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NEEPAWA

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Banner & Press

Inside this week



Pages 19-20:
 Mother's Day Feature



Jodie Byram
 MLA for Agassiz

Agassiz Constituency Office
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'This is not a done deal': Polonia locals pushback on wind project

By Eoin Devereux
 Neepawa Banner & Press

A call to action has been sent out to property owners around Polonia to save their little 'piece of heaven'. Around 100 people gathered at the Polonia Community Hall on Monday, Apr. 27 to voice their concerns and to organize opposition to the proposed Fleury Winds wind energy project.

The \$500-million initiative being planned for the Huns Valley just north of Neepawa, is being developed in partnership with the Red River Métis Power Corporation, the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), and Renewable Energy Systems (RES). The 200-megawatt wind farm would include between 28 and 36 turbines connected to Manitoba Hydro's existing substation in Neepawa.

As for the Monday meeting, it was set up by a group of local landowners and served as both an information session and a rallying call to those worried about how the development. Attendees discussed a variety of potential impacts of the project and began outlining steps aimed at halting or delaying its approval.

Continued on Page 7



Maple Syrup Festival sweetens the day

PHOTO BY DIANE WARNER

Traditions were brought to life with horse-drawn wagon rides to the Bob Gass sugar bush so customers could learn about the Maple sugar industry. Approx. 500 people attended the Festival.

By Pam Little & Banner Staff
 Submitted

Close to 500 festival goers were in McCreary to celebrate the 14th Manitoba Maple Syrup Festival over the weekend. Festival-goers climbed up onto horse drawn wagons travelling down the trail

to Bob Gass's maple bush where they could taste the fresh sap, roast bannock and learn all about the Manitoba maple trees and their famous products.

The festival was a community-wide effort.


The local horse and wagon drivers Allan, Jim and Alexis plus Greg in the

Shuttlebug transported people to the bush. Desrosiers Yummy Stuff Maple Taffy on the snow was a hit even on a cool day. The Saturday Makers Market hosted by Burrows Trail Arts Council was very popular showcasing many talented artisans from the region.

Continued on Page 13

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 CREDIT UNION

Neepawa & Area Planning District gathers resident input for development plan renewal



Pictured: Residents and Neepawa & Area Planning District staff conversing together in front of a set of District maps.

PHOTO BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

By Casper Wehrhahn
Neepawa Banner & Press

The Neepawa & Area Planning District (NAPD) is in the midst of seeking public opinion. On Apr. 27, the NAPD held an open house at the Neepawa Town Office. The purpose of the open house was to garner feedback which will then inform the NAPD's next development plan.

"The NAPD reviews their development plan every eight years," explained Jeff Braun, senior NAPD's development officer. "The old [plan] will be in place until the new one is adopted; It might be about a year's process. As soon as the new plan is adopted, it is enforced."

To ensure those in attendance had all they needed to be informed, various maps and info guides were on display, and NAPD staff were on scene with their consultant.

Reviewing the open house evening, Braun stated, "I think the first hour we had approximately 10 people total, and after that we didn't really receive any people coming in in person. But we're pretty happy with the attendance that we have— it was pretty good."

In addition to the discussions held during the open house, the NAPD is also asking residents to take part in a survey. Paper copies of the survey were on hand at the event, and remain available at the Town Office at 275 Hamilton Street. The survey can also be found online on the NAPD's website.

The survey includes questions to gauge where an individual lives within the NAPD, what factors are important to the individual taking the survey (ex: outdoor recreation,

walkability, etc), housing, and more.

As of this paper's date, the survey is expected to remain open for approximately two more weeks.

"I would encourage people, if they have any questions about the survey, what the Planning Dis-

trict's role is, or what the development plan is about— it's somewhat an overlooked document that people don't always know is there, or its importance— or just want more information, reach out to the office and ask one of us," Braun enthused.

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Please join us in celebrating the opening of our new

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1976: Car bursts into flames behind Vivian Motel

By Casper Wehrhahn
Neepawa Banner & Press

**125 years ago,
Friday,
May 3, 1901**

The necessity for better stock yards at the railway station here has become pressing. It is doubtful if more live stock are shipped from any station on the northwestern branch of the C. P. R. than from Neepawa yet the stock yard accommodation here is the most inadequate on the line. It is high time for improvement.

**100 years ago,
Tuesday,
May 4, 1926**

Arden: Bert Batty, who is taking the violet ray treatment at Sacred Heart Hospital, St. Boniface, for returned soldiers, spent the week end with his wife and family at the home of Mrs. Wm. Ferg and returned Monday morning to take further treatment.

Kelwood: The ratepayers of Kelwood Consolidated school met in the Agricultural Hall, Saturday May 1, to present to a board of arbitrators three petitions, one asking for dissolution of the consolidation, a second one asking for the formation of a rural school district east of Kelwood and a third asking that the consolidation be retained. Inspector Hartley, of

Minnedosa, presided over the meeting which even in this busy season, was well attended, though it lasted practically all day. The members of the arbitration board were Messrs. Lukin, of Glenella municipality, R. Coad, Rosedale, I. McLeod, McCreary. Several ratepayers spoke in support of each petition, giving their views of the situation, and supplying the necessary facts for the consideration of the arbitrators, whose decision will be announced some time this week.

**75 years ago,
Thursday,
May 3, 1951**

The Town council Friday night held a lengthy discussion on traffic control problems, which resulted in instructions being given to remove the "No U-Turn" signs on the corners of Davidson and Brydon streets. Blinkers were proposed and traffic lights at the intersection of Mountain Avenue and Hamilton Street were favored. The "Stop" signs at the corners of these streets will be raised higher.

Funeral service for Mrs. Mary R. Baker, 74, of Neepawa, wife of George A. Baker, who died on Apr. 22, was held in the United Church here on Thursday, Apr. 26...

Mrs. Baker, the former Mary Rebecca Potter,

was born in Haliburton County, Ont. She came west at the age of two with her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Jonah Potter, to the Springhill district. They travelled by train to Sarnia, then by boat up the Great Lakes to Duluth. Then they went to Fisher's Landing on the Red River by train and by boat down the Red to old Fort Garry. The rest of the trip was by team of horses to Portage la Prairie and from there to Rosedale municipality by oxen and wagon where a claim had been filed on land in that municipality.

Mrs. Baker received her education at Acton school and later at Springhill school.

She was married to George A. Baker on July 20, 1898, and they made their home on their farm in the Springhill district until July of last year when they retired to Neepawa.

**50 years ago,
Thursday,
May 6, 1976**

The final decision of where to locate the new swimming pool being built in conjunction with the Manitoba Summer Games will be made this week.

Cordova: Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Attwood of Minnedosa, who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Sunday. Mr. and Mrs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

The car of William Winlaw, a Winnipeg man, went up in flames in Neepawa around this time in 1976. The vehicle had been parked behind the Vivian Hotel when the fire started and, at the time, the cause was not determined. Winlaw had said he went into the hotel for a few minutes and, when he returned, the car was filled with smoke and that it burst into flames as he opened the door.

Ronald Cameron and Ruth and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cameron attended.

O b e r o n : Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Ron Drysdale (Kathy Baker) who were married in Carberry on Saturday, May 1.

**20 years ago,
Monday,
May 1, 2006**

Neepawa mayor Bob Durston expressed disappointment after the town was shut out in the latest round of provincial board appointments to the Assiniboine Regional Health Authority.

"Neepawa is the largest community in the RHA, and it would have been nice to have an appointment," Durston said. "It's disappointing there's no representation from this area."

While he acknowledged board members are supposed to serve the needs of the entire region, Durston said it's difficult to convey concerns when board members aren't locally based.

Two Neepawa women have spearheaded an organization which they hope will help other female business owners.

Norma Terrick, the owner and operator of the Sears store in Neepawa, and Marla Sinclair, owner of Clutterbug Home and Country, are the driving forces behind the women's group...

Note: At this time, the organization did not yet have a name.

A petition to retain Lands Branch jobs in Neepawa rather than move them to Portage la Prairie may not hold much weight with the provincial government.

Last week, Premier Gary Doer scoffed at a petition being presented in the house to retain government jobs in Minnedosa. Neepawa is set to lose 11 jobs in the transfer, Minnedosa eight.

A Winnipeg Sun reporter overheard Doer saying, "petitions are a waste of time." When confronted, Doer changed his tune, not only saying that he believes

in petitions, but adding it was his government that made changes allowing petitions to be read in the house.

Neepawa is also planning to present a petition, calling on the province to keep Lands Branch jobs here.

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.

MARY PICKFORD in 'LITTLE ANNIE ROONEY'
COMING TO NEEPAWA OPERA HOUSE
Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 20, 21 and 22
Also Special Matinee Saturday Afternoon—Don't let the Kiddies Miss this Real Picture

NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

This advertisement for the Neepawa Opera House is from the May 7, 1926 edition of The Neepawa Press. First released in 1925, Little Annie Rooney is a comedy-drama film which Mary Pickford not only starred in, but also wrote. She also selected a wide-ranging, multi-ethnic cast—a rare exception for most studio films of the times. Though some stereotypes of the era did occasionally pop up.

I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.

Job 19:25 (New International Version)



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Highlights of the week

Coffee Chat: Ernie Sydor - Neepawa Legion
May 5 at 8:15pm | May 7 at 1pm | May 8 at 5:20 pm

Cancer Awareness Info Session
May 4 at 12:30 pm | May 7 at 6:30 pm | May 10 at 8:15 pm

Fabulous Finds Fashion Show
May 5 at 10:30 am | May 6 at 5:30 pm | May 9 at 7pm



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

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

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Homebodies

Rita Friesen



And a warm welcome...

This may come as a surprise to many of you; I am an introvert. There are hours of solitude before and after public times; long walks, quiet sitting, reading and some game playing. People are important to me, and I want to show respect, acceptance and caring. Sometimes it takes an effort. Probably the same for many others, but unless we speak of it, we feel alone.

This line of thought began after a conversation with my sister. She had visited a church in another town. My first question was if there was anyone she knew that attended there. One couple, but they were away that Sunday. She mentioned how at home her heart felt with the four part singing and the basic sermon, and how welcoming the members had been. There was a time when our faith family was an extension of our birth family and the sense of belonging was real and significant. May that still be so. It's important to me to become friends, at least friendly, with other people in my church and community. Years ago when Ed and I began attending a new to us church, my goal was to speak to at least three people each Sunday. My rule was that the conversation could not be limited to the weather! Every person is so unique and each one of us has an important story – a desire to tell it, and a need to be heard.

There used to be a custom that at one point in a service you were encouraged to shake someone's hand, and exchange a greeting. The pandemic changed that. There is one handshaking story, told by my very favourite old neighbour God bless him –, that changed the way I see welcoming time. Mr. Pete was a guest in a church, he never said if it was a large church or a small church, he simply said that for all the warm words of welcome, there was no actions that showed that value. As the congregation was invited to rise, mingle and greet someone, he stood as well. Watched for a moment and realized that he was not going to be approached. So he firmly placed his right hand into his left hand, gave it a warm welcome shake and sat back down. I have so much love and respect for this gentleman, (and I know with him being long gone I should say I 'had' rather than 'have, but I have, and will always have that love and respect for him) that I still want to go speak to that fellowship! And, perhaps I do carry a grudge?

The fact of the matter is that if you want friends you need to show yourself friendly. Not as easy to do as to say. There are different personality types – thank goodness!- different lines of interest and hobbies, again thankfully, and we all have such very different building blocks. Some of us struggle with lack of self esteem, and I can attest to the fact that counselling helps, and some of us are simply quieter people. And that's ok! We find our family. We find a warm welcome.

Picture this

RIGHT IN THE CENTRE

Ken Waddell



I have long roots in south-western Manitoba. In 1933, my parents established a small hard scrabble farm near Muir, Manitoba. Where's Muir you may ask? It's south and east of Gladstone and nearby school districts include Silver Stream and Golden Stream. Quite frankly, they had a very tough time there and when WWII broke out, my dad left mum and my two brothers on the farm and "joined up" with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles army unit. My wife Christine was born and raised at Scarth, Manitoba, about eight miles south of Virden.

The Waddell family moved into the St. James area of Winnipeg. After the war, dad, mum and my two brothers moved to Holland, Manitoba and on slightly better farm, they lived there for 40 years. So that brings us to 1987 when this somewhat saddened man gathered up the boxes of pictures and dived in. It was emotionally draining. That is perhaps the reason that the small mountain pictures hasn't gotten all the attention they should have received.

But the time has come for a completion of sorting pictures, discarding the poorly focussed ones and labelling the rest.

I know it's somewhat foolish, but I want our kids, our four grandkids and four great grandchildren to know at

least some of the family history as to where we came from and where we have been .

In our life together, Christine and I and our family has been through some interesting times. There are pictures of babies, young boys, 4-H calves and community parades. There have been many building projects. We have now been in our current house for 16 years but in the 56 years of marriage we have lived in 12 different homes. Christine says that every building we have lived in was left in better shape than when we arrived. She also says a good wife can put up with unpainted Gyproc for three years and yes, she has proven that a few times. Our ancestors did whatever was needed to survive as have many other families. Even in our lifetimes, we have had many careers including university newspaper publisher as early as 1968, university politician and research assistant. Then came being an Ag-Rep, a farmer, an auctioneer, farm advisor, community newspaper publisher and a would-be politician. Now being a publisher for 36 years would hopefully dispel doubts from my earlier career where critics might have been tempted to say this guy can't hold a job.

Wish me luck with the latest task at hand.

Hidden in our house basement are a number of projects. The most prominent one is boxes and boxes of photos and memorabilia. The family photos date back to around 1900 and as the decades have gone by, the production of photos has elevated.

The earliest photo is one of my paternal grandparents on their wedding day. My parents kept a lot of photos as well but due to the busy-ness of life kept them from compiling them in an orderly fashion. When my Dad and Mum died in 1986 and '87, it fell to me to organize the photos. It went pretty well but it was emotionally gruelling. As many people find out after the passing of their parents, questions wave over you. Like, why didn't I ask them about this event or that photo. Fortunately, I have a pretty good memory, had fairly talkative parents and so I was able to piece together the narrative. Grandparents were born and raised in Scotland and northern England, immigrated in 1911 and 1913. They lived in Montreal, then Christieville. After the loss of the farm and a child they moved to Emo, Ontario and then to Winnipeg. After grandfather's early demise to cancer, grandma gathered her four adult boys together and somehow they made a living. They all worked. In fact the second oldest boy went to work as a watchmaker's apprentice when he was only 10, back in the Quebec days. My mother and father met through the local church group.

My maternal grandparents had come from Edinburgh, worked various places, lived on a farm at Wapella, Saskatchewan and then, also after losing a child, moved to Winnipeg. They lived in the Somerset block where Grandpa was the caretaker. I have a precious piece of paper in my possession with the names of business men signing and attesting a reference for Grandpa. I never met with either grandfather as they passed away 16 and 20 years before I was born.

Banner & Press

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Letters to the editor

The project isn't the problem

I read Matthew Atkinson's letter (April 24) and the open house coverage with genuine concern, but not the concern most letters on this topic raise. I want Manitoba to build more clean energy, not less. 200MW, if anything, modest for what the next two decades will demand. That is exactly why the Fleury Winds process worries me.

The issue isn't turbines. It's the recruitment pattern. RES Group spent roughly 18 months in private one-to-one conversations with selected landowners. The broader community received formal notice one day before the open house. The open house itself ran as off-the-record private conversations, with no shared public forum where residents could compare what each was being told. Within days, conflicting claims surfaced about the level of municipal support.

Yes, we want the best for the next generation. Sustainable energy will benefit all of us. Although, let's just strip the energy question away and look at the structure. One side spent eighteen months, the other got one day. Claims made privately to one resident were invisible to the next. It is an announcement wearing the clothes of consultation. Communities can tell the difference, even though they cannot articulate why.

This matters beyond Fleury. Manitoba will need to build many multiples of 200 MW over the coming decades. Every project run on this template makes the next one harder. Communities that feel handled rather than consulted do not forget, and their objections compound across projects, including the ones Manitoba genuinely needs. And hence, the real bottleneck on clean energy is not opposition, but the processes like this which result in litigation and delays for years.

Good consultation architecture is not complicated. Public information should precede private negotiation, not follow it. Preparation timelines on both sides should be roughly symmetric. Claims made privately should be made on the record even if 95% of residents support the project, that claim should be defensible in public, not just whispered in private.

Done well, projects like this can be a foundation for the kind of energy future our children will need. That is why the way they are built matters as much as whether they are built.

I am not opposing the project. I am opposing the template, because the template is the bottleneck on the future I think most of us don't want.

Yash Darji
Neepawa, MB

Editor's note: RES advertised the meeting in the Neepawa Banner & Press on Apr. 3 and Apr. 10, two weeks ahead of the meeting.

Gladstone market report

By Blaine Huston
Gladstone Auction Mart

We sold 1,442 head on Tuesday, Apr. 28.

We had about 400 butcher cattle to start the day on a very strong market, here's how they sold:

- D1-D2 cows \$2.20-2.50.
- D3 older cows \$1.90-2.19.
- Feeding type cows \$2.40-2.74.
- Bulls \$2.65-2.90.

On the feeder side of things I'd call it a very strong market.

Gladstone Auction Mart

Cattle Market Report
Apr. 28, 2026

Steers

4-500 lbs.	\$8.00 to 9.06
5-600 lbs.	\$6.60 to 7.95
6-700 lbs.	\$5.60 to 6.75
7-800 lbs.	\$5.05 to 6.30
8-900 lbs.	\$4.50 to 5.49
900+ lbs.	\$4.00 to 4.82

Heifers

4-500 lbs.	\$6.70 to 7.65
5-600 lbs.	\$6.00 to 7.05
6-700 lbs.	\$4.95 to 6.20
7-800 lbs.	\$4.40 to 5.40
8-900 lbs.	\$3.85 to 5.49
900+ lbs.	\$3.50 to 4.82

1,442 head sold

HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

Eden School

Today's recipe book featured is the "Reunion Recipes, 1917 to 1994" of J.M. Young School and Eden Consolidated School from Eden Manitoba. The cookbook was published with a twofold purpose, to raise funds for the new playground structure and to celebrate the 1994 Eden school reunion. In 1917 several local schools joined together to form Eden Consolidated School. The school was a large two story brick building with classrooms on two levels. The furnace and the washrooms were in the basement, and the attic was used for storage. This large school building offered high school classes. Pupils living more than a mile away were transported by horse and van with hired drivers.

In 1962 a new school was built and it opened in 1963. This new elementary school had a gymnasium, a science lab and a kitchen facility. The school was named J. M. Young School in honor of long time school trustee James Miller Young. In 1970 five more classrooms were added and a resource media center. The old school was demolished after the new school was expanded. The high school students were bused to Neepawa.

Does anyone recognize some of these teachers' names?

"Stella Whaley (Birnie), Emma Dianne Randall, Mrs. Margaret Lowry, Mrs. Vera Birnie, Orma Baker, Remi Bouchard, Don Clark, Mrs. Dorothy Cook, William Jordan, Richard Hanke, Eleanor Harris, Robert Hobbs, and lastly Mrs. Doris Griffith." Doris taught at Eden School for 31 years. She donated her scrapbooks from her years of teaching to the Beautiful Plains Museum.

Lentil pizza –Betty Anne Aitken (Scott)

1 1/2 cup lentils	1 tsp. each: sea salt, thyme,	chopped
1 bay leaf	oregano, basil, garlic powder	2 Tbsp. butter
3 cups water or stock	1 large onion, chopped	1 cup shredded mozzarella
2 medium sized potatoes	1 green pepper, chopped	cheese
1/4 cup yogurt	2 cups tomatoes, finely	

Cook lentils and bay leaf in water or stock for 45 minutes or until they are soft. Remove bay leaf. Mash lentils add one half cup chopped onions, dash of basil, oregano and garlic powder. Cook potatoes and mash finely adding approximately 1/4 cup yogurt and 1 tablespoon butter. Add salt and seasonings. Sauté tomatoes, peppers and onions until thick and sauce like. Butter an oven proof dish, place lentils in it, cover with onion-tomato mixture and top with mashed potatoes. Top with mozzarella cheese and bake in preheated oven at 325°F to 350°F oven, approximately 30 minutes or until the cheese is lightly browned and bubbly. Makes six servings.

Picante potato pie –Warren Babcock

2 1/2 cups frozen hash brown potatoes, thawed	1 cup shredded Monterey Jack or Swiss cheese	2 green onions, chopped
5 eggs, beaten	1/2 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese	6 slices bacon, crisply cooked and crumbled
2/3 cup picante sauce		

Combine all the ingredients except bacon, mixing well. Pour lightly greased 9-inch pie plate. Bake at 350°F for 25-30 minutes or until set. Remove from oven. Sprinkle with bacon, continue baking for 5 minutes more. Serve with additional picante sauce.

Banana coffee cake –Elizabeth Sumner, principal from 1976 to 1980

1 cup butter or margarine	3 cups flour	1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
2 cups sugar	2 tsp. baking powder	sugar
2 eggs, beaten	2 tsp. soda	1 package semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 tsp. vanilla	1 cup sour cream	
2 1/2 cups mashed bananas	1 tsp. cinnamon	

Preheat oven to 350°F. Cream together butter and sugar. Add beaten eggs, beat until smooth. Add vanilla and mashed bananas; mix until smooth. Sift together flour, baking powder and baking soda. Add to banana batter gradually and alternating with sour cream. End with dry ingredients. Pour one half the batter into a greased 9X13 inch cake pan. Combine cinnamon and brown sugar. Sprinkle half this mixture over batter. Top with one half of the chocolate chips. Repeat layers. Bake 45-50 minutes. Serves 8-12.

Rhubarb matrimonial cake –Cynthia Le Boutillier (Makwaychuk)

2 1/2 cups oatmeal	1 1/2 cup brown sugar	1 tsp. lemon juice
2 1/2 cups flour	1 3/4 cup margarine	1 pack strawberry or raspberry Jello
1/2 tsp. salt	<i>Filling:</i>	2 1/2 Tbsp. tapioca
2 tsp. baking powder	7 cups rhubarb	
1 tsp. baking soda	1 1/2 cups sugar	

Filling: Combine all the ingredients; cook until rhubarb is soft. Do this before and cool well.

Rub the first seven ingredients together as you would for matrimonial cake. Press one half the crumbs into a 9X13 inch cake pan. Spread filling over the bottom layer. Top with remaining crumbs. Bake at 350°F for 45 minutes.

Peach dumplings –Sheldon Oshanyk

2 cans sliced peaches	3/4 cup melted butter
1 pkg. Dunkin Hines pecan cake mix	

Pour the peaches into a 9X13 pan with the juices. Sprinkle cake mix over to evenly. (the dry mix) Drizzle melted butter over top. Bake at 350°F for 45-50 minutes. Serve with Cool Whip or ice cream.

Keeping Neepawa's young riders rolling

Annual bicycle swap program held over the weekend

By Eoin Devereux
Neepawa Banner & Press

A simple idea born out of one man's generosity continues to make a big impact in Neepawa, as Malcolm Murray recently held another edition of his 'Keep 'Em Rolling Bike Day'.

Since 2018, Murray has organized the community-minded bicycle swap and refurbish program, ensuring local children have access to safe, properly sized bikes, regardless of their family's financial situation.

This year's event took place on Saturday, Apr. 25 at 342 Mountain Avenue, and started with just over 65 bikes refurbished and ready to go.

The program operates on a simple, but effective model. Families can bring in any outgrown bikes that are still in good working condition and trade them for a larger one that's a better fit for their child. As Murray notes, kids often outgrow bikes quickly, leaving many perfectly usable bicycles sitting idle.

As well, Murray offers to refurbish an existing bike for a \$10 donation. However, Murray emphasizes that no child would be turned away.

In addition to swaps,



Above picture: Since 2018, Malcolm Murray has done a bike swap project in Neepawa, assisting families a chance to have their kids have access to safe, properly sized bicycles. Bottom picture: Murray repairs a bike for a local youth.

Murray also accepts donations of unwanted or even broken bicycles. Over the years, he has collected and repaired countless bikes, transforming discarded items into reliable rides for local youth.

Now in its eighth year, Keep 'Em Rolling Bike Day has become a spring-time tradition for families around Neepawa. As for Murray, the reward is simple, seeing kids ride away with a smile.

"Every bike that leaves here is one more kid outside, active, and happy," said Murray.



PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Consular Outreach program brings vital services to Neepawa

By Eoin Devereux
Neepawa Banner & Press

Neepawa Filipino community had access to a range of government services on Saturday, Apr. 25, as the Philippine Consulate General held a consular outreach mission.

The one-day event, hosted at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 23, provided essential services, including passport renewals, notarial and civil registry services, and applications for dual citizenship. While an honorary consul is primarily based in Winnipeg, the outreach offers more comprehensive services that would otherwise require extensive travel away from Neepawa.

Consul Rodney Sumague said the outreach reflects the growing demand for consular services within the area.

"We're the team from the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto and we come here annually to serve Filipinos in Neepawa and surrounding communities,"

Sumague explained to the Banner & Press. "With the population here continuing to grow, around half of the community is now Filipino, it's important that we bring these services closer to them."

A highlight of the day was a dual citizenship oath-taking ceremony, attended by local dignitaries including our Member of Parliament Dan Mazier, MLA Jodie Byram and Neepawa Mayor Brian Hedley.

The ceremony also recognized former Filipino citizens who have become Canadians and are now reacquiring their Philippine citizenship under the country's dual citizenship law.

"They are able to take an oath and regain their Filipino citizenship while remaining Canadian," said Sumague. "It's an important moment for many want to maintain ties to their heritage and family back home."

2026 Rosedale financials plan presented

Submitted
Neepawa Banner & Press

The Rural Municipality (RM) of Rosedale presented their 2026 Financial Plan presentation at a special meeting on Tuesday morning at the municipal offices in Neepawa.

In addition to regular municipal services, capital projects budgeted for 2026 include road rehabilitations, bridge repair, and meeting waste management regulatory requirements for both the Eden and Kelwood locations. Also budgeted is repair of the two outstanding flood disaster sites from 2023, at a cost of approximately \$1.76 million. This amount will be fully reimbursed by the province's Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program.

The 2026 Municipal Mill Rate is being proposed at 17.066 mills, which is an increase of 1.434 mills from 2025. The main contributing factors to this increase are completion of the 2023 deficit recovery, replenishing funds owing to the reserve accounts, and increases in operational costs such as fuel and wages.

"The big thing that's really hampering our ability with our financial plan is the lack of total assessment increases," said Jordan Willner, CAO for the RM of Rosedale. "So between 2025 and 2026 we had less than one per cent increase in your total municipal assessment, and that makes it really hard because we only have one source of funds to gather off of and that's the assessed properties. It's

something we have to keep in mind and keep promoting because the more development and assessment growth within the R.M. of Rosedale, the less burden it'll put on the collective whole as the taxpayers."

Willner also indicated that they have budgeted for completion of the requirements for an occupancy permit for the Kelwood Skating Rink this year.

The presentation as well as the full financial plan are available on the municipal website at www.rmrosedale.com. Second and third reading of the related tax levy bylaw will be held at the regular Council meeting on May 8, 2026. Any feedback or questions about the financial plan should be received by Council prior to that date.

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Polonia residents rally in opposition of proposed wind turbine project

Continued from Page 1

Trevor Bennett, who acted as moderator for the evening, guided the discussions that focused on the scale of the proposed turbines and their potential effects on the surrounding area.

If approved, the structures would be the largest ever built in Manitoba, reaching an estimated height of approximately 705 feet at their highest point. By comparison, most existing turbines in the province stand between 394 and 427 feet tall.

Residents expressed concern that turbines of that size would permanently alter the rural landscape, citing their visual prominence and the potential for shadow flicker caused when rotating blades pass in front of the sun, which can create recurring light patterns inside nearby homes. Other concerns brought up included:

- **Noise.** Participants pointed to both aerodynamic “swooshing” from the blades and low-frequency mechanical sounds generated by turbine operations. Some referenced research suggesting that such noise can travel greater distances



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX
Around 100 people gathered at the Polonia Community Hall on Monday, Apr. 27 for a meeting to exchange ideas on preventing the installation of wind turbines across the region.

than initially expected, potentially affecting homes several miles away.

- **Environmental concerns,** particularly the impact of turbine construction on groundwater systems. The process, which can involve excavation, blasting, and large concrete foundations, may disrupt underground water flow and potentially affect well quality and yield, attendees noted.

- **Lowered property value.** Several speakers suggested that proximity to large-scale wind tur-

bines could make rural properties harder to sell and reduce potential sale prices.

While most of the meeting focused heavily on concerns, it also marked the beginning of a coordinated response. Bennett encouraged those in attendance to quickly organize and make their voices heard at all levels of government, as well as with project stakeholders.

“Tomorrow we have to get organized,” Bennett said. “Contacting our elected representation on all levels. Federal, prov-

incial, the R.M. and also Manitoba Hydro, [Renewable Energy Systems] and the [Manitoba Metis Federation], and let them know our concerns. This is not a done deal.”

Bennett added that an email list is being compiled to help mobilize support and expand outreach efforts.

“We start with one email, to two to twelve and it grows from there,” he noted. “There’s strength in numbers and I think we’ve got a good movement here.”

The development remains in its early stages,

with the permitting process expected to continue through 2028. Pending



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX
Area resident Trevor Bennett moderated the event.

approvals, construction could begin as early as 2029, with operations projected to run from 2031 through 2061.



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Neepawa approves funding for water tower inspection

By Eoin Devereux
Neepawa Banner & Press

The Town of Neepawa has taken its first step toward refurbishing the water tower, as council recently approved funding for an initial inspection and cleaning.

On Tuesday, Apr. 21, Council authorized a \$30,000 contract with Landmark Municipal Services to carry out an interior tank cleaning, inspection, and the preparation of a comprehensive post-inspection report. The work is intended to assess the current condition of the structure and identify any other pressing needs.

During their discussions, council noted

that this contract represents only the beginning of what is expected to be a broader, long-term rehabilitation effort. Significant repairs such as sandblasting or re-epoxying of the tower’s interior, could be required following the inspection results.

As well, it was acknowledged that repainting of the exterior of the tower will also be necessary. An estimate for exterior painting and additional surface work is expected to be included in future recommendations, once the current inspection has been completed and evaluated.

The water tower remains a key piece of Neepawa’s infrastructure.



FILE PHOTO

From a close call to a lasting memory

Man revisits Neepawa 50 years after helping avert ammonia disaster

By Eoin Devereux
Neepawa Banner & Press

An Alberta man's drive through Neepawa recently turned into a journey through both his and our local history.

Brian Wood of Red Deer, stopped by the Banner & Press office on Monday, Apr. 27, hoping to uncover a few details from an incident that occurred back in 1976, which has stayed with him ever since.

On Sunday, May 23, 1976, a potentially dangerous situation unfolded when a railroad tanker carrying anhydrous ammonia ruptured a hose. The accident released the hazardous gas into the air. At the time, Wood and his co-worker Ken Church were employed at the local Co-op and found themselves unexpectedly at the centre of the emergency.

Wood recalled that he had just finished a long stretch of work when the incident occurred.

"I'd just actually been working, finished. I'd been up for 24 hours plus doing deliveries all across the local areas," he said. "Suddenly the line popped off with quite a loud noise and we got our butts out of there as quick as we could."

From there, Wood would become one of the key individuals on the scene in preventing what could have been a major industrial disaster. Wood said they immediately worked to alert authorities.

"We wanted to let the fire department know right away. So I sent one guy down to the fire hall and I pulled up on the far side," he explained. "I figured there was going to have to be an evacuation maybe. But the wind was just perfect, it just blew it straight down the tracks."

Despite the danger, the situation required someone to act quickly to stop the



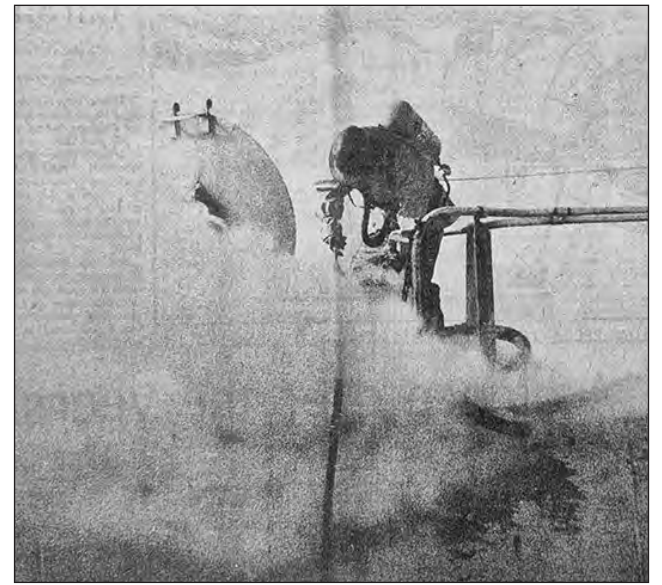
Brian Wood of Red Deer, AB

leak at its source. Wearing protective rubber suits and oxygen masks, Wood and Church climbed onto the tanker and managed to shut the valve, preventing further release of the gas.

Wood admits the deci-

sion to step forward was not deeply calculated.

"Everybody was standing around and I said, 'You know, hey, just put the stuff on me. I'll go up.' I did stupid things," he said with a laugh. "I had spent five



PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Brian Wood, as he appeared on the front page of May 27, 1976 edition of the Neepawa Press.

years in the military before. I said, 'Hey, I don't mind.'"

Their actions were later recognized in the May 27, 1976 edition of the Neepawa Press, which featured an article of the incident on its front page under the headline "Ammonia gas causes worry." The photograph accompanying the story prominently included

Wood.

While much has changed in Neepawa since 1976, Wood's visit served as a reminder of a moment in our community's history.

"I just wanted to come back and see it again. It's something you don't really forget." Wood said. "It's part of my story and part of Neepawa's too."

Neepawa 4-H members earn provincial honours



PHOTO SOURCED FROM NEEPAWA & AREA 4-H BEEF CLUB

Two members of the Neepawa & Area 4-H Beef Club have brought home provincial honours recently. Summer and Quinn Sawchuk were awarded first for Intermediate Visual, and second place for Senior Speech, respectively, at the 2026 4-H Manitoba Provincial Communications Extravaganza, held on Apr. 18. Prior to the Provincials competition, both Sawchuks achieved first place in their respective categories at Area Communications. Pictured: Quinn Sawchuk (left) and Summer Sawchuk (right).

NUASM hosts gently used sale



PHOTOS BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

The Neepawa United-Anglican Shared Ministry hosted a 'gently used' sale last week.

There was a wide variety of items available, with people filtering in and checking out all the options on display.

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Local teams cycle for cerebral palsy support

By Casper Wehrhahn
Neepawa Banner & Press

Two local teams gave their all for “Mission: Possible” in Brandon recently. On Apr. 18, the Touchwood Thunder and Dillan’s A Team took part in the Cerebral Palsy Association of Manitoba’s annual stationary bike race. The race held in Brandon was the 32nd annual event for the Westman Chapter.

A total of 17 teams participated, with each team having 14 riders. Each rider was provided with a pledge sheet, and did a 25 minute ride. The distance they ‘travelled’ was recorded, and funds raised to aid in providing grants within the Westman area for scholarships, wheelchairs, adaptive bikes, and much more.

Tom Czerkawski, chair of the Westman Cerebral Palsy Association, noted that this year’s response has exceeded previous events.

“Our normal is 13 to 15 teams. We don’t have a final total yet, but [I’m] pretty



Pictured left: Members of team Touchwood Thunder. Seen here, starting in the back row, from left to right are: Justin Smith, Wesley Coutu, Peggy Funk, John Pople, and Madison Moore. Middle row: Therese LeClair, Penny Walker, Sheena Johnson, and Dorothy Lyon. Front row: Lisa Chubey, Devrin Frondell, Shelley Chubey (in front of Devrin), Stephanie Morfitt, and team coach Babe Kulbacki.

Pictured right: Dillan Unger, of Dillan’s A Team, hard at work on one of the stationary bikes.

sure it will be a new high,” said Czerkawski. “We made just over \$82,000 last year and are thinking it will be around \$84,000 this year.”

Dillan’s A Team is composed of Dillan Unger, his family, friends, and co-workers. This was their third year participating in

the race.

“It was a tiring day, but we had lots of fun cheering each other on,” said Unger. “Thank you to everyone

who donated online and in person. It was an awesome day!”

The Touchwood Thunder is composed of indi-

viduals from Touchwood Park, as well as BJ Kulbacki— a support worker at the Touchwood Park Association, and the team’s trainer/coach.

Speaking with the Neepawa Banner & Press, Kulbacki shared that Touchwood’s team was a unique addition to the 2026 event.

“Touchwood Thunder was the only team of the 17 participating teams participating in the Westman Cerebral Palsy stationary bike race with all members with physical/intellectual disabilities; event organizers were very impressed,” said Kulbacki.

Kulbacki added, “They trained every Monday and Tuesday for five weeks before the event. Everyone had a good time, and several participants are hoping to participate again next year. The team raised approximately \$4,000.”

Between all 17 teams in attendance, a total of 2,301.83kms were pedalled. Congratulations to all who participated.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

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Special Feature: Herb and Zelda 'Adventures in Camping'

By Nancy Jo Moller
Submitted

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

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

As a recent retired farm couple, they've decided to start doing some activities that they never had time for before. Zelda said, "let's get a camper, it will be fun" with no idea of what would make a suitable camper, where to go and what to expect when they arrived. Off they went shopping for a camper, truthfully it probably took less time buying their first house. E-Brandon was the place to find what they needed.

First thought was, "wouldn't a motorhome be ideal"? They could carry everything along, just park, Zelda could serve cof-

fee and sandwich enroute. This works well but they forgot about arrival at the far end. A tow car could be handy. Also check the size of camping lots, do you need a pull-through or can your driver back into a regular spot. Also is there room for a tow car to park? Can the motorhome, if a longer length, navigate the roads into the selected camp site? This was all knowledge acquired on the first couple of trips. So, the decision after not fitting into a family's cabin driveway near Kenora and ending up parked along a neighbour's lot that maybe a motorhome wasn't ideal.

So, Herb said, "let's get a smaller fifth wheel", it will be half ton towable, even though they had a 3/4 ton truck this was a consideration. Remember to check the 'GVW' Gross Vehicle Weight to know what you can legally tow. The driver never wants to see the flashing lights of a Department of Transport (DOT). This was much better, until reality hit, a small, confined sleeping area meant that elbows and heads were



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This Class A R.V. located in a very tight camping spot - not the easiest place to park.

bumped during preparation for bed. Okay, maybe this wasn't ideal. Let's try it for a couple of nights, it's going to get better. Wrong, every time it was used became a comedy show. The RV mattress was upgraded for better sleep, that just meant a higher probability of Herb hitting overhead shelves with his head. After one too many thumps on the head, Herb said, "Enough, we need something bigger."

So, Zelda agreed, "Let's trade it on a larger trailer". They went off and the trade went smoothly. Having taken the barely used camper to the dealership

with a 1/2 ton truck, everything switched easily and the new camper towed behind like a dream. How smooth would camping be, more room, more luxuries - even an island and fireplace. Well, a week later, they took the 3/4 ton to the vehicle dealership and the new half ton they had ordered came home. It's GVW rating said it would pull the camper. No, not going to happen, first time hooked on and the back end sunk until the mudflaps were laying on the ground, someone had made an er-

ror. Don't believe everything you read, obviously Youtube isn't always right either, they had shown the same truck pulling similar camper. So, let's go trade the truck, minimal miles, let's call it a learning lesson. Okay, now home with a new 3/4 ton, ready to roll. Nothing can go wrong now.

Well, as so often does happen for retirees, health changes. Gone was the idea of going south in their camper for the winter. Well, where do they go? Never planned on just sitting in a campground in Canada, what amenities should they look for? What is needed? Are power outlets different at each one? What type of power service do we need and do we have the proper connections? Full service or do you have a generator? Do they have noise rules with generators? What type of spot works best for their camper? Can they take the family pet? What amenities do you need or want? Pool or not? Recreation trails, convenience

stores, the decisions are endless. Herb and Zelda's heads were spinning. But now they have all the equipment - hoses, plug adapters, portable BBQ, lawn chairs. What should they do - carry on or sell everything and forget the idea?

Herb and Zelda realized they were over their heads in this unknown camping life, BUT...too proud to ask advice.

In the end, if unskilled, talk to your local RV dealers, explain your plans. Take advice and let them outfit you with the best fit. In the meantime, research local campgrounds in your planned vacation area. Suggestion would be to book a local stay before wandering too far with your new rig, this ensures you have all equipment/supplies available in the camper and are prepared for a restful vacation.

'Stay tuned next week for future retirement misadventures'

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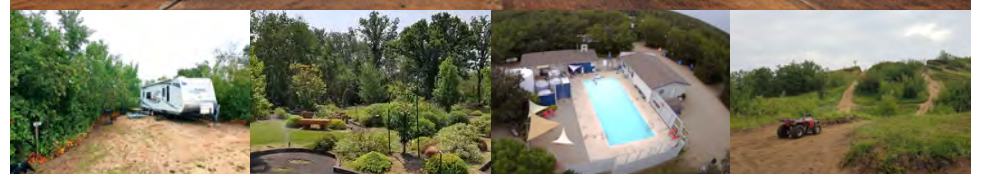


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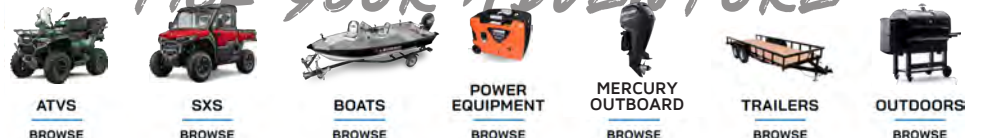


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Manitoba Maple Syrup Festival held in McCreary

Continued from Page 1

Over the two day festival folks also enjoyed local music from the Porteous family of Kelwood, Chantale Crivea, Jody Tucker, Desiree Orvis, Caleb Rudkevich and the Cameron Campbell Band. Karl Heinz the Bubbleman was super fun with bubbles as big as the adults. Brash Indigenous provided a beading workshop. The Kids Zone large games, colouring and geocaching were popular and supervised by dedicated volunteer Susie and hard working helpers Gabriella, Mo and Sawyer. Many children patiently waited in line for Valerie to expertly paint their faces and arms and she was assisted by Dalnerys. United Thunder got the entire crowd dancing and the Meaghan Bramley Memorial Steppers were super entertaining. People danced away the afternoon to Old Time music by the Campbells. Enchanted Rose carriages gave festival patrons luxurious rides

around town. Sadie and Hannah won the Maple Dessert Baking contest for Maple Pudding and Butter Maple cookies. Check out our Facebook page for the recipes.

Over 75 Volunteers with the support of the official volunteer sponsor MLL made the festival happen. Several groups partnered with the festival to fund-raise for their organizations while providing great food services. The groups included the Marlins Baseball Association, Dead Ox Trailblazers and the local Food Bank committee. Local congregations shared worship and song with the festival attendees.

The Manitoba Maple Syrup Festival committee (Debbie and Redg Johnson, Bob and BettyAnn Gass, Justin and Amanda Asham, Cas and Dan Lytle, Bernice Dillman, Allan Krieser and Pam Little) are proud to report that this festival was a tasty, fun and successful event. Hope to see you next year.



PHOTOS BY DIANE WARNER

Pictured left: Wagon rides out into the sugar bush are a classic staple of the Manitoba Maple Syrup Festival, held annually in McCreary.

Pictured below: Out in the sugar bush, attendees of the festival enjoyed the warmth of the available bonfires, refreshments, and some good conversation.



Ag Expo and Neepawa Titans support Neepawa Baseball/Softball



PHOTO BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

The Neepawa Baseball Softball Facility received a hearty boost on Wednesday, Apr. 22 from the Neepawa Ag Expo and Neepawa Titans. That afternoon, Matt Lowry (Neepawa Ag Expo coordinator) and Ken Pearson (head coach of the Neepawa Titans) met with Lance Nugent (Neepawa Baseball Softball Facility vice president) for a cheque presentation totalling \$3,210.50. These funds will be used for upgrades and maintenance such as additional clay on the diamonds.

Niverville Nighthawks win MJHL's Turnbull Cup



PHOTO COURTESY OF MJHL

For the first time in franchise history, the Niverville Nighthawks are the MJHL's Turnbull Cup Champions after completing the 4-0 series sweep of the Virden Oil Capitals. Nighthawks goaltender, Austin Dubinsky, was named Most Valuable Player of the McMunn & Yates Turnbull Cup Playoffs, going 12-1, with a 1.31 goals against average and 0.956 save percentage. Niverville will now travel to Summerside, Prince Edward Island, to compete for a national championship at the Centennial Cup from May 7 to 17.

Club 55 Bowling

Apr. 23: Ladies' High Single & Triple: Caroline Harding 261 & 560.
Men's High Single & Triple: Darrell Gabler 219 & 508. **Other Good Scores:** Laurie Kohinski 156, 207; Darrell Gabler 153; Caroline Harding 164; Vivian Oswald 174, 202, 166; Chuck Morden 187, 161; Judy Gabler 165; Frank Porada 151; Elsie Slimmon 197, 178; Carole LeBoutillier 229, 155.

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CUSTOM POSTERS & POST CARDS

A cribbage show-down at Newdale

Submitted
Neepawa Banner & Press

On a beautiful sunny day, April 12, 2026 the second annual crib tournament was held in Newdale, MB. People came throughout southwest MB to participate. There were 62 people including 31 teams of two competing for huge cash prizes.

First place and the 1/2 way winner was awarded to Russell and Mervin McMurachy, second place to Ted Major and Brenda Asmundson, third place to Dustin Larsen and Lori Brewster.

There was also a cash prize for the lowest score. The 50/50 draw of \$420 was split between the Newdale Early Bird Drop In Centre and Fay McEachern.

Lyle Graham won the Jelly Bean Contest.

All patrons enjoyed a delicious roast beef dinner prepared by Newdale Chef Lyle Graham and his helper Lori Brewster.

The next tournament will be held in the Fall. This is a tournament you don't want to miss (registration fills up quickly)!



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Pictured above: The first place winners Russell and Mervin McMurachy.



Pictured top right: Second place winners Ted Major and Brenda Asmundson.



Pictured right: Third place winners Dustin Larsen and Lori Brewster

Waves of Hope paddles toward \$150K goal

Submitted
Brandon University

Westman and Parkland's breast cancer survivor dragon boat team, Waves of Hope, is turning shared experience into action—bringing southwestern Manitoba together for learning, connection and a major new investment in local research.

On Saturday, Apr. 11, more than 120 people gathered at Brandon University for A Day of Hope & Education, the first-ever, one-day conference in the Westman region dedicated to exploring breast cancer research, wellness, and survivorship through a patient-focused lens.

Designed with a patient-first approach, the conference offered sessions on supportive care, wellness and navigating the complexities of treatment, alongside topics such as dense breast awareness and lymphedema.

The event also marked the official launch of Hope in Our Backyard, a multi-year fundraising campaign with a goal of raising \$150,000 by 2029 in support of the breast cancer research happening at the university's Breast Cancer Cell & Molecular Research Lab. Waves of Hope contributed the first \$25,000 to kickstart the campaign, and though the exact total is still being counted, several additional thousand dollars were raised throughout the day.

Keynote speaker Dr. Mousumi Majumder, a leading researcher in the field, shared insights from her work as founder of the lab. Established in 2023, the Breast Cancer Cell & Molecular Research Lab is advancing understanding of how breast cancer develops at the cellular level, including research into earlier detection through blood markers and new treatment targets for aggressive forms such as triple negative breast cancer. Brandon University is at the forefront of this innovative research.

"Community-driven funding plays a critical role in accelerating discovery," said event organizer, and Waves of Hope member, Faye Simpson. "It allows researchers to spend more time in the lab and less time pursuing grant funding."

Brandon University's Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Greg Gatién, who attended the event, agreed that the effect of community members coming together is undeniable.

Continued on Page 17

Advertise in the FARMERS' ADVOCATE

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September 25 • October 30 • November 27

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Full page \$1,499

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1/4 page \$519

1/8 page \$299

Business card \$129

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For more information or booking contact us at

ads@neepawabanner.com

We'd love to feature pictures of local farms. If you have a photo you'd like to share, please send it to us at

news@neepawabanner.com

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To PLACE AN AD:

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All word classifieds must be prepaid before printing

Yard Sale

211 McKenzie Ave. S. Plumas MB. May 1 - 2, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Gun Cabinet, Tools, Chairs, Antiques, George Forman Grill, Fishing Equipment, Hurricane Lantern. Plus Much More. (204-386-2564)

Personal

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

Notice

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

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

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

Matthew 10:28 KJV
And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him (Him) which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Obituary



Sylvia Palano (Rainkie)

Sylvia, wife of John Palano, peacefully passed away on March 22, 2026 at the age of 80.

She was predeceased by her parents Tony and Lily Rainkie, brother Garry, and infant daughter Tammy Palano.

Sylvia will be lovingly remembered by her sisters Leona (Dennis) Beaumont and Linda Braun, and many nieces and nephews. Cremation has taken place and a funeral service will be held at a later date.



Madeline Ann Birch

Madeline Ann Birch passed away peacefully following a courageous battle with cancer on April 25, 2026 at the Neepawa Memorial Hospital at the age of 82 years.

Born November 7, 1943 at Melita, Mb. and received her education in Lyleton, Tenby and Glenella. On August 24, 1968, she married Ross (Pinky) Birch and they resided in Neepawa.

Madeline's first job was at the Neepawa Bus Depot where she worked for many years. She was employed after that at Marr Fashions and Harris Pharmacy until her retirement.

Left to cherish Madeline's memory is her son Rob (Ang) and granddaughter Kenzie. She will also be missed by her brothers Pat (Marie), Tom (Eleanor), Bob (Eileen); sisters Mary (Hugh) McLean, Sheila Foxon; brothers-in-law Donnie Birch and Frank Seddon; sisters-in-law Nancy Birch and Penny Birch; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Following Ross's death Madeline moved to Howden Place where she made many special friends, Mary Ellen, June, Elaine, Florence and many others.

The family would like to thank Madeline's home care staff and the doctors and staff at the Neepawa Hospital for their kindness and compassion.

Funeral Service for Madeline will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2026 at 11am at the Neepawa United - Anglican Church in Neepawa, with Rita Friesen officiating.

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

Notice

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

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

Livestock

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

For Sale or Rent

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

For Sale

John Deere toys for sale, excellent condition. Dauphin area. 1-204-638-5508

For Sale

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

Summers Heavy Harrows, 36 ft, 22 inch tines. Excellent condition. Phone or text 204-476-0364

For Rent

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

Coming Events

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

Auctions

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

Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE you are invited to attend

The Rural Municipality of Alonsa 2026 FINANCIAL PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

HEARING LOCATION:

Council Chambers at the Municipal Office
20 Railway Avenue - Alonsa, MB

DATE & TIME:

May 7, 2026
11:00 AM Public Hearing

Public Notice is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act, that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Alonsa intends to present its proposed 2026 Financial Plan.

The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested person to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection.

Once completed; copies of the proposed draft financial plan can be viewed at the municipal office or online at www.rmofalonsa.com.

Questions and comments may also be directed to CAO Tami Dumanske at 204-767-2054 or by email to info@rmofalonsa.com.



Dated this 19th day of March, A.D. 2026

Tami Dumanske
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Alonsa



PUBLIC NOTICE

Municipality Of North Cypress-Langford Additions to the Voters List and/or Personal Security Protection Requests

In accordance with Section 36 of The Municipal Councils and School Boards Election Act (MCSBEA), the Municipality of North Cypress-Langford Voters List is open for changes or revisions.

- Any person who is eligible to vote in municipal elections in the Local Authority of the Municipality of North Cypress-Langford can have his or her name added to the Voters List, or have any information about the voter on the Voters List corrected
- Any person can request to have his or her name and address obscured from the Voters List

A person whose name has been obscured will receive a Personal Security Certificate and identification number. In a civic election, that person may only vote by Sealed Envelope Ballot and cannot vote in person at the regular or advance voting places

To implement the above, a written request must be submitted to the Senior Election Official, in person, by email or mail.

Mun of North Cypress-Langford
PO Box 220 316 4th Ave
Carberry MB R0K 0H0
Telephone number: (204) 834-6600
Email: admin@myncl.ca

The next General Election takes place on October 28, 2026

Ernie Epp
Senior Election Official (SEO)

The Kelwood Village Committee

requires

Grass Cutting

in Kelwood Cemetery, vacant lots, behind fire hall and boulevards on a per cut basis.

Cutting will be under the direction of the Village Committee.

Tenders close 1:00 p.m. on May 14, 2026

Tenders should be sent to:
Doug Wood Box 99 Kelwood, MB R0J 0Y0

Notice

The Wellwood Cemetery Association are gratefully accepting any donations to put towards the yearly summer maintenance. Thank you for your consideration.

Please make checks payable to Wellwood Cemetery Association and mail them to:
Blair Graham, Box 11, Wellwood, MB. R0K 2H0



PUBLIC NOTICE

Municipality Of North Cypress-Langford 2026 FINANCIAL PLAN HEARING

Public Notice is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162 (2) of the Municipal Act that the Council of the Municipality of North Cypress-Langford intends to present its financial plan for the fiscal year 2026 at a public hearing on the 11th day of May at 7:00 p.m. at the North Cypress-Langford Municipal Office council chambers, 316 4th Ave. Carberry.

Council will hear any person who wishes to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the financial plan, as provided by email at cao@myncl.ca or dropped off at the municipal office by May 8th. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions during the presentation.

Any person who has questions, needs clarification or requires further information, prior to the hearing is encouraged to contact Valorie Unrau, CAO.

Copies of the financial plan will be available for review by April 30th, 2026. Please contact our office by phone (204 834-6600) or email at admin@myncl.ca.

The 2026 Financial Plan will be posted on our website.

Valorie Unrau, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of North Cypress-Langford



NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Municipality of North Cypress-Langford

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

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that candidate registrations will be received:

For the office of head of council: Between May 1 and September 22, 2026

For the office of councillor: Between June 30 and September 22, 2026

at the Municipality of North Cypress-Langford office, 316 4th Ave Carberry MB R0K 0H0 during the regular hours of business.

To obtain a registration form contact the municipal office at 204-834-6600.

Dated at Carberry, Manitoba on April 13, 2026.

Ernie Epp
Senior Election Official (SEO)

Tender

The Kelwood Village committee

is tendering the position of

Household Garbage and Recycling Pick Up

Pick up is required to be done once a week, preferably on Monday. Applicant must use their own vehicle. Pick up includes all private residences, all businesses, campground, mail shelter building and Lions Club gazebo.

The successful applicant is responsible to work with the landfill manager. Applications to be sent to:
Doug Wood, Box 99, Kelwood, MB. R0J 0Y0

Tenders close 1:00 p.m. May 14, 2026



TURTLE RIVER SCHOOL DIVISION

Invites tenders for:

GRASS CUTTING for the 2026 season

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

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

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

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

Please send tenders to:

Stephen Oversby, Maintenance Supervisor

Turtle River School Division

Box 309

McCreary, Manitoba R0J 1B0

Phone: (204) 835-2067

Email: soversby@trsd.ca

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

Notice



NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION Municipality Of McCreary

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

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will be receiving candidate registrations:

For the office of head of council: Between May 1, 2026 and September 22, 2026

For the office of councillor: Between June 30, 2026 and September 22, 2026

at the Municipality of McCreary office, 432 First Avenue, during the regular hours of business.

To obtain a registration form contact the SEO at the email or telephone number listed below.

Lorilee Ryzner

Senior Election Official (SEO)

Municipality of McCreary

Box 338 McCreary, MB R0J 1B0

Phone: 204-835-2309

Email: municipality@mccreary.ca

Dated at McCreary, MB on April 24, 2026.



Email: ads@neepawabanner.com

Help Wanted



Industrial Plant Cleaner (NOC 65312)

Why join our team?

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

The current starting wage is \$24.00/hour with incremental increases to \$26.10/hour based on tenure as per our Collective Agreement

Quick Facts:

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

What we can offer you:

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

Your duties may include:

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

We are looking for people who are:

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

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

Ways to apply:

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

For inquiries contact: Phone: 204.476.3393

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

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



@HyLifeLTD @hylifeldt @HyLife



invites applications for the following position:

Part-Time Educational Assistant at Twilight Colony School

See Division website for more details on this position at www.beautifulplainsd.ca
 Click on Job Postings.



Hog Receiving Barn Worker (NOC85100)

Why join our team?

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

The current starting wage is \$20.75/hour with incremental increases to \$22.05/hour based on tenure

Quick Facts:

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

What we can offer you:

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

Your duties may involve:

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

To excel in this role, you should possess:

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

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

Ways to apply:

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

For inquiries contact: Phone: 204.476.3393

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

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

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



@HyLifeLTD @hylifeldt @HyLife



invites applications for the following position:

Transportation Supervisor

at the Bus Garage located in Neepawa, MB

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

See Division website for more details on this position at www.beautifulplainsd.ca
 Click on Job Postings.



Industrial Butcher (NOC 94141)

Why join our team?

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

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

Quick Facts:

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

What we can offer you:

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

Your duties may include:

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

We are looking for people who are:

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

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

Ways to apply:

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

For inquiries contact: Phone: 204.476.3393

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

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



@HyLifeLTD @hylifeldt @HyLife



JOB DETAILS:

Full-Time
 Permanent
 7.75-hour Day shifts
 Neepawa District Memorial Hospital
 Starting Wage: \$47.935/hour

QUALIFICATIONS:

- * Licensed, Journeyman: (as recognized by the Province of Manitoba)
- Instrumentation and Control Technician, ^{or}
- Electrician, or -Electrical Technologist (CET), ^{or}
- Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanic
- * Three (3) years of experience as a recognized journeyman within the last five (5) years.

See the full job description in the job advertisement on our Careers website.

APPLY TODAY:
www.careers.pmh-mb.ca

HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOR ALL



Job Opportunity

Public Works Machinery Operator Term Position - 8 months

Start Date: May 11th, 2026

Reports to: Public Works Foreman

Salary: Hourly Wage at \$28.12 as per collective agreement

Hours of Work: Regular hours of work are Monday to Friday, 7:00 am to 3:30 pm with a half-hour lunch break.

Location: Municipality of North Cypress-Langford (Carberry Shop)

Position Responsibilities:

Operating all North Cypress-Langford machinery safely and effectively in order to assist the public works department in its role in ensuring safe driving conditions year-round.

In accordance with these responsibilities the following duties are performed:

- Operate plow, grader and packer
- Perform normal machinery servicing and minor repairs
- Assist in beaver control
- Installation of culverts
- Tree/bush maintenance
- Installation/maintenance of signage
- Road maintenance/building
- Any other related duties as assigned by the Foreman or the Municipality

In addition, the incumbent will receive custom work for private citizens delegated by the Foreman.

The incumbent may be required to operate machinery in excess of 8 (eight) hours per day.

Desired Qualifications:

- To be familiar with the operation of the following machinery:
 - o Graders/Dozers
 - o Service Trucks
 - o Tractors
 - o Ditch Mowers
 - o Other job-related machinery/equipment

Training/Education:

- Must have a valid Manitoba Driver's License
- Must have an education or related experience in the operation of the road maintenance equipment
- Must be able to operate equipment and be prepared for overtime in adverse weather conditions
- Minimum Grade 12 education or equivalent of
- Experience in welding, surveying, signage, road inspection, waste management and trapping would be assets
- Class 3 would be considered an asset.

For more information, or to apply, please contact:

Valorie Unrau
 Interim CAO, Municipality of North Cypress-Langford
 204-834-6600 Extension 3
cao@myncl.ca

Resumes will be accepted until May 8th, 2026 12:00 p.m.

**We thank you for your application.
 Only those selected for interviews will be contacted**

**CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE
 TUESDAY NOON**
 Cancellations and corrections only within business hours and corresponding deadlines.

*Thank you for
 reading the Neepawa
 Banner & Press*

SERVICES GUIDE

Birnie Builders

Redi-Built and on site
homes, cottages,
huron PVC Windows

Phone/Fax
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Speeches 'Inspiring and emotional'

Continued from Page 14

"I was deeply moved and affected by this event. Among many things I learned from these remarkable women, is that when it comes to cancer, there's no underestimating the power of community, and especially of positive community," Gatien said. "It was inspiring and emotional to hear from speakers who described their own cancer journeys in very raw terms, and I came away from the event with deep and increased appreciation for their strength, generosity, and determination. I was also reminded that we have life-changing, world-class research happening right here at BU, in Dr. Majumder's lab."

For Waves of Hope team manager Michelle Gerrard, a 23-year survivor of triple negative breast cancer, the impact of community support is central to

the event's purpose.

"When you're going through something as overwhelming as cancer treatment, having a group of people who understand without explanation makes all the difference," she said. "This conference is about creating that same sense of connection while helping people better understand what's available to them and the research happening in our own community."

Through A Day of Hope & Education and the Hope in Our Backyard campaign, Waves of Hope continues its nearly three-decade commitment to supporting survivors, raising awareness and fostering hope—while ensuring that life-changing research continues to grow close to home.

To learn more or to donate to the Hope in Our Backyard campaign, visit wavesofhope.ca/hopeinourbackyard.

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Letter: Problems with Question Period

I read with real interest your comments on today's question period in the Manitoba Legislature and as you imply the same comments apply to the Canadian Parliament. Unlike you, I never aspired to be a politician but I spent my whole working career working for them as a civil servant. Some became good friends. Like you I have been thinking a lot about the question period of today and in my opinion it has become a waste of taxpayer monies as I assume it costs money. I fully expect that when a daily question period was first introduced into legislative procedures it was used to ask good and legitimate questions of the government of the day and I expect the questioner could expect to get good honest answers. I understand questions were often received and follow up answers would come later.

You mention the name D L Campbell in your comments.

While I never got to know Mr. Campbell while he was an active politician I had the opportunity and privilege to get to know him well after he retired. If I remember correctly he has a record as one of the longest serving members in legislative history. Among other responsibilities he served as Minister of Agriculture, Premier of Manitoba and Leader of the Opposition. I can't imagine question period in his day being what it is today. I don't think he would have allowed it.

But things have changed. I gather you tend to blame governments of the day for the current status because they won't answer questions. I am the opposite, I tend to blame opposition member questioners for most of the problem regardless of which party they represent. It is the opposition members who set the tone of and control question period. Most of the time opposition members no longer ask questions to get information as much as they

do embarrass the government and make them look bad. In response the government tries to make the questioner look bad. All you have to do is look at how most questions are asked, the prefix used, and often the accompanying back ground noise from supporters to know the questioner is not expecting to get an answer. They only expect a response in kind. And that is generally what they get.

I am also of the opinion that modern day media coverage, particularly television coverage has had a very negative effect on question period.

In my mind, question period is no longer used for its original purpose, in fact it is probably no longer needed. Like you I agree there is probably a better name for the time spent.

Just my thoughts on the topic.

Morris Deveson
Winnipeg, MB

Accountability suffers when scrutiny is treated as a inconvenience

The concerns raised about the tone and conduct in Manitoba's Legislature are not only valid, they're long overdue.

Question Period is meant to be the central mechanism of accountability in our democracy. It should be where government is pressed for answers, where ministers demonstrate competence, and where Manitobans can see serious issues debated with clarity and purpose. Instead, far too often, it has devolved into rehearsed talking points, deflections, and cheap shots that generate more heat than light.

But this didn't happen overnight, and it wasn't always this way—even under NDP governments. There was a time when ministers took questions more seriously, when answers, even if imperfect, attempted to address the issue at hand, and when debate, while partisan, did not regularly cross into open hostility.

Today, the Legislature has turned into a toxic environment where very little of substance actually gets accomplished during Question Period. When the focus shifts from answering questions

to scoring political points and hurling personal insults, accountability suffers. When ministers treat scrutiny as an inconvenience rather than a responsibility, Manitobans are left without the clarity they deserve.

That failure is particularly evident in the conduct of some of the government's most senior voices. The behaviour of the front bench of the Government side is unbecoming to say the least—including from the Government House Leader who is quite literally responsible for the daily proceedings. There are several moments each day when the shouting from the Government benches is so constant and overwhelming that I can not hear what my colleagues are saying—a fitting metaphor for a government that is more interested in noise and repackaged announcements than answers and progress.

And leadership matters. The tone in any workplace—especially one as important as the Legislature—is set at the top. While much of what the public sees is confined to the televised proceedings, those who work in and around the build-

ing know that the culture extends beyond the cameras. The Premier, Wab Kinew, has a responsibility to model respect and professionalism at all times. Unfortunately, the Premier would rather engage in hateful personal attacks than try to understand the issues and struggles being faced by rural Manitobans.

Families are struggling with increasing costs, many looking for child care, parents are concerned about their children's education, and communities seeking safety and justice are not interested in political theatre. They are looking for answers.

There was a time when strong disagreement in the Legislature could still coexist with respect and purpose. That standard has been allowed to erode, and unless those in leadership positions choose to restore it, the dysfunction will only deepen.

Manitobans - including the students who come to witness their democracy in action - deserve better than noise and hostility. They deserve a Legislature that works.

Jodie Byram
MLA for Agassiz

Westman Region Juried Art Show report

Empire-Advance Staff
Vir den Empr e Advance

The 2026 Westman Region Juried Art Show on April 25 was hosted by the Killarney-Turtle Mountain Arts Council, and drew an enthusiastic crowd.

While every piece is professionally adjudicated, the public has an opportunity to vote on their favourite. This year the People's Choice Award was presented to Glenda Cairns Poirier of Sinclair for her 11x14-inch oil painting, Pilgrims.

Best in Show selected by the jurors, was awarded to Jacqui Beckett of Moosomin, Sask., a long-time member of the Hamiota Arts Club, for her 8x10-inch soft pastel work, Keith's Calf.

The two 2026 jurors, Lucie Lederhendler of Brandon and Leona Brown of Winnipeg, provided written feedback on every submitted work.

Juror Leona Brown reflected on the experience of judging art, stating, "Judging work is an honour, but extremely difficult. I have to feel awe and an electric jolt of intent. Then the shapes, values, and colours must be orchestrated to create an emotional experience and a dialogue with the viewer. The best paintings make you ask questions."

A total of 120 artworks were on display, including 68 adult entries, 41 youth entries, and 11 from Touchwood Park (a Neepawa community association that provides support for adults living with intellectual disabilities).

The works were created by artists from 23 communities: Oak Lake, Shoal Lake, Moosomin, Hamiota, Brandon, Killarney, Neepawa, Melita,

Alexander, Boissevain, Virden, Shilo, Rapid City, Minnedosa, Reston, Pipestone, Ninette, Hartney, Redvers, Kenton, Sinclair, Deleau, and Portage La Prairie.

Travelling Gallery

Jurors selected 20 artworks—17 adult, two youth, and one Touchwood Park entry—for the Travelling Gallery. These pieces meet the size criteria for touring (framed dimensions between 11x14 inches and 26x26 inches).

The Travelling Gallery will be exhibited over the next year in 18 communities across the Westman region. The 2026–27 touring schedule will be available soon at the Arts West Council website (www.artswestcouncil.ca), along with photos and a blog about the show.

About the Show

This marks the 47th year that the Arts West Council has organized the annual Westman Region Juried Art Show. The show provides amateur and emerging artists with opportunities for professional feedback, public exhibition, and connection with other creatives. It also offers local audiences a chance to experience a wide range of regional artwork.

Acknowledgements

Arts West Council extends its thanks to the 2026 sponsors: Manitoba Arts Council, Lasting Image, The New System Store, Janzens Paint & Decorating, the Ralph Oliver Family, and Lewis & Jones for their financial support. Appreciation is also extended to the host organization, the Killarney-Turtle Mountain Arts Council, for helping make the event possible.



If you have an opinion about something and want to share it, send us a letter!
If you want to give a little shout-out to an organization or individual in the community, send us a thumbs up or thumbs down! (Thumbs must be under 100 words)

All submissions must include your name or we will not print it!

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Mother's Day GUIDE



Tips to make Mother's Day extra special

Submitted
Metro Creative Connection

Mother's Day is celebrated each May and marks a perfect opportunity to show Mom how much she's loved and appreciated. Mother's Day has been celebrated for more than 100 years, and in that time mothers have grown accustomed to certain staples of the holiday. A bouquet of fresh flowers, Sunday brunch at a local restaurant and some gifts from a partner and the children have become standards each Mother's Day.

While Mother's Day standards may never lose their appeal, families looking to make this year's celebration a little more unique can consider these ideas.

• **Whip up (or order in) some baked goods:** If Mom is the family baker, surprise her this year with some homemade baked goods. An aroma of freshly baked goodies around the house can set a welcoming tone for the day, particularly if the treats are prepared in the morning before Mom wakes up. Partners and children whose baking skills leave a little to be desired can get some freshly baked treats from a local bakery and have them waiting for Mom when she wakes up.

• **Take to the road:** Another way to make Mother's Day extra special is to make the celebration a weekend affair. A weekend getaway can be a welcome breath of fresh air for mothers and serve as a great opportunity for the family to unwind and celebrate Mom away from everything that reminds her of the hustle and bustle of everyday life. A getaway can be an especially ideal surprise for mothers whose children are full grown. Invite adult kids along and make their attendance a surprise for Mom.

• **Book a unique experience.** Experiential gifts have been wildly popular in recent years, so why not incorporate this trend into Mother's Day celebrations? Book a tour of a local vineyard or winery, take Mom to a live theatre performance, or take her out for a day on the water, complete with brunch and a champagne toast. Such memorable experiences won't soon be forgotten and can provide an exciting alternative to previous Mother's Day celebrations.

• **Ensure Mom doesn't lift a finger:** A truly special Mother's Day will give Mom a day off. Partners and kids can team up



IMAGE COURTESY OF METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

to take care of everything from the moment Mom wakes up until she returns to bed at night. Serve breakfast in bed, order in some lunch and then take Mom out for a nice meal at a local restaurant. In between meals, let Mom relax any way she sees fit, whether that's curling up with a good book, dusting off her paint brush

and engaging in some artistic endeavours and/or squeezing in a rare midday nap. Mom will undoubtedly appreciate a full day off, which might just make for the best gift of all.

Mother's Day is the ideal time to offer Mom a unique experience that shows her how much she's loved and appreciated.

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Hidden words: mom, giftcards, xoxo, rose, card

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Mother's Day GUIDE



Experiential gifts for Mom this Mother's Day

Submitted

Metro Creative Connection

It's customary to give Mom a gift on Mother's Day. But what to do when Mom already has all she needs and wants? Experiential gifts can make for thoughtful alternatives to more traditional gifts.

According to GetYourGuide, 92 percent of Americans want experiential gifts over material items, marking a sharp increase from 62 percent in 2021. Amit Kumar, an assistant professor of marketing at the University of Delaware, says his research shows that experiential gifts provide recipients with more happiness than more traditional alternatives.

The happiness a person derives from material items can be fleeting. With that in mind, gift givers can opt for these heartfelt experiential gifts for Mom this Mother's Day.

Spa day

Mothers work hard as they tend to the needs of their families. Nothing can help a mom unwind and

relax more effectively than an entire day of pampering. Treat her to several hours spent getting fawned over with a massage, facial, manicure, pedicure, or a treatment that she prefers. Ensure that the day includes a meal at the spa so she is rested and well fed.

Wellness class

A fitness or wellness class can be an ideal gift for Mother's Day. Book Mom a session at a local yoga or pilates studio or consider a wellness center that offers meditation or healing rooms where calmness is the standard.

Creative learning experiences

Some moms like to develop new skills. Check out the classes at local workshops and book Mom a spot in the next pottery, floral arrangement, cooking, candle-making, or mixology session. She may appreciate the gift even more if you join her.

The arts

Tickets for two to a local art museum, concert, theatrical performance, comedy show, or an immersive exhibit are great Mother's Day gifts. Cater to what interests her most. If a favorite musical artist will be in town, reserve tickets.

Outdoor encounters

Some moms are most content in the great outdoors. Booking some outdoor activities can be a perfect Mother's Day treat. Horseback riding, kayaking, a guided hike, wildlife watching tours, or a weekend getaway to a nature retreat all merit consideration when gifting nature-loving moms.

Tapping creative experiential gift ideas for Mother's Day can make this beloved holiday even more special.

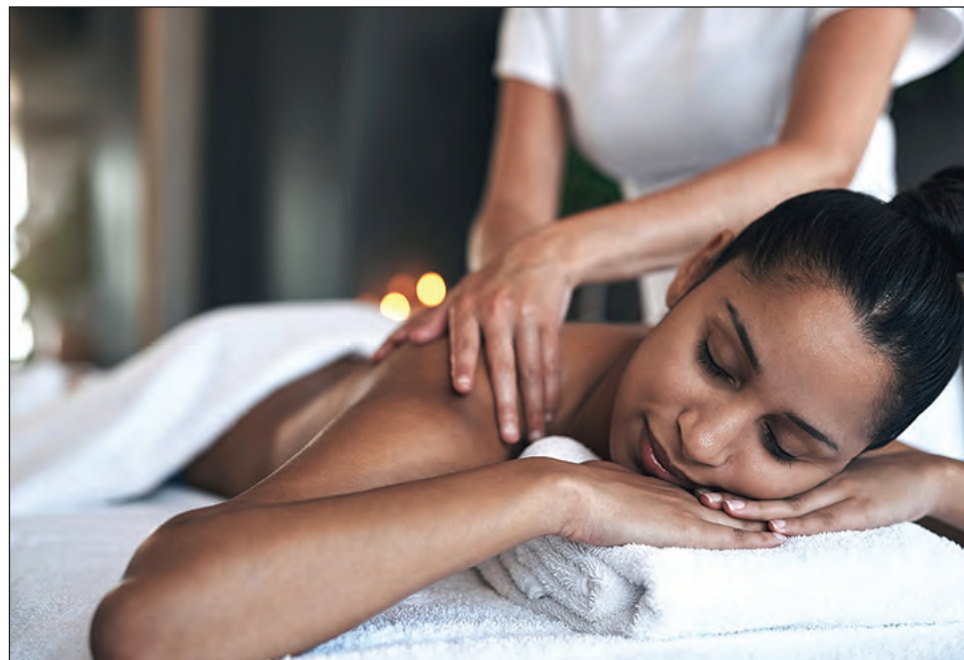


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