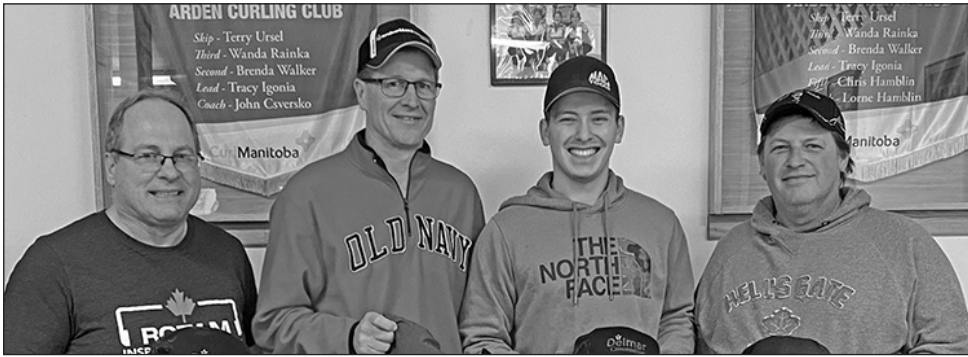
Loewen's weekend tally to 14 in just four games.

In the third, Pilot Mound scored mid-way through the period to claim a two goal lead. For the final portion of the game, Neepawa did everything it could to find the back of the net, but ran into a solid defence and a few impressive saves from the Pilot's goaltender. With 1:16 remaining, however, Nico Pounder scored, to make it a 4-3 score. For the last 60 seconds, the Titans pulled their goaltender for the extra attacker, and swarmed the net, searching for the equalizer. But despite several good chances, Pilot Mound, held on and would win the weekend,

with a 4-3 victory. Meanwhile, the Springfield Icehawks won bronze in their game against Grand Plains Hawks.

Despite the loss, the U11 Neepawa Titans should be extremely proud of what they accomplished this weekend. As well, organizers should take a bow, as they wrangled nine teams, featuring 123 kids and turned it into a success. A special congratulations to tournament chair Tara McCarty and coordinators Brian and Claire McCannell, who deserve the credit for how well organized it all was.

## Arden Bonspiel starts the new year



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The new year started off in a fun way in Arden, with the local Curling Club hosting its' annual Men's Curling Bonspiel from Jan. 1 to 4. The event was split into three events.

The Winners of the Enns Brothers Equipment First Event are: Shane Pottinger, Justin Walker, Tyson Walker and Mathew Hiller (Top picture), who won against Kevin Nelson rink in the event final.

The Neepawa-Gladstone Coop Second Event winners were: Andrew Richards, Jeff Dagg, Charlie Dagg and Jim Richards (middle picture), who defeated the Minnedosa Curling Club rink in event final.

The Bar & Lett Grain Third Event winners were: Rob Melnyk, Todd Tonn, Mateo Otto and Jason Otto (bottom picture), who bested the Terry Ursel rink in event final. Kayla Hunter, who spoke on behalf of the Arden Curling Club, wanted to send a big thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors and curlers that made the 2026 Men's Curling Bonspiel such a success.



# "Junior hockey belongs to the community"

## Pearson reflects on 1500 games in the CJHL and 750 games won

Continued from  
Page 1

**Congratulations on hitting the milestone of 1,500 CJHL games coached and 750 wins. What do these milestones mean to you?**

They're humbling more than anything. When you look at numbers like that, it really speaks to longevity and the people you've been surrounded by along the way. I don't see them as individual accomplishments. I see them as a reflection of great players, loyal staff, supportive organizations, and communities that believed in what we were doing year after year.

**Did you ever imagine in your coaching career that you'd reach milestones like these?**

Honestly, no. When you start, you're just trying to survive the next season and get a little better every day. You don't coach for milestones; you coach because you love the game and helping young players grow. These things sneak up on you if you're lucky enough to stay in it long enough.

**How do you personally measure success beyond wins and losses?**

Success is seeing players move on, whether that's to the next level in hockey, into school, or into life, prepared to handle adversity. When former players reach out years later and say this program helped shape who they are, that means more to me than any number in the win column.

**Has coaching junior hockey changed over the years? If so, what are some of the biggest changes you've seen?**

It's changed tremendously. The game is faster and more skilled, but the biggest changes are off the ice communication, technology, video, analytics, and player expectations. Today's players are more informed, and as a coach, you need to be adaptable and open to learning just as much as they are.

**How has your coaching philosophy evolved**

**from your early years to now?**

Early on, I probably thought I had all the answers. Now I know I don't. I've learned that relationships matter just as much as systems, and that listening is as important as teaching. Accountability is critical, but it has to come with trust and respect.

**You've coached hundreds of players. What's the most rewarding part of watching their journeys?**

Seeing them grow up. Watching a 17-year-old walk in unsure of himself and leave as a confident young man is incredibly rewarding. Following their careers, their families, and their successes long after hockey, that's special.

**How do you approach developing players not just as athletes, but as people?**

We try to emphasize habits, work ethic, accountability, respect, and resilience. Hockey is a great teaching tool, but it's really about preparing them for life. We talk a lot about being good teammates, good community members, and representing the program the right way.

**How important is the community's support in sustaining a successful junior hockey program?**

It's everything. Junior hockey belongs to the com-

munity. From billets to volunteers to fans in the stands, you can't sustain success without that support. When players feel that connection, it creates pride and accountability.

**How do you handle the pressure and expectations that come with long-term success?**

You learn to focus on what you can control—preparation, effort, and culture. Expectations are a privilege. If people care enough to expect success, that means the program matters, and that's something to embrace rather than shy away from.

**Who are the people who helped make this milestone possible that you'd like to acknowledge?**

There are too many to name: assistant coaches, trainers, managers, billets, executives, and, of course, the players. I also have to thank my family for their patience and support. Coaching at this level demands a lot of time, and none of this happens without them. I'm thankful for the opportunity to coach this game at this level for as long as I have. Junior hockey is special; it shapes lives, not just players, and I'm proud to have been a small part of that.



Ken Pearson

**Position:** Assistant Coach  
**Hometown:** Neepawa, MB  
Ken played with the Neepawa Natives before changing positions and joining the staff on the bench. He replaced assistant coach Jim Cockburn who became assistant GM of the team. When Ken isn't on the bench, he can be found working at TNT Ford.

NEEPAWA BANNER ARCHIVES

Pearson was an assistant coach for the Neepawa Natives from 1994-1996.



PHOTO BY WINKLER FLYERS

Pearson was with the Winkler Flyers from 1997-2002, and again from 2011-2019.

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Call 204-476-3401



PHOTOS BY BRANDON SUN, AND CHRISTINE WADDELL

Neepawa Titans Head Coach Ken Pearson recently celebrated his 1,500th CJHL game coached and his 750th win. Pearson was presented with a cake after Friday's game against Winkler. Ken's wife, Tanis Stewart joined in the celebration.

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# Future first responders take the plunge



PHOTOS BY JOSHUA JACKSON

The Manitoba Emergency Services College took to the ice at Lake Irwin, located near Neepawa, to practice vital rescue skills on the ice and in the water. The college plans to run another session of the course in February. Shown here are a few scenes from the educational afternoon.



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