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Inside this week

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Beautiful Plains Museum to celebrate 50th anniversary

By Casper Wehrhahn
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The Beautiful Plains Museum has always been dedicated to preserving and celebrating rural history. This year, however, the organization is memorializing some of its own. As of 2026, the Beautiful Plains Museum is 50 years old.

The museum was first established in 1976, and was housed in what was known as the Viscount Building. Later, in 1981, it was moved to the former Canadian National Railway station (91 Hamilton Street).

Note: The railway building itself was built around 1902, which makes it 124 years old.

Beautiful Plains Museum vice president William Smith, who is pleased that the museum has reached this special anniversary of its founding, stated, “I think a museum is a very key part of a community—showing the past and where we came from. I’m always a believer of ‘you don’t know where you’re going until you know where you came from.’”

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PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX, AND COURTESY OF THE BEAUTIFUL PLAINS MUSEUM

Pictured top left: The Beautiful Plains Museum as it appears today.
Pictured above left and right: A set of items currently found on display.
Pictured right side: A variety of photographs from years gone by, which the Beautiful Plains Museum has preserved. They include depictions of people at work (top right and bottom right), and Neepawa’s railway station in operation.



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From photographs to a painted collage

A sneak peek at one of Neepawa's newest Art Trail benches

By Casper Wehrhahn
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The desire of a Neepawa local to share her photography has become so much more. Through a combined effort, the works of Jodi Baker, of Jodi Baker Photography, have been transformed into a painted work of art which will be added to Neepawa's own Art Trail.

"[It's] a celebration of community, collaboration and the places we call home," Baker enthused.

Specifically, this new work of art takes the form of a custom bench which will have an official unveiling at the July 18 ArtFest, hosted at ArtsForward. The design of the bench features re-creations of a selection of Baker's photographs, all hand painted by local artist Shannon Desjardins.

"From the beginning, I had a clear vision. I wanted the bench to look as though someone had casually scattered some of my favourite photos over it. The first person I thought of was Shannon Desjardins," said Baker. "I knew her creativity and artistic style would be the perfect fit, and I was thrilled when she immediately understood what I had in my head and agreed to volunteer her time and bring the project to life."

This project opportunity was an artistic desire come true for Desjardins. Upon speaking to the Neepawa Banner & Press, the painter stated, "When I found out this was Jodi's idea, I was so excited, first of all. Honestly, I have been wanting to paint her photos for a while, because she just knows how to capture the light. So when the opportunity came up, I was pretty thrilled."

Desjardins added, "And she had such a good idea for how she saw the bench. It was a privilege to put it together for her."

Iconically Neepawa
Delving further into the process, it was explained that Baker provided Desjardins with a wide range of photos to select from. This selection included various favourites, and a number of recognizable/iconic Neepawa scenes.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JODI BAKER PHOTOGRAPHY

Seen here are some progress photos for one of the recently completed benches for Neepawa's ArtFest, which will later be included in Neepawa's Art Trail. The design was a collaboration between Jodi Baker Photography and artist Shannon Desjardins.

Pictured left: The very early stages of planning the design layout. Images were placed to determine the location of the painted replicas. Pictured right: Shannon Desjardins hard at work during the late stages of the painting process- peeling away the tape from a newly completed painting of one of Jodi Baker's photographs.

From the approximately 25 options, Desjardins picked out a total of 15 photographs, then determined the placement for each before painting. Two images in particular that were highlighted, were the first photograph that Baker took, and one that was a favourite amongst her following- a photo featuring a Highway 16 sign.

"I put that right in the middle of the back of the bench so that it would be

kind of a highlight. Then in the top left hand corner, I put her first photo, where it all started," Desjardins explained. "After that, I picked pieces out of the collection she gave me. Things that were really iconically Neepawa- you know, the stone angel- and repeating some of the colours so that it had harmony."

An incredible evolution

Having seen the bench as

it progressed from a blank slate to the finished product, Baker expressed that Desjardins turned those 15 photos into "beautiful miniature paintings, making this a true

work of art".

"Watching the bench evolve was incredible," said Baker. "She captured the spirit of each image while creating a stunning piece

of art that exceeded every expectation I had!"

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1976: Lady brakeperson causes stir in Neepawa

By Casper Wehrhahn
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

**125 years ago,
Tuesday,
July 16, 1901**

Experience is a great teacher; and the teaching of experience are far more deserving of emulation than the exhortation of theorists and enthusiasts.

Moral reformers have endeavored to abolish the liquor traffic by coercive and severely restrictive legislation; but they have not succeeded. Experience has demonstrated that the educative process is more effective than the coercive or restrictive.

Mayor Howden will address the ratepayers tomorrow evening in the Court House on the question of installing a water power for the electric light plant.

Some of the chairs in the opera house on Friday night

stuck to their occupants even "closer than a brother". Handkerchiefs placed on the seats for protection to clothing were glued right there.

If the Canadian Northern railway is to be extended to Neepawa this year a move in this direction should be made very shortly. Those who claim to know the plans of the railway men say the outfits now at work on the grade between Beaver and Gladstone will be put to work on the line to Neepawa as soon as their present work is finished.

**100 years ago,
Tuesday,
July 13, 1926**

Arden: Arden girls baseball team were successful in winning first money at the Wellwood picnic on Saturday.

Arden: Miss Leola Thomson has accepted a school near Deloraine.

The linotype is not so easily "worked" as the landlord. Hence the "valuable" effusions of the Progressive Leader were of necessity very much curtailed last week. But there were enough legible slugs cast to let the Conservatives and Progressives know who their candidates are to be while the Liberals were treated to their usual dose of contempt. Which some Liberals reciprocate with patronage and protection.

About a hundred Oddfellows and Rebekahs attended their memorial service at Riverside cemetery on Sunday afternoon and laid flowers on the graves of 37 brothers and 12 sisters. Rev. Mr. Fisher addressed the assemblage. Prior to marching to the cemetery the members assembled at the Soldier's Monument and laid wreaths thereon.

**75 years ago,
Thursday,
July 19, 1951**

Swimming lessons are now being given at Riverbend Park by Victor Grasky. These lessons are free and everyone is urged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn how to swim.

Arden: The local ball team played in the Eden tourney on Thursday and lost the first game to Eden. The Arden Amazons girls' team play in the sports day at Edrans on Wednesday and won first money.

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

Brakeman Newsome is causing quite a stir along the railway, or rather, brakeperson Newsome is. Cathy Newsome is on her first run through Neepawa and she's getting some surprised looks from station agents.

She arrived early Monday with the crew of the Extra West 1030 and they'll be in town until Thursday.

Twenty-one year-old Cathy is from Winnipeg. Her railway career started six years ago when she was a fireman on the Prairie Dog Steamer, a steamer train in Winnipeg...

Neepawa station agent, Al Crosson, said she's the first lady brakeman to pass through Neepawa...

And what are her future plans? She says quite frankly, "I want to be an engineer."

Lionel Charbonneau officially opened the new Liquor mart last Thursday morning. Mr. Charbonneau, who has been with the Liquor Commission for 35 years,

was manager at the first Neepawa store when it opened in 1952...

Glen Hutton, who made the first purchase from the store in 1952, was in attendance to do the same from Neepawa's 1976 store, as many people who gathered for the opening ceremonies browsed through the store.

Well-known pioneer of Mountain Road, Mike Safroniuk, passed away on June 19 in Neepawa District Hospital, at the age of 92 years.

Born in the Western Ukraine on July 5, 1884, he came to Canada in 1902. In 1908, he married Annie Sowchuk and settled down to farming for 46 years. In 1954 he moved near Mountain Road Church and lived there until his death.

**20 years ago,
Monday,
July 17, 2006**

Four year-old Natalie Babcock of Neepawa made her first haircut one to remember—she donated just over 10 inches of her hair to Angel Hair for Cancer Kids of Mississauga, Ont. Donations from across Canada are used to make wigs for children who have lost their hair during the treatment of cancer.

Voters in the town of Gladstone and rural municipality of Westbourne may be choosing more than elected officials in the Oct. 25 municipal election.

They may also be voting on a proposal to merge.

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.

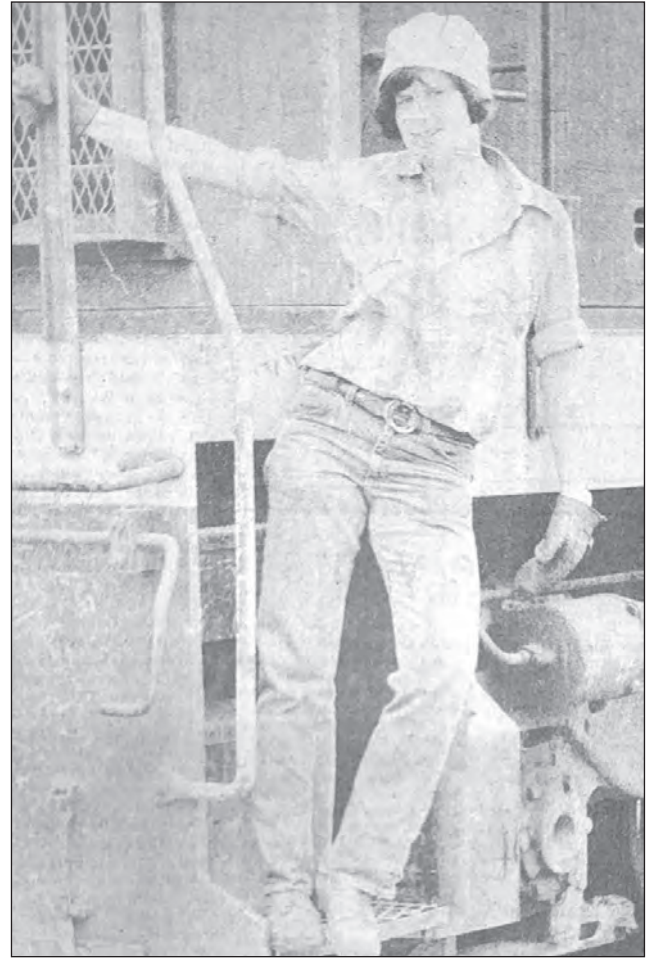


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

While not a local, 21 year old Cathy Newsome (of Winnipeg) was considered quite the spectacle here in Neepawa in 1976. She was a brakeperson with the railway.

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.

**When you obey me you are living
in my love, just as I obey my Father
and live in his love.**

John 15:10 (The Living Bible)

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This ad for the Big Valley Guest Ranch Riding Academy is from the July 15, 1976 edition of The Neepawa Press.

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In the studio: Art with Brad Mummery
July 20 at 8:00 pm | July 23 at 1:00 pm | July 25 at 10:30 am

Vintage Natives from Dec 8, 2005
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Bingo packages are available at NACTV Office, Touchwood Park, Neepawa Legion, Harris Pharmacy, Frontier Trading in Minnedosa and at the Superstore Lottery Kiosk in Brandon.

The Little Valley Jamboree would like to thank everyone involved in supporting Reese and Nathan, as well as other kids in Westman with medical needs for 2026.

A huge thank you to all of our sponsors who generously gave, including our Platinum Sponsor; Heritage Co-op. We can not do what we do without the unwavering generosity of each and every one of you.

CO-OP Heritage

To our Emcee & Bands. As always, you are the heart of our event, and we couldn't thank you enough for keeping the event moving and engaging the audience!

To the JAM committee who kept the kitchen, refreshments, support staff, set up and take down running smoothly.

And to all those who sold tickets, helped collect donations, volunteered, or made purchases of tickets and auction items. You are all valued.

We were happy to present cheques for \$13,000 each to Reese and Nathan as well as make donations to Ronald McDonald House Manitoba for \$15,000 and Swimminly for \$5,000. These donations will go towards helping children and families within our regions to cover room rentals and provide personal swimming lessons/pool expenses.

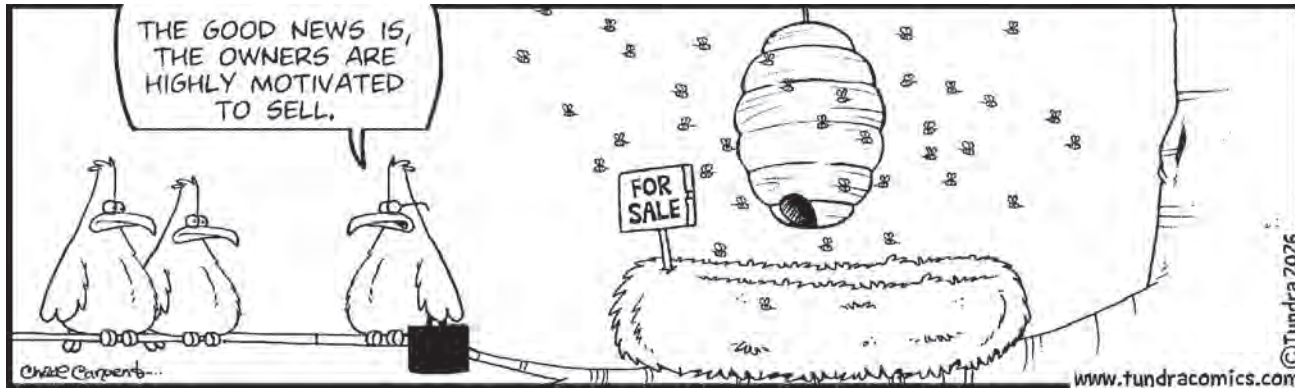
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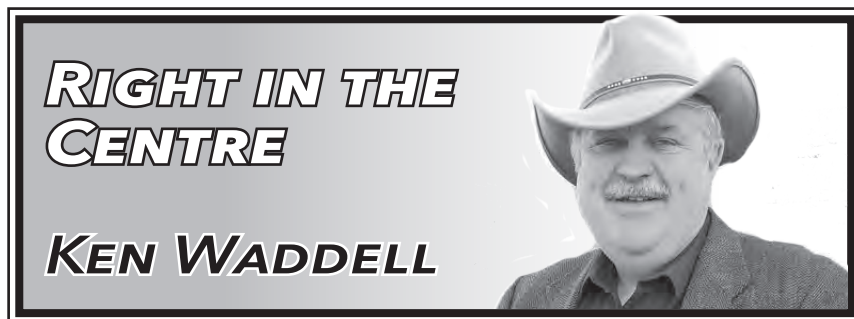
By Chad Carpenter



Sitting in a memory chair

Sunday evening, my wife Christine was in the living room watching TV. I realized it would be unfair to ask her to not watch a TV show while I have a quiet spot to write so I moved my laptop to the back room of our house. I had to clear a bit of path as, yes, we do have a lot of stuff in our home.

At the farthest back point of the room sits an antique oak desk with a fold down front. It has been with our family for more years than I have been alive. It belonged to my Grandfather McFadyen, my mum's father. My Grandfather McFadyen died in 1932 and that was 16 years before I was born. I am not sure how long before that he owned the drop leaf desk. It used to have many story books on the bottom shelf. Ones I remember included the early 1940s Dave Dawson and Freddy Farmer World War II adventure books. I am also sitting in grandfather's chair where I am told he sat and listened to Gaelic music records as he longed to return to the Isle of Tiree. His daughter, my Aunt Jean went to Tiree long after grandpa's death and thought Tiree was a bit sparse and said she couldn't understand why he would want to go back. My grandparents were also from Edinburgh and they came to Ontario, and later to Wapella, Saskatchewan. They farmed there for a short while and that is where my mother was born in 1911. A few years later, they moved to Winnipeg and grandpa worked as the caretaker at the Somerset block on Portage Avenue. That building is still in use and is immediately east of the Canada Life Centre, home of the Winnipeg Jets. I have in my possession, a reference document for Grandpa McFadyen, signed by many of the Somerset block tenants from the early 1900s to 1920's.



The old desk I am sitting at has some memorabilia in it, but not from grandpa but a bit more recent past. There are some of our grandchildren's pictures and there's a faded cushion cover from the Royal Winnipeg Rifles Regiment where my dad served in World War II. There's a hospital ID tab from my brother's birth in 1938. A Town of Neepawa hat pin from the centennial in 1983. There's a Royal Winnipeg Rifles hat badge or at least I think that's what it is.

All this leads me up to some poignant moments in our family history. My mother died at age 75 in 1986. Some months later, my dad was in a contemplative mood and I said, "You miss mum don't you? He said he did and that they had been together 54 years. And then he said something that struck me as strange. "She has a baby brother buried out on the farm at Wapella." I stored that memory up and after dad died, and I was visiting Aunt Jean, I told her the baby brother story. She had no idea and was taken aback. People in those days didn't always talk about such things. Shortly after the baby's death it seems, they left the farm and came to Winnipeg. On Dad's side, he too lost a brother, an eight year old, and very shortly after that, the family left Christieville, Quebec and moved to Emo, Ontario and then to Winnipeg. It's an interesting

similarity of events that brought both families to Winnipeg after the death of a child.

What does all this mean? Not a lot I guess, except to say that life goes on until it stops. I am sure the families both grieved in their own way. A lot of time has passed since my grandparents from both sides came to Winnipeg, both very much working class men and stay at home wives, as most people were in those days and the intervening years. I have written a lot of this information into a family history booklet. The 1900s, especially prior to 1960 brought some hard times. Breaking land, harsh road conditions, especially in winter. Two world wars and the Korean war served up huge doses of grief and hardship. We all need to honour our parents and grandparents and I admire those who have written up the many community history books, we have a dozen or more on our shelves and refer to them every week. We stand on the shoulders of giants even if some of our ancestors were slight in stature. They were great men and women who, for the most part served their families, their communities and their countries very well. May they rest in peace and be well remembered.

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

HOMEBODIES

RITA FRIESEN



Summer days...

It's been a while since the weather has been quite so warm, or is my memory lapsing? These two warm days had me recalling the hot summer days of my youth. Remember when we didn't wear hats and sunscreen and never carried water bottles everywhere/anywhere we went? Remember when we didn't have an air conditioned cab on the tractor or any farm implement? Remember when there was the farm dugout to cool off in after square baling clover? The same dugout the cattle drank and defecated in? And now you know that I was a farm girl way back in the fifties and sixties!

I truly would not change the education and determination that those early years instilled in me. Looking back I am also grateful that I didn't have a brother. If there had been a male heir I would never have had the privilege of being the 'outside' girl. My older sister excelled in cooking and baking — homemaking. My younger than me sister excelled in being the princess — dad said it was a sad home that didn't have one child that was 'to the manor born! And my youngest sister, eleven years my junior, was all the youngest should be! Working in the farm yard and the fields allowed me opportunities that I still appreciate.

Those summer days...fencing through the slough, mosquitoes big enough to carry one off and I don't remember bug spray. It was collar up, cuffs down and pants tucked into the socks. It was staples bouncing when I tried to hammer them into an oak fence post. It was digging post holes and tamping the earth solid to ensure stability. Some of the posts were treated poplar from trees that had been cut down, cut into lengths that were stripped of their bark and soaked in a bluestone solution in a tank. Usually the fam dog accompanied dad and I on those forays.

Those summer days...I know the square baler was a giant step forward from loose hay and straw. For a few years dad and I custom baled. Sometimes he drove the 8N and I managed the sled, and sometimes we switched off. Two planks joined at the front by a cross bar, capable of carrying eight or twelve bales - eight for alfalfa or clover, and twelve for straw- and the one one the sled used a solid crow bar to impale the soil in front of the pile of bales, and the bales slid off as the unit advanced. And then you did that over, and over and over again! Hauling them home and stacking them was all a part of haying, all hot and heavy work!

Those summer days...they weren't all tough slugging. There was the Carman Fair. And as a member of the Graysville 4-H Sheep Club, achievement day was a highlight. There was competition for judging the quality of a fleece and the beauty of the beast. One learned what the judges wanted and you worked to win. Both in show and judging. There was a massive community 4-H parade, and while gathered in the infield we were treated to hot dogs, pop, and dixie cups. High adventure for the time!

Yep, staying inside and staying cool offers time for reflection!

NEEPAWA Banner & Press

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Letters to the editor

Your choice, your job, your way of life

I write referencing the article "Penning their protest" in the June 19 edition of the Neepawa Banner & Press.

We are truly fortunate to live in a country that allows each of us to express our opinion. I congratulate the people of Neepawa and north for taking the time to express your opinion on real paper. I trust each of those letter writers has thought through the consequences of the opinion expressed in their letter.

We have been assured for decades that Manitoba Hydro has plenty of electricity for Manitobans well into the future. Recently that has changed to needing additional electricity generation as soon as 2029 (*MB Hydro Jan. 26, 2026*). Putting aside the incompetence of our provincial governments and Manitoba hydro to miss this projection so badly, we are now in a difficult spot, having to turn down industry wanting to set up shop in Manitoba. We do not have the power.

To those letter writers, I suggest we have some options. First, do nothing which will mean continuing to turn down industrial opportunities (and resultant jobs, tax revenues), eventually leading our residents to conserve power or risk outages. Second build more capacity via natural gas fired generating plants. A viable solution but be assured there will be a campaign to stop those plants by environmental activists and the potential neighbours of those plants. Third, nuclear, again a viable alternative but this one will also attract detractors and the timeline is

way too long for Manitoba, remember 2029 is what we need to keep in mind. We could build another hydro dam. Again, the list of opposition will be long and the timeline hopelessly beyond our needs. As well with a debt-to-equity ratio of 86-89 per cent (depending on data included) I cannot imagine who would lend Manitoba hydro money to do anything. Finally, we could build solar and/or wind farms, a faster, much more environmentally suitable option and allow private industry to supply the capital (remember MB hydro has little). With limited opposition these may actually be built by 2029.

The country our parents and grandparents lived in built things. We have become a country that has an acute and chronic case of Nimbyism (not in my backyard 'ism). Our Prime Minister recognizes this and has told us in about that many words. By turning away businesses from our province we lose opportunities, jobs and wealth. Wealth that can pay for our health care and education, neither of which are funded adequately. Instead, we rely on Ottawa (Alberta) to cover some of our health and education expenses.

So, if not windmills to generate power what is your choice to power Manitoba ahead, or not? Consider this question carefully, your choice may mean your job, way of life, and community will change for better or worse.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Fehr
Gladstone, MB

HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN Hot summer days

When the weather is hot, I just can't stand the idea of turning on my oven. Lately the no-cook meals are some of my very favourite. Here's two quick, easy meals perfect for the hot days of summer. I often use a store-bought rotisserie chicken for an easy add-in that can instantly boost any basic salad into hearty meal.

Chicken ramen salad

For the salad

- 1 tsp. oil
- 1/2 cup slivered almonds
- 2 Tbsp. sesame seeds (optional)
- 1 package instant ramen noodles, any flavor
- 1 can mandarin orange segments
- 1 package coleslaw mix
- 4 green onions, diced
- 2-3 cups diced chicken

For the dressing:

- 2 Tbsp. oil
- 2 Tbsp. juice from the oranges
- 1/4 cup rice vinegar or apple cider vinegar
- 2 Tbsp. soy sauce
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
- 1/3 tsp. black pepper

Put the teaspoon of oil in a frying pan over medium heat. Add the slivered almonds and cook, stirring often, until just starting to brown, about one minute. Stir in the sesame seeds and cook until light golden brown and toasted, about 1 minute more. Remove the pan from the heat. Without opening the package, smash the instant ramen noodles with a rolling pin. Discard the seasoning packets or reserve for another use. Save two tablespoons juice from the can of orange pieces. Drain the remaining syrup from the oranges. In a large bowl add all the salad fixings together. Mix all the dressing ingredients together and add to the bowl. Let the salad sit for about 10-15 minutes before serving so the noodles soften and absorb some of the dressing.

My favourite summer bean salad

This is one of my favourite bean salads that makes a quick lunch or dinner, and leftovers are perfect for another meal.

- 3 cups cooked Bassami rice
- 1 can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 small can kernel corn, drained
- 1 red pepper, diced
- 1 small red onion, diced
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro or parsley

Dressing

- 1/4 cup oil
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 2 Tbsp. lime juice
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt or to taste
- 1/4 tsp. pepper, or to taste

In a large bowl, combine the cooked rice, black beans, kidney beans, corn, pepper, onion, celery and cilantro. In a small bowl, whisk together the oil, vinegar, lime juice, cumin, chili powder, garlic powder, salt, and pepper to make the dressing. Pour the dressing over the rice and bean mixture, and stir until everything is well combined. Taste and adjust the seasoning as needed. Refrigerate the salad for at least 1 hour to allow the flavours to come together.

Old Canada Series: A landscape of life in the Minnedosa valley



PHOTO COURTESY OF OLD CANADA SERIES

This image shows a portion of an illustration showing the town of Minnedosa. According to the information provided by Old Canada Series, it is presumed to be a view of the town as it appeared in 1887.

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Spruce Plains RCMP Report: June 2026

By Staff Sgt David Taggart
SPRUCE PLAINS RCMP

In the month of June, we had 458 occurrences. We attended 13 motor vehicle collisions this month with one having a fatality involved. In that instance speed was a factor.

On June 11, the Spruce Plains RCMP received a report of suspicious vehicle. We located the vehicle and it turned out to be stolen from Quebec. We arrested a male and female both from Quebec for possession of stolen property. We were opposed to the release of the two suspects and they were released regardless of our request. Since then the couple has been charged with more property crime.

On July 8, at 5:45 a.m. the Spruce Plains RCMP received a call about a vehicle fire. Police attended the Rapid City Fire Department had put out the car fire. Police spoke to the complainant who had a video of 3 young males setting the vehicle on fire. The vehicle turned out to be stolen. All three males were arrested for Arson, possession of stolen property and found to be in possession of weapons. The three males were between 14 and 18 years old. All three were released on an undertaking with conditions and a court date.

On July 9, the Spruce Plains RCMP responded to a report of an assault in Minnedosa. RCMP learned that a business owner had seen a suspect walking down the street and confronted him about a break-in and theft that occurred overnight at his business. The confrontation escalated and a brief scuffle occurred. With the business owner being pushed. The suspect then left. Officers located the suspect minutes later

and arrested him. A 26 year old male was arrested and faces charges of Assault and Break & Enter and theft. Police recovered over \$1,100 believed to have been taken in the break and enter. The suspect was released on an Undertaking with a court date.

Speeder of the month

The speeder of the month was a 19 year old driver from Winnipeg, travelling 166km/hr in a 100 zone. At that speed you get a \$ 914 fine and a serious offence notice. The serious offence notice will trigger a show cause hearing with MPI where they will review the circumstances of the offence which may cause a drivers licence suspension.

Anti-Fraud Tip

Law Enforcement – The fraudster will call or email you claiming to be from a law enforcement agency, such as the RCMP, Interpol or Europol. They will use police logos or other identifiers to appear legitimate. The message could be:

- A fraudulent letter accusing you of a criminal charges and asking you to contact them to avoid going to jail;
- A message demanding you send money to avoid arrest; or
- An email with a malicious attachment that they ask you to open.

These are all frauds. Law enforcement will never demand payment and will not threaten arrest by email or phone. If in doubt, contact the law enforcement agency directly.

Pair of missing Neepawa youth found safe

Banner Staff
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

A pair of local youth who were reported missing last week, were quickly located. On Wednesday, July 8, Neepawa RCMP received a call at around 11:30 a.m., that two female youth had left a rural residence in the Neepawa area and

had not returned. Police launched an investigation into their whereabouts and later that day, at around 6:15 p.m., the two youths were located in a rural area west of Neepawa. Police report that they were lo-

cated by family members in good health. The Neepawa RCMP thank the public and the family members for their assistance and concern throughout the investigation.

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U of W honouring Neepawa born military leader

Ray Crabbe to receive Distinguished Alumni Award

Banner Staff
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Neepawa born Lieutenant-General (Ret.) Ray Crabbe has been named one of four recipients of the University of Winnipeg's 2026 Distinguished Alumni Awards. The honour is bestowed each year to recognize U of W graduates whose achievements have made a lasting impact on their professions and communities.

Crabbe is receiving the recognition for a distinguished 40-year career in the Canadian Army and his lifelong commitment to service and leadership.

After enrolling at the University, then known as United College in 1963, Crabbe earned a Bachelor of Science degree. After University, he embarked on a military career which took him overseas to postings in [West] Germany, Cyprus and the Balkans. He rose through the ranks to become a Lieutenant-General and served as Canada's Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff, one of the Canadian Armed Forces' most senior leadership positions.

Since retiring from the military, Crabbe has continued to serve Canadians by consulting and advising on national security and defence issues.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG
Lieutenant-General (Ret.) Ray Crabbe.

MANITOBA CROP ALLIANCE

WANTS YOU

TO LET YOUR NAME STAND

We are currently accepting nominations from farmer members to serve as delegates on our four crop committees: wheat and barley, corn, sunflower and flax.
Nominations close on Oct. 1, 2026.



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Local 4H members give back

By Ken Waddell
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The Neepawa 4-H Beef Club held their club achievement at The Beautiful Plains Ag Society/Stride Exhibition Park on June 30 and followed the next day by participating in the Neepawa Fat Stock Show and Sale on July 1.

Several members decided to donate a portion of their steer sale proceeds to various needs and causes.

Averi Jury decided to donate 10 per cent of her steer proceeds to the Canadian Spine Research and Education who have taken care of her little cousin who recently had surgery for scoliosis.

Kooper Jury will be donating 10 per cent of his steers proceeds to STARS air ambulance Jury said, "This will be my 6th time donating to them. The reason I donate to them is because when my friend was born he had a very serious heart condition and needed to be airlifted by stars. I continue to donate to STARS as I feel it's very important for rural communities to have access to it and it saved my



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NEEPAWA 4-H BEEF CLUB

friend's life.

Sveinna Bjarnarson is donating 10 per cent to STARS, "I have known

a few patients that have benefitted from the STARS in rural Manitoba."

Hannah Tibbett said, "I

am donating 10 per cent of my steer to Rotary; the New Wave Neepawa Zip Line fund."

Pictured, starting top left to right: Averi Jury, Hannah Tibbett, Kooper Jury, and Sveinna Bjarnarson with their steers.

A farewell after 26 dedicated years



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEEPAWA 4-H BEEF CLUB

It has been announced recently that Shelley Bjarnarson (pictured second from left) is stepping back from her role as a leader with the Neepawa 4-H Beef Club. Bjarnarson has spent over two decades in this role with the agricultural club.

In the public statment that was released, the Neepawa 4-H Beef club said, "After 26 years of dedication, Shelley Bjarnarson has decided to hang up her show stick and leader hat. Neepawa & Area 4-H Beef Club has been blessed by your many years of service and are very thankful for all of your hard work and dedication. From the bottom of our hearts, 'THANK YOU!'"

Durston honoured by Neepawa 4-H

Bob Durston, former Neepawa Ag-Rep and Mayor was honoured for his 50 years of service to the Fat Stock Show. Durston has judged the Club Stall Competition all those years. The Clubs are judged on stall cleanliness, uniforms and presentation of their cattle. This year's winner was the Erickson Club.

PHOTO BY CHRISTINE WADDELL





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4-H FAT STOCK SHOW & SALE

THANK YOU



The members, leaders and families of the Erickson, Neepawa and Rapid City 4-H Beef Clubs wish to extend sincere appreciation to all of the buyers and bidders for their outstanding support of our 2026 4-H Beef Inter-Club Sale, held in Neepawa on Wednesday, July 1.

4-H MEMBER	BUYER
Quinn Sawchuk	Mazergroup Neepawa
Ryler van Meijl	Integra Tire
Swayzie Bootsman	Minnedosa Insurance
Kendra Hinsburg	Minnedosa Veterinary Clinic
Benson Bootsman (P)	TIC Parts & Service Ltd.
Tristan Rea	Mark Keller
Breelee Bootsman	Penno's Machining & Mfg.Ltd
Jessica Robins	Valleyview Ag Services
Kate Hinsburg	Minnagro
Braxtyn Usunier	Bray Farms
Chet Woychyshyn	Enns Brothers
Brant Woychyshyn	Ken Beatty Farms Ltd.
Colter Kostenchuk	Kulbacki Seeds Ltd.
Caden Kostenchuk	Rob Smith & Son
Thomas Baraniuk	Craig Pearson/Jonco Farms
Rebecca Baraniuk	Rocky Mountain Equipment
Easton Paterson (M)	DAM Cattle Buyers Ltd
Easton Paterson (P)	DAM Cattle Buyers Ltd
Averi Jury	Heather Todoruk
Kooper Jury	Gill & Schmall Agencies
Summer Sawchuk	Stride Credit Union
Aspen Emerson	Joey & Kendra Bootsman

4-H MEMBER	BUYER
Sveinna Bjarnarson	Wheatcity Cowtown
Keegan Dyke	Harris Pharmacy
Ava Raddysh	Ag West
Rachelle Madill	Kulbacki AG Supply
Hailey Klassen	Neepawa Veterinary Clinic
Sadie Sawchuk (P)	MNP LLP
Hannah Tibbett	Spring Hill Colony Farms Ltd.
Morgan Dyke	TIC Parts & Service Ltd.
Zane Finlay (M)	Adam Mowat
Zane Finlay (P)	DAM Cattle Buyers Ltd

Special Thank You to Supporters of the Neepawa 4-H Fat Stock Association Scholarship & Cow Paddy Bingo Buyers:
Mitch Hutton; John's Electric/Kerrie Butler; Buy the Beef Bull Sale; Nugent Family; Erickson Beef Club; Foggy Mountain Farms; Raymond Bazinet; Bootsman Family; Shane Saler Trucking; Jury Farms; Sunrise Credit Union; Lisa Andrews, BDO; John Gillan; Neepawa Vet Clinic; Neepawa Beef Club; Ryan Smith; Northstar Insurance

Cow Paddy Bingo winners Keith & Debbie Jury, longtime supporters of our program, graciously donated their \$2,900 in winnings back to the scholarship fund.



Grand Champion Steer & Best Homegrown Steer
Quinn Sawchuk - Neepawa



Reserve Grand Champion Steer & High Gaining Steer
Ryler van Meijl - Rapid City

Cattle Show Judge: Andrew Kopeechuk; **Show Marshalls:** Tim Baker, Cora Baker & Shayla Woychyshyn; **Show Ringpeople:** Carson Baker, Madisyn Robertson and Rachel Chemerika; **Announcer:** Blaine Huston; **Photographer:** Laura Horner, Prairie Pistol Designs; **Show Clerk:** Dalysé Robertson; **Caterer:** Cut-Rite Meats (Ed & Heather Lavich), Carberry; **Stall Judge:** Bob Durston; **Facility:** Ken Dalglish & Justin Cicholski, Stride Exhibition Grounds

Assisting with the sale of steers:

Auctioneer: Tyler Slawinski; Ringmen: Blaine Huston & Brad Delgaty; Cut-Rite Meats, Carberry; Gladstone Auction Mart; DAM Cattle Buyers, Doug Mowat; Southside Meats

Platinum Sponsors

CAMO Cattle Co.; Cut-Rite Meats (Carberry); Dairy Queen Neepawa; E&K Kostenchuk Ltd.; Greenbush Angus; Hardrock Land & Cattle Co. Ltd.; Heritage Co-op; JMJ Performance Diesel; Joey & Kendra Bootsman & Family; Maple Lake Stock Farms; Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op; Neepawa Banner & Press; Penno's Machining & Manufacturing Ltd.; Prairie Tractor Inc.; Rempel Backhoe & Gravel Ltd.; Richardson Pioneer (Minnedosa); Ritchie Bros.; Royal Canadian Legion Ladies – Neepawa; Stride Credit Union (Neepawa); Westward Ford Neepawa, Wheat City Cowtown

Gold Sponsors

AgChieve; Horner Cattle Co.; Kinley Thompsen Chartered Accountants Inc.; Mar-Dee Enterprises (Neepawa); KCH Cattle Co.; Rainkie's Sewage; Raymond Bazinet; Redferns (Neepawa/Minnedosa)

Silver Sponsors

Celtic Power & Machining; Clare Larson Memorial (Erickson 4-H Club); Gladstone Veterinary Clinic; JAS Red Angus (Jason & Leslie McLaren); Hedley Livestock; Kulbacki Ag Supply; Little Valley Livestock; McManus Simmentals (Minnedosa); Midnight Metalworks (Minnedosa); Minnagro; P. Baker Backhoe; Porrock Repair Service; Municipality of North Cypress-Langford; Rob Smith & Son Backhoe & Trucking

Bronze Sponsors

Archie McNair Memorial; Beautiful Plains Ag Society; CCWG (Brandon); D & G Enterprises (Franklin); Lois Thompson-Hudon Memorial – FCC Neepawa; Keystone Simmental Association

The winner of \$2608 in our Progressive 50/50 Draw was Tara Fulton, Gladstone.

Erickson, Neepawa & Rapid City Clubs 4-H Fat Stock Show Results

The interclub show and sale is comprised of forty-two members from Erickson, Neepawa & Rapid City 4-H Beef Clubs.

Stall Competition: 1. Erickson; 2. Neepawa; 3. Rapid City

Adult Grooming: 1. Hailey Klassen (N)

Senior Grooming Split 1: 1. Kate Hinsburg (R); 2. Sveinna Bjarnarson (N); 3. Quinn Sawchuk (N); 4. Morgan Dyke (N); 5. Zane Finlay (N)

Senior Grooming Split 2: 1. Kendra Hinsburg (R); 2. Averı Jury (N); 3. Tristin Rea (R); 4. Keegan Dyke (N); 5. Easton Paterson (E)

Senior Grooming Champion (Sponsored by Neepawa Vet Clinic & Beautiful Plains Ag Society): Kendra Hinsburg

Intermediate Grooming (Sponsored by JMJ Performance Diesel Ltd.): 1. Summer Sawchuk (N); 2. Kaleb Brown (R); 3. Sadie Sawchuk (N); 4. Ava Raddysh (N); 5. Kooper Jury (N); 6. Rachelle Madill (N); 7. Thomas Baraniuk (E)

Intermediate Grooming Champion: Summer Sawchuk

Junior Grooming Split 1: 1. Swayzie Bootsman (R); 2. Benson Bootsman (R); 3. Aspen Emerson (N); 4. Hannah Tibbett (N); 5. Raelynn Gemby (E); 6. Zoey Sytnyk (E); 7. Caden Kostenchuk (E); 8. Thomas Baraniuk (E)

Junior Grooming Split 2: 1. Lakelyn Brown (R); 2. Breelee Bootsman (R); 3. Chet Woychyshyn (E); 4. Colter Kostenchuk (E); 5. Ryler van Meijl (E); 6. Jessica Robins (R)

Junior Grooming Champion (Sponsored by Lois Thompson-Hudon Memorial FCC Neepawa): Swayzie Bootsman (R)

Cloverbud Grooming Split 1: 1. Jessa Switzer (R); 2. Brant Woychyshyn (E); 3. Tate Woychyshyn (E); 4. Leo Kostenchuk (E)

Cloverbud Grooming Split 2: 1. Ensley Bootsman (R); 2. Kashton van Meijl (R); 3. Braxtyn Usunier (R)

Cloverbud Grooming Split 3: 1. Elijah Ginter (E); 2. Oaklyn Jury (N); 3. Taci Gilchrist (R)

Cloverbud Grooming Champion (Sponsored by Erickson 4-H Beef Club): Ensley Bootsman (R)

Adult Showmanship: 1. Hailey Klassen (N)

Senior Showmanship Split 1: 1. Quinn Sawchuk (N); 2. Kate Hinsburg (R); 3. Zane Finlay (N); 4. Sveinna Bjarnarson (N); 5. Morgan Dyke (N)

Senior Showmanship Split 2: 1. Kendra Hinsburg (R); 2. Averı Jury (N); 3. Tristin Rea (R); 4. Keegan Dyke (N); 5. Easton Paterson (E)

Senior Showmanship Champion (Sponsored by Rapid City 4-H Beef Club): Kendra Hinsburg

Intermediate Showmanship (Sponsored by Petro-Canada Farm Center, operated by Mar-Dee Enterprises, Neepawa): 1. Summer Sawchuk (N); 2. Kooper Jury (N); 3. Ava Raddysh (N); 4. Rachelle Madill (N); 5. Kaleb Brown (R); 6. Sadie Sawchuk (N); 7. Rebecca Baraniuk (E)

Junior Showmanship Split 1: 1. Aspen Emerson (N); 2. Hannah Tibbett (N); 3. Benson Bootsman (R); 4. Swayzie Bootsman (R); 5. Caden Kostenchuk (E); 6. Zoey Sytnuk (E); 7. Thomas Baraniuk (E); 8. Raelynn Gemby (E)

Junior Showmanship Split 2: 1. Ryler van Meijl (R); 2. Breelee Bootsman (R); 3. Lakelyn Brown (R); 4. Jessica Robins (R); 5. Chet Woychyshyn (E); 6. Colter Kostenchuk (E)

Junior Showmanship Champion (Archie McNair Memorial Trophy – Beautiful Plains Ag Society): Ryler van Meijl (R)

Cloverbud Showmanship Split 1: 1. Brant Woychyshyn (E); 2. Leo Kostenchuk (E); 3. Jessa Switzer (R); 4. Tate Woychyshyn (E)

Cloverbud Showmanship Split 2: 1. Ensley Bootsman (R); 2. Kashton van Meijl (R)

Cloverbud Showmanship Split 3: 1. Oaklyn Jury (N); 2. Elijah Ginter (R); 3. Taci Gilchrist (R)

Cloverbud Showmanship (Penno's Machining & Manufacturing Ltd): Ensley Bootsman (R)

Overall Champion Showperson (Sponsored by Beautiful Plains Ag Society): Kendra Hinsburg (R)

Group of Three Competition

Steers: 1. Rapid City; 2. Neepawa; 3. Erickson

Heifers: 1. Neepawa; 2. Rapid City; 3. Erickson

Team Grooming Competition (Sponsored by Greenbush Angus & Hardrock Land & Cattle Co. Ltd.) Judged by Carson Baker, Cora Baker & Madisyn Robertson: 1. Quinn Sawchuk; Thomas Baraniuk; Tate Woychyshyn; 2. Averı Jury, Raelynn Gemby, Brant Woychyshyn; 3. Kendra Hinsburg,

Hannah Tibbett, Braxtyn Usunier; 4. Sveinna Bjarnarson, Swayzie Bootsman, Colter Kostenchuk; 5. Keegan Dyke, Lakelyn Bootsman, Zoey Sytnyk; 6. Kate Hinsburg, Aspen Emerson, Oaklyn Jury; 7. Hailey Klassen, Kaleb Brown, Caden Kostenchuk; 8. Kooper Jury, Benson Bootsman, Taci Gilchrist; 9. Morgan Dyke, Jessica Robbins, Chet Woychyshyn; 10. Rachelle Madill, Tristin Rea, Elijah Ginter; 11. Summer Sawchuk, Breelee Bootsman, Jessa Switzer; 12. Zen Finlay, Ryler van Meijl, Leo Kostenchuk; 13. Ava Raddysh, Rebecca Baraniuk, Kashton van Meijl; 14. Easton Paterson, Sadie Sawchuk, Ensley Bootsman.

Beginning Beef Project (Sponsored by D & G Enterprises, Franklin, Joey & Kendra Bootsman & Family and Stride Credit Union)

Champion: Jessa Switzer (R);

Reserve Champion: Tate Woychyshyn (E)

3. Brant Woychyshyn (E); 4. Leo Kostenchuk (E)

Angus Yearling Heifers (Sponsored by Brookside Angus – Derrick Pilatic, Brookdale & Stride Credit Union)

Split 1: 1. Ensley Bootsman (R); 2. Aspen Emerson (N); 3. Benson Bootsman (R); 4. Elijah Ginter (R); 5. Morgan Dyke (N)

Split 2: 1. Averı Jury (N); 2. Keegan Dyke (N); 3. Jessa Switzer (R); 4. Hannah Tibbett (N)

Champion: Ensley Bootsman (R); **Reserve Champion:** Averı Jury (N)

Simmental Yearling Heifers (Sponsored by Neepawa Veterinary Clinic Ltd. & Stride Credit Union)

Split 1: 1. Kooper Jury (N); 2. Swayzie Bootsman (R); 3. Kaleb Bootsman (R); 4. Taci Gilchrist (R); 5. Rebecca Baraniuk (E)

Split 2: 1. Kate Hinsburg (R); 2. Sveinna Bjarnarson (N); 3. Tristin Rea (R); 4. Chet Woychyshyn (E); 5. Summer Sawchuk (N); 6. Thomas Baraniuk (E)

Split 3: 1. Kendra Hinsburg (R); 2. Kashton van Meijl (R); 3. Ryler van Meijl (R); 4. Quinn Sawchuk (N); 5. Sadie Sawchuk (N); 6. Rachelle Madill (N)

Champion: Kendra Hinsburg (R);

Reserve Champion: Kate Hinsburg (R)

All Other Breeds Yearling Heifers (Sponsored by Midnight Metalworks, Minnedosa & Stride Credit Union)

Champion: Hailey Klassen (N);

Reserve Champion: Raelynn Gemby (E)

3. Braxtyn Usunier (R); 4. Zoey Sytnyk (E)

4-H Progeny Female Class (Sponsored by McManus Simmentals & Stride Credit Union)

Champion: Kendra Hinsburg (R);

Reserve Champion: Kate Hinsburg (R)

3. Quinn Sawchuk (N); 4. Leo Kostenchuk (E); 5. Summer Sawchuk (N); 6. Sadie Sawchuk (N); 7. Colter Kostenchuk (E); 8. Breelee Bootsman (R)

Best Homegrown Yearling Heifer (Sponsored by Chicken Chef, Neepawa & KCH Cattle Co.): Kendra Hinsburg (R)

Grand Champion Yearling Heifer (Sponsored by Clare Larson Memorial, donated by Erickson 4-H Club; Neepawa Banner & Press; Stride Credit Union Neepawa): Kendra Hinsburg (R)

Reserve Grand Champion Yearling Heifer (Gladstone Veterinary Clinic & Stride Credit Union – Neepawa): Ensley Bootsman (R)

Two-Year Old Females with own calf at foot (Hedley Livestock & Stride Credit Union – Neepawa; Minnagro)

Split 1: 1. Elijah Ginter (R); 2. Keegan Dyke (N); 3. Sveinna Bjarnarson (N); 4. Sadie Sawchuk (N)

Split 2: 1. Kate Hinsburg (R); 2. Summer Sawchuk (N); 3. Chet Woychyshyn (E); 4. Rachelle Madill (N)

Champion: Kate Hinsburg (R);

Reserve Champion: Elijah Ginter (R)

Supreme Champion Female Class: Champion (JAS Red Angus – Neepawa & Stride Credit Union – Neepawa): Kate Hinsburg (R)

Reserve Champion (Horner Cattle Company & Stride Credit Union – Neepawa): Elijah Ginter (R)

Keystone Simmental Association Award (presented to the highest gaining Simmental influence steer): Ryler van Meijl at 3.36 lbs per day

Market Steer Classes (Stride Credit Union)

Split 1 (974 lbs to 1268 lbs): 1. Chet Woychyshyn (E); 2. Braxyn Usunier (R); 3. Morgan Dyke (N); 4. Caden Kostenchuk (E); 5. Hannah Tibbett (N); 6. Zane Finlay (N); 7. Easton Paterson (E)

Split 2 (1273 lbs to 1376 lbs): 1. Keegan Dyke (N);

2. Brant Woychyshyn (E); 3. Jessica Robins (R); 4. Kate Hinsburg (R); 5. Aspen Emerson (N); 6. Thomas Baraniuk (E); 7. Colter Kostenchuk (E)

Split 3 (1377 lbs to 1470 lbs): 1. Ryler van Meijl (R); 2. Swayzie Bootsman (R); 3. Tristin Rea (R); 4. Rebecca Baraniuk (E); 5. Kooper Jury (N); 6. Hailey Klassen (N); 7. Ava Raddysh (N)

Split 4 (1487 lbs to 1631 lbs): 1. Quinn Sawchuk (N); 2. Averı Jury (N); 3. Kendra Hinsburg (R); 4. Summer Sawchuk (N); 5. Sveinna Bjarnarson (N); 6. Breelee Bootsman (R); 7. Rachelle Madill (N)

Progeny Steer (steers born to a former 4-H heifer project 1040 lbs to 1440 lbs): 1. Sadie Sawchuk (N); 2. Benson Bootsman (R); 3. Easton Paterson (E); 4. Zane Finlay (R)

Best Homegrown Steer Class (Hardrock Land & Cattle Co. Ltd.): Quinn Sawchuk (N)

Grand Champion Market Steer (Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op Ltd., Neepawa Banner & Press, & Stride Credit Union – Neepawa): Quinn Sawchuk (N)

Reserve Grand Champion Market Steer (Heartland Livestock Services Virden & Stride Credit Union – Neepawa): Ryler van Meijl (R)

Best Homegrown Steer Class (Hardrock Land & Cattle Co. Ltd.): Quinn Sawchuk (N)

Grand Champion Market Steer (Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op Ltd., Neepawa Banner & Press, & Stride Credit Union – Neepawa): Quinn Sawchuk (N)

Reserve Grand Champion Market Steer (Heartland Livestock Services Virden & Stride Credit Union – Neepawa): Ryler van Meijl (R)

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Supreme Champion Female & Champion Two-Year Old Female - Kate Hinsburg



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Neepawa 15U win Baseball Provincials



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Neepawa 15U (Hockin) Baseball Club came up big in the playoffs, winning the 2026 Baseball Manitoba Championship on Sunday, July 12 in Wawanesa.

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

After squeezing into the playoffs on the slimmest of margins, the Neepawa 15U Hockin squad made the most of their second chance and captured the Baseball Manitoba Provincial Championship.

The Provincials were held in Wawanesa last weekend and featured 10 teams from all across Manitoba. Neepawa came into the tourney as a representative for Midwest, and was placed

in Pool A alongside the host club from Wawanesa, as well as Carberry, Portage and Morden.

The tournament opened on Friday, July 10, with Team Hockin earning a 3-1 victory over Carberry. For the next game, however, they were unable to hold on to that momentum, and fell to Portage, by the score of 3-1.

Neepawa rebounded on Saturday with a convincing 7-1 win over Morden before wrapping up round-robin play with a narrow 4-3 loss

to host Wawanesa. The 2-2 record left Neepawa tied with Portage and Morden in the standings, but after the tournament tie-breaker procedures were applied, Team Hockin secured a berth in the semifinals.

Awaiting Neepawa in that semifinal was Pool B winner Carman, which had posted a 3-1 record during round-robin play. Neepawa delivered its strongest performance of the tournament to that point, defeating Carman 12-3 to advance to the championship.

The final provided an opportunity for redemption against Wawanesa, who had bested Neepawa in a one-run contest during the round robin. This time, Team Hockin left no doubt about the outcome, putting together its most dominant effort, on the way to a 13-4 victory to claim the Baseball Manitoba provincial title.

Congratulations to Neepawa 15U Hockin, who finished the tournament and the season on such a high note.

Plumas Pirates win SCBL regular season pennant

By Austin Lewis
FREELANCE WRITER

The Plumas Pirates final two home games were huge in relation to the in the Santa Clara Baseball League standings. Their first opponent is the Neepawa Cubs, in which the Plumas Pirates were one and a half games ahead of. The game was underway as Rylan Denbow started on the pitcher's mound for the big game, and unfortunately it did not go well as the Cubs struck early with a solo homerun for the game's first point. Shortly after in the bottom first inning, the Pirates scored four straight runs for a 4-1 lead, as Luke Decorby's double to left field in which Carter Schettler and Rylan Denbow scored runs, and Rylan Single's single to right field scored two more runs by Sam Koncz and Luke Decorby.

In the second half of baseball, the Cubs came back down 4-1 to tie the game at four as they scored a double to midfield in the fourth inning, and a game-tying two-run homerun deep to left field in the bottom sixth inning. The Pirates stopped the Cubs from taking the lead in the final inning, as this game ended in a 4-4 tie which brought the Pirates overall record to 8-3-3 with one game left.

It all came down to this for Plumas. Either win and claim first place or settle

for second with a loss to the Minnedosa Mavericks, in the biggest game of the regular season before playoffs.

Eric Sigurdson was the starting pitcher for the final regular season game of the year, and after a scoreless first two innings, all the action picked up in the top third inning, as the Mavericks struck first with back-to-back scoring walks for a 2-0 lead. Shortly after that, in the bottom third inning, the Pirates scored six straight runs, all from Carter Schettler's single to midfield, Sam Koncz's deep single to right field, Luke Decorby and Blake Rosling each hit doubles, and Nathan Braun's scored stolen base on a DJ Meloney strikeout.

After three innings, the Pirates had a 6-2 lead, up until the Mavericks scored two more runs on a groundout and a stolen base to make it a 6-4 game. The Pirates got the lead back up by three on Rylan Denbow's single to midfield, then added two more runs on Carter Schettler's second single of the night, and Rylan Denbow's sac fly in which Dean Rosling scored a run.

The Pirates ended up with a 9-4 win over the Minnedosa Mavericks, and have finished first place in the Santa Clara Baseball league, for the first time in 27 years. They will begin playoffs on July 22 against either the A's, the Mavericks, or the Royals.

Minnedosa hosts Baseball Manitoba 13U Tier 3 Provincial Championship

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Families and fans from across Manitoba gathered in Minnedosa last weekend for some competitive baseball at the 13U Tier 3 Provincial Championship.

The host Minnedosa squad competed in Pool A alongside Portage, Deloraine, Grosse Isle and Altona. A team from Neepawa also took part, assigned to Pool B with Swan Valley, Brandon,

Baldur-Glenboro-Holland and Tri-Community.

Minnedosa opened the tournament on a winning note on Friday, July 10 defeating Grosse Isle 15-7, before dropping a 19-9 decision to Altona later in the day.

The hometown club then faced a pair of tough opponents on Saturday, falling 11-1 to Portage and 18-9 to Deloraine. Minnedosa wrapped up the weekend in the seventh-place game on Sunday, but fell

to Brandon 12-5.

Meanwhile, Neepawa also split its opening day, first suffering a 13-1 loss to Swan Valley, before bouncing back with a 16-7 victory over Brandon.

On Saturday, Neepawa defeated Tri-Community 15-4, before dropping an 11-6 decision to Baldur-Glenboro-Holland. Neepawa finished the tournament on Sunday, earning fifth place with an 8-4 victory over Altona.

In the championship

final, Portage capped off an impressive weekend by defeating Baldur-Glenboro-Holland 26-9 to capture the provincial title.

Don't shut us out!
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sports@neepawabanner.com



Santa Clara League Playoffs

Portage Padres (#3 seed) vs. Carberry Royals (#6 seed)
Best-of-3 series tied 1-1

Game one - Monday, July 13: Portage 11-10 Carberry
Game two - Tuesday, July 14: Carberry 10-3 Portage

Austin A's (#4 seed) vs. Minnedosa Mavericks (#5 seed)
Minnedosa win best-of-3 series 2-0

Game one - Monday, July 13: Minnedosa 11-6 Austin
Game two - Tuesday, July 14: Minnedosa 8-7

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Margaret Laurence: A Prairie person at heart

By Veronica Casigay
SUBMITTED

Margaret Laurence was a Canadian novelist and short story writer and is one of the major figures in Canadian literature. This Saturday, July 18, the Margaret Laurence Home invites you to celebrate Margaret's 100th birthday at a special screening of the movie adaptation of *The Stone Angel*, featuring Academy Award winner, Ellen Burstyn. It will be shown in the Roxy Theatre on July 18th at 7:30 pm. Admission is \$10 and a concession stand will be available. The books of the Manawaka Series will also be available for purchase. We hope you will join us to learn more about this beloved Canadian writer who grew up in Neepawa.

Jean Margaret "Peggy" Wemyss, later known as Margaret Laurence, was born to lawyer Robert Harrison Wemyss and his wife, Verna Jean Simpson, on July 18, 1926 in Neepawa, Manitoba. At four years old, her mother passed away and her father remarried Peggy's aunt. The Wemyss lived in Neepawa for all of Peggy's childhood: first living in a cottage on Vivian Street, then a home on Second Avenue. On the death of her father when she was nine years old, Peggy and her family moved into her grandfather John Simpson's home on First Avenue. This house is now known as the Margaret Laurence Home.

Peggy received her elementary and high school education in Neepawa. Her time in high school kept her busy and engaged with the community. She was the editor of the high school's newspaper, *Annals of the Black and Gold*; played violin in the Collegiate Orchestra; and was an active member in clubs such as dramatics, debating, and curling. Peggy was also an academically gifted child, winning the Governor General's Medal in 1943 for her academic excellence, leadership, and participation in extra-curricular activities.

Before Peggy became the beloved Canadian writer, the author of *The Stone Angel* and *The Diviners*, her first professional job came as a writer for the Neepawa Press in the summer of 1943. Her development in literature was thanks to the encouragement and valuable criticism given to her by her high school English teacher, Miss Mildred Musgrove. Margaret later wrote, "I was an extremely fortunate child. As someone who had always been interested in reading, and in story-telling, and in writing (which I began to do in about Grade 2 or 3), I always had someone there who encouraged me." In her most popular novels—the Manawaka series—it is believed that the town of Manawaka was inspired by her childhood home on the prairies.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Above picture: Margaret Laurence. Above right image: Peggy, with her brother, Bob and dog Rufty in 1939. Below right: The Davidson Memorial (the "Stone Angel"), Riverside Cemetery, Neepawa.

Following her graduation from high school in 1944, Margaret attended United College (now the University of Winnipeg). There, she took the student job of assistant editor of the college paper *Vox*. She graduated from the

college with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1947 and in the same year, married civil engineer John Fergus Laurence in the Neepawa United Church. For a while, she worked as a reporter for the *Winnipeg Citizen*.

Because of John's job as a civil engineer, Margaret and John relocated to Somaliland and Ghana. Margaret's first books were inspired by her experiences in Africa. The couple had two children together, Jocelyn and David. After leaving Africa, Margaret's literary career continued in England where her most iconic and memorable Manawaka books were written:

The Stone Angel (1964): Developed into a movie, starring Ellen Burstyn;

A Jest of God (1966): Received the 1967 Governor General's award, and is the inspiration of the movie *Rachel, Rachel*, directed by Paul Newman and starring

Joanne Woodward);

The Fire Dwellers (1969);

A Bird in the House (1970); and

The Diviners (1974): Received the 1975 Governor General's Award and made into a movie starring Sonja Smits).

Throughout the years, Margaret Laurence received honorary degrees from over a dozen Canadian universities, and in 1971 was made a Companion of the Order of Canada. Margaret spoke at many conferences, specifically peace conferences, reflecting her commitment to peace. This strong passion



can be identified by the dove flag waving outside the Margaret Laurence Home. On October 6, 1975, Margaret returned to Neepawa to receive tribute for "her contributions to Neepawa, Canada, and Canadian literature."

Despite living away from Neepawa, Margaret always considered herself "a prairie person, because I have

always remained deeply just that." In July 1987, the Margaret Laurence Home opened to the public to observe where the First Lady of Manawaka had lived.

The MLH Committee invites you to come help us celebrate the life and works of Neepawa's most famous citizen and one of Canada's most important literary figures on July 18.

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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

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.

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

Notice

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ABible Quote NKJV, Matthew 28:19-20, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Amen.

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

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Tender



The Rural Municipality of Minto-Odanah

Request For Tenders

The Rural Municipality of Minto-Odanah requests written tenders for the construction of a Pressure Reducing Station located on the NE 11-14-17 wpm, for the Municipal Water System in the Rural Municipality of Minto-Odanah.

All written tenders to be received by the undersigned by no later than 12:00 p.m., July 24, 2026.

Send tenders marked "Construction of a Pressure Reducing Station for the Rural Municipality of Minto-Odanah" to:

Rural Municipality of Minto-Odanah
Box 1197
Minnedosa, Manitoba
R0J 1E0
Phone: (204) 867-3282
Fax: (204) 867-1937
Email: admin@mintoodanah.ca

Tender Packages are available by contacting the Municipal Office.

For further information contact: Operations Foreman, Rodney Robinson at (204) 867-7603.

The lowest or any tender may not necessarily be accepted, and the Municipality reserves the right to reject any or all tenders, to waive defects, or to accept any tender which may be considered in the best interests of the Municipality. The Municipality, in its entire discretion may reject or accept all or any part of the tenders or any of the tenders submitted under this tender call.



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the Neepawa Banner & Press*

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Obituary



Gladys Glover

Gladys Lorraine Glover of McCreary, Manitoba passed away on Sunday, July 5, 2026 at the age of 95 years.

Celebration of Life was held on Wednesday, July 8, 2026 at 2:00 pm from Knox United Church in McCreary, MB with Norma Windle officiating. Interment followed in McCreary Municipal Cemetery in McCreary, MB.

Should friends so desire, donations in memory of Gladys may be made to the McCreary / Alonsa PCH or the Alzheimer's Society of Manitoba.

Sneath-Strilchuk -Dauphin Chapel
204-638-4110 • www.sneathstrilchuk.com



Joy Tannyce Saunders

It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of our mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister & friend.

Mom was a woman of quiet strength whose love showed through her actions. She was kind, caring and there when her family needed her.

Mom lived in Plumas for many years both on the farm and in town.

For years she lovingly helped care for her granddaughters, creating memories they will carry with them forever. Her patience, warmth and gentle guidance helped shape them into the women they are today; the bond they shared was truly special. Mom shared a love for gardening with Laurie and together they worked happily in their flower gardens. She enjoyed a trip to Hawaii with her sister as well as many fun trips to the US casino's. Bingo, cards and reading were favourite pastimes. Her quiet resilience, gentle spirit and unwavering devotion will remain an inspiration to all who knew her.

She is lovingly remembered by her children: George(Laurie), Keith & Philip. Her grandchildren April, Amy(Jessie) and Alan. Also her great grandchildren August & Arley.

Joy will be missed dearly by her sister Sherry (Gil), sister in law Evelyn, and niece and nephews Lance, Candice, Trevor & Cory and families.

Joy was predeceased by husband Jim, mother Grace Quesnel, father John Quesnel, mother-in-law Mabel, brothers Clarence and Allen.

In Accordance with her wishes, cremation has taken place and the family will celebrate her life privately.

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

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- Able to effectively communicate in English
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For inquiries contact: Phone: 204.476.3393

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Technical Sales Specialist – Exports (Japan Market) (NOC 62100)

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Number of Position(s): 1

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- Assessing customer needs and recommending appropriate products and solutions based on customer requirements and market conditions.
- Developing reports, proposals, presentations, and supporting materials to communicate product benefits and sales opportunities.
- Representing HyLife in export sales activities and maintaining strong relationships with customers, distributors, and business partners in Japan.
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- Experience working with Japanese clients or distribution channels
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For inquiries contact: Phone: 204.476.3393

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Neepawa Golf & Country Club reopens

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

An intense week of cleanup has concluded at the Neepawa Golf & Country Club (NGCC), and all 18 holes, along with the driving range have reopened. The back nine once again became accessible to golfers on Wednesday, July 8, with the entire 18-hole course returning to play the following day on Thursday, July 9.

The course was forced to close due to the recent storm which dropped over 100 mm of rain on the region. The front nine sustained the heaviest impact from flooding, while a culvert along the 13th-hole cart path was also completely washed out. One of the more visible examples of the storm's force was damage caused to the bridge at Hole-3, where floodwaters ripped away several planks. Club officials credited the Neepawa Gladstone Co-op online for their immediate response in

supplying replacement planks and delivering them within hours.

"What a grind the last week has been, physically and mentally," said NGCC General Manager Landon Cameron, via social media. "Thanks for your patience. A huge shout out to Turfmaster Mark [Kerkowich] and his entire grounds crew, plus the Pro shop staff who helped on the grounds, for putting in the extra hours to make it playable so soon. We're excited to see everyone again and get back to normal. Our thoughts are with other courses in the area who are still going through it."

The club also expressed its appreciation to members and visitors for their patience and understanding throughout the recovery effort.

Due to the closure, the Neepawa Senior Men's event originally scheduled for Monday, July 6, has been postponed and will now be held on Aug. 10.

Neepawa Blue Dolphins open 2026 swim season in Treherne

Submitted
NEEPAWA BLUE DOLPHINS SWIMMING CLUB

On Sunday, July 12, the Neepawa Blue Dolphins Swim Club swam into Treherne to compete in one of five summer meets. It was a beautiful morning in Treherne for the start of the races. Following are the results of the day:

9-10 year old girls: Charlize Macsymic—First 50m backstroke, 25m fly, and 50m butterfly. Fourth in 25m and 50m free style; Eve Vinnell—First 50m

free, third 25m breast, and 25m free; Natalie Levandoski—First 25m and 50m breast, and 25m free. Second 50m free; Nova Lee Menzies—Second 25m and 50m breast, 25m free, 50m back. Third 50m free.

13-14 girls: Madlyn Wahoskiy—Second 25m breast, fourth 100m breast, fifth 50m free, and 25m free; Carlee Strelczik—First 25m back,

second 50m back, fourth 25m breast, and 25m free.

15-17 girls: Clar Ann Howe—Second 25m fly, 25m free, 50m breast, and third 50m fly; Anne Crosson—First 50m bk, 50m fly, 50m breast, 50m free, and 100m IM.

8 & under boys: Madden Vinnell—First 25m free.

9-10 boys: Ben Wahoski—First 100m breast, Second 25m breast and 50m breast, and sixth 25m free.

Next action is Sunday July 19th at Neepawa Aquatic Center. Cost of admission is free. Races start at 9:00 a.m.

The Neepawa Blue Dolphins are small in number, so if your child would like to join up then come on down to the pool and give the practice a try. Practices are Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For more information contact Neepawa Dolphins at neepawadolphins@outlook.com,

Pickleball Manitoba's Free Youth Program Comes to Neepawa

Submitted
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Kids aged 10 – 17 years will have the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of pickleball at HMK School in Neepawa at one-day introductory clinics being offered on August 12th and 13th. Pre-registration is required.

Pickleball Manitoba has launched Roadshow 2026, a series of free introductory pickleball clinics for youth. It is being offered in 25 locations across rural Manitoba. Two kinesiology students, Hannah and Semi, will coach the participants over the course of each fun-filled day.

Announcement

They tell us "We've had such a great time teaching these clinics. The kids are having fun and are learning the game so quickly. It's

been really rewarding to introduce them to pickleball and see how much they enjoy it."

The goal of the program is to introduce young people to the sport, help them develop fundamental skills, and encourage future participation in pickleball programs and tournaments.

Each day will offer an introductory "Learn to play" session from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Participants will learn the basics of pickleball in a fun, welcoming environment and gain the skills needed to enjoy the game with family and friends. Equipment will be provided for the day. A member of the Neepawa Pickleball Association will be there to join in the fun.

Pre-registration is required by going to the Pickleball Manitoba website, clicking on the "Roadshow 2026" icon and scrolling down to the clinic of choice.

Help Wanted

We are hiring!

We have a new opportunity to highlight:

Instructor, Early Childhood Education

School of Health & Human Services

F/T, P/T Term & Casual

(December 7, 2026 to December 22, 2028)

Neepawa, MB

Comp #13-26/27

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Classification: Instructor

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For accommodations or alternative formats, contact 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 #13-26/27 to:

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Family and community support on display at Brad Mummery art exhibit opening

By Ken Waddell
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Brad Mummery's Earth Fire and Wind art exhibit kicked off at Neepawa's Arts Forward on Wednesday, July 8. It was a show opening different from most!

Mummery wears a few hats in addition to that of an artist including farmer, school bus driver and mentor. Mummery's works include scrollwork with pyrography, ink, oil, acrylic and pastel paintings, all of which must be done with meticulous care for these exceptional results.

The elements of Earth (pigments/wood/water), Fire (pyrography) and Wind (airbrush) come together very nicely

In his presentation to a gathering of over 40 people, Mummery said "An artist makes visible what, without you, might perhaps never have been seen," and "Art is not in the eye of the beholder, it's in the soul of the artist."

Guests were served a lunch provided by Neepawa's Boston Pizza (and Brad's partner Debbie) and the proceeds from the event will go to the Neepawa Area Collegiate Institute's Art program. Mummery thanked all who came to take part in the opening and the meal. His remarks were especially touching when directed to his family who have been both supportive and inspiring in his life and artistic journey. Exhibit will be at ArtsForward until Sept. 27 for those who missed the opening.



PHOTOS BY KEN WADDELL

Pictured above left: Brad Mummery welcoming the public to the opening of his art exhibit on Wednesday, July 8. Pictured far left: Several examples of Mummery's artwork. Above picture: Mummery pictured in front of a pair of his pictures with his partner Debbie Morehouse and his grandchildren, Roya and Nori Mummery.

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TRAINING DATES:

Monday, July 27th - 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Tuesday, July 28th - 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Wednesday, July 29th - 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Location: Mountain View School Division Board Office (Dauphin, MB)
Successful applicants will be invited to this training session and will receive pay to attend.

Attendees may bring a packed lunch or go off site for a lunch break. We will assist candidates to obtain Class 2 licensure with MPI and assist in preparation for written and physical tests.

MVSD offers a variety of routes in the areas of Dauphin, Ochre River, Winnipegosis, Ethelbert, Gilbert Plains, Grandview and Roblin.

Full time driving positions are available, as well as flexible opportunities such as casual routes and weekends/evenings (field trips). Candidates who successfully complete the training and drive for MVSD are eligible for a reimbursement bonus.

Questions and inquiries can be directed to Joanna Wasylshen Human Resources Department at 204-638-3001 ext. 7

Please submit resume or application to MVSD Human Resources before Thursday, July 24th.

In Person - Division Office
Front Desk

By Email - hrmanager@mvsd.ca
By Fax - 204-638-7250

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Museum aims to become a community gathering space

Continued from Page 1

To celebrate this landmark occasion with the community, the museum's board of directors is organizing a 50th anniversary event. The celebrations will take place on Sunday, Aug. 9, starting at 1:00 p.m.

While some items are currently pending, planning is well underway. Highlight attractions for the day are expected to include an open house and tours, the official opening of the railcar feature, a vehicle and tractor show and shine, live music, and more.

"If anyone would like to participate in the show and shine, please reach out to us by email (beautifulplainsmuseum@gmail.com)," said Smith.

The Beautiful Plains Museum will share further details with the community when available.

While the museum prepares to celebrate the years gone past, it also continues to look toward the future. In his final comments, Smith shared the board's hopes for the Beautiful Plains Museum as they continue writing its story together.

"We'd like to make it a community gathering space," said Smith, who later added, "We want to have featured events. For one example, we'd like to bring out the Manitoba Historical Society and do a feature on the Beautiful Plains. We're planning special events every year."

The museum is also hoping to become



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

This display room showcases old clocks, dishware and much more.

a destination for other future events, such as Farmers' Markets.

Sharing one last tidbit for the future, it was also stated that "a new feature that is in the works is a room dedicated to be a chapel". History enthusiasts will likely want to keep an ear out for additional details on this from the Beautiful Plains Museum in the future.

In the meantime, happy 50th to the Beautiful Plains Museum!

More projects yet to be revealed at ArtFest

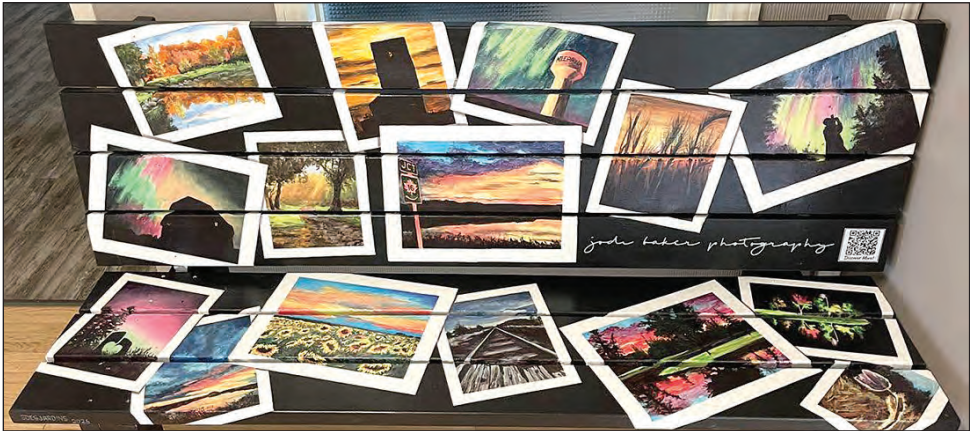


PHOTO COURTESY OF JODI BAKER PHOTOGRAPHY

A view of the completed bench, painted by Shannon Desjardins.

Continued from Page 2

Jodi Baker added, "I am so excited to donate this to the Art Trail, to give back to the community that always supports and encourages me, follows my photography, and enjoys my stories and pictures. I hope it encourages people to sit, slow down, take a closer look, and appreciate the beauty that surrounds us every day!"

Both Baker and Desjardins further highlighted the collaborative aspect of these bench projects in their inter-

views. In addition to their own efforts, Neepawa Men's Shed made and provided the bench, Yvonne Sisley and ArtsForward are deeply involved in coordination efforts and providing supplies, and Provost Signs and JC & Leigh also contributed to this particular project.

"It was a really fun project. I enjoy doing benches every year," Desjardins enthused. "It's a lot of people really coming together. It's nice to be part of it."

A permanent home for the bench has yet to be decided, leaving both Desjardins and Baker curious as to where it may end up. Several locations have reportedly expressed interest. In the meantime, the community can look forward to seeing the bench among a contingent of other benches and attractions that have been prepared for this weekend's festivities at ArtsForward.

In her final comments, Baker stated, "I hope people will stop by to experience it in person and see the detail and craftsmanship up close!"

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Michelle van Oeveren
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