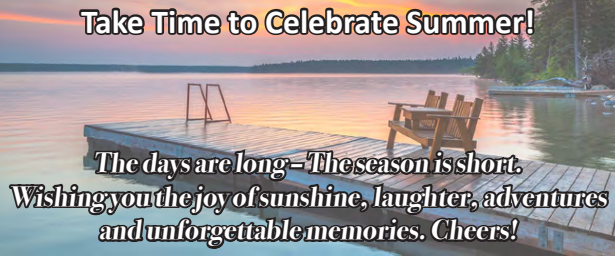


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Inside this week

Page 10: Art out in the wild

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Artists and adventure shine in Neepawa



There was a lot of activity throughout Neepawa on Saturday, July 18. Participants of the 2026 Amazing Race Neepawa were out and about to different organizations and businesses (pictured left), the Maker's Market drew in curious individuals (top right), a set of new custom benches were revealed at ArtFest, and more. For additional photos from these events, see Page 8 and Page 9.

PHOTOS BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

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Neepawa celebrates Royal Canadian Legion's 100th

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Neepawa's Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 23 has joined with communities across Canada in celebrating the 100th anniversary of The Royal Canadian Legion.

Our local chapter was packed to capacity on Friday, July 17, to commemorate the Legion's official incorporation by an Act of Parliament on July 17, 1926.

The local event featured a barbecue, live entertainment and a birthday cake in honour of the national milestone. The celebration also included commemorative messages from Riding Mountain M.P. Dan Mazier and Spruce Woods M.L.A. Jodie Byram, recognizing the Legion's long-standing contributions, both within Manitoba and across Canada.

This year's centennial theme is '100 Years of Supporting Canada's Veterans,' and is celebrating a century of advocacy, remembrance and community service. Branch No. 23 member Ernie Sydor said the Neepawa Legion's success has always been rooted in the support of the community.

"It is a strong community that has answered the call in many ways to help us, not only the current Legion members, but those in the past, to honour their memories and to keep things going," Sydor said.

Sydor added that the branch's accomplishments have been made possible through local volunteers and supporters.

The Royal Canadian Legion was formed after the First World War, when soldiers coming home with injuries and trauma needed support. The organization's purpose has expanded beyond serving veterans and their families to include promoting public awareness of the sacrifices made by Canadian soldiers.

As of this year, the Legion reported an active memberships of about 300,000 across 1,350 branches across Canada. Neepawa's Legion Branch No. 23 includes over 200 members.



PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX

A celebration was held on Friday, July 17 for the Royal Canadian Legion's 100th anniversary. To mark this milestone locally, Neepawa Legion Branch #23 hosted a local celebration, featuring a barbecue and live entertainment. It also included presentations from Member of Parliament (MP) for Riding Mountain Dan Mazier and Agassiz Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) Jodie Byram presenting commemorations to the Legion, received by local member Ernie Sydor.

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Action urged on flooding issues at future housing site

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The recent heavy rain-fall has exposed a potentially significant flooding issue at a prime location for new housing on Neepawa's south side. The affected area is along 9.25 acres located just north of Parkview Street, along the Hillcrest development.

In a presentation to Council on Tuesday, July 14, Don Schmall noted that he believes the increased drainage problems are due to the layout of the nearby tennis and pickleball courts and a blocked storm sewer ditch.

Schmall and his partners looking to develop the property, but are concerned about future flood potential. While Schmall acknowledged that the amount of rain the area recently received there was 'once in a lifetime', once

in a lifetime seems to be happening a lot more often nowadays.

"We're going to get another six inches of rain, it's going to happen. Yes, it's supposedly a once in a 200 year thing, [but] we've had two of those issues in the last five or six or seven years, so it's not a once in 200 anymore."

Schmall said the current development agreement prevents additional fill from being placed on the properties. So to address the issue, he has proposed the excavation of a shallow trench and the construction of a two-foot berm along the rear of the affected lots to divert water away from building foundations.

Council thanked Schmall for his presentation and advised that the matter would be reviewed.

Join MP Dan Mazier and guest MP Larry Brock for a

STOP the **CRIME**

TOWN HALL

in **NEEPAWA**

Monday, August 17, 2026

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Neepawa Legion

425 Brown Ave, Neepawa



DAN MAZIER MP
RIDING MOUNTAIN



LARRY BROCK MP
BRANTFORD—BRANT SOUTH—SIX NATIONS

1976: Big Valley Guest Ranch holds grand opening

By Casper Wehrhahn
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

**125 years ago,
Friday,
July 19, 1901**

Mrs. Jean Blewett, the noted authoress, arrived in Neepawa on the special train on Monday to visit her cousin, Mrs. Wm. Black... She is the only Canadian penwoman having her name in the biography of American Writers.

**100 years ago,
Friday,
July 23, 1926**

Arden: Miss Kathleen Freeborn, of Wellwood, is

the guest of the Misses Vera and Della White. Miss Della White has been engaged to teach the Forestville school near Austin.

**75 years ago,
Thursday,
July 26, 1951**

Funeral services for James Whyte, 75, who passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Fulmor Nielsen, Wellwood, on Friday, July 13, were held from Zion Presbyterian Church, Wellwood, on July 16...

Mr. Whyte was born in Kirriemuir, Scotland. He was educated there

and in 1901 married Miss Georgina Bartie. In 1908, they came to Canada and settled in the Wellwood district, where they farmed a few years before farming at Sidney and Arden. In 1927, they returned to Wellwood, where they resided until their passing. Mrs. Whyte predeceased him in 1947.

Rosedale council at the regular meeting July 19, appointed Reg. Worrey as constable for Kelwood and Twp. 19. Rg. 15. He succeeds the late J. W. Neill.

Note: A letter in the text for Reg. W.'s name was not legible. If there is a correction for this individual's name, it may be sent to this writer via newsroom@neepawabanner.com.

Grant Kennedy's dream of a year-round recreational resort came one step closer to reality Saturday as the Big Valley Guest Ranch officially opened its gates to the public, with dignitaries Ed Schreyer, reeve Gordon Stewart, and Winnipeg Jet captain Bobby Hull attending the ceremonies.

The ranch, located 12 miles north of Neepawa, is being billed by its promoters as "one of the undiscovered wonders of Manitoba", and within a few years, should be "one of the best resorts in Manitoba since the Cypress Hills", which brings us to the reason of why such an official opening in only the early stages of the valley's development.

"Right now, what we're trying to do is establish the potential of the valley," Kennedy said. "But the big problem has always been money, and getting people aware of the valley."

Kennedy said a large number of investors have been bargaining for a share in the resort...

Should financing be successful, Kennedy said, the Guest Ranch would try to provide anything the mar-

ket would demand...

Hiking, riding, and ski trails are in the immediate forecasts for the valley, and a campsite to be jointly built by Big Valley and "... as soon as I can get a new road into the valley," Kennedy said.

**50 years ago,
Thursday,
July 22, 1976**

The Beautiful Plains School Division Board has recommended that the recently closed Wellwood school be sold to Wellwood community for a token sum of \$1.00.

McCreary: Melvin and Eva Blake entertained at a surprise dinner and family party on the occasion of his parent's Earl and Evelyn Blake's 44th wedding anniversary.

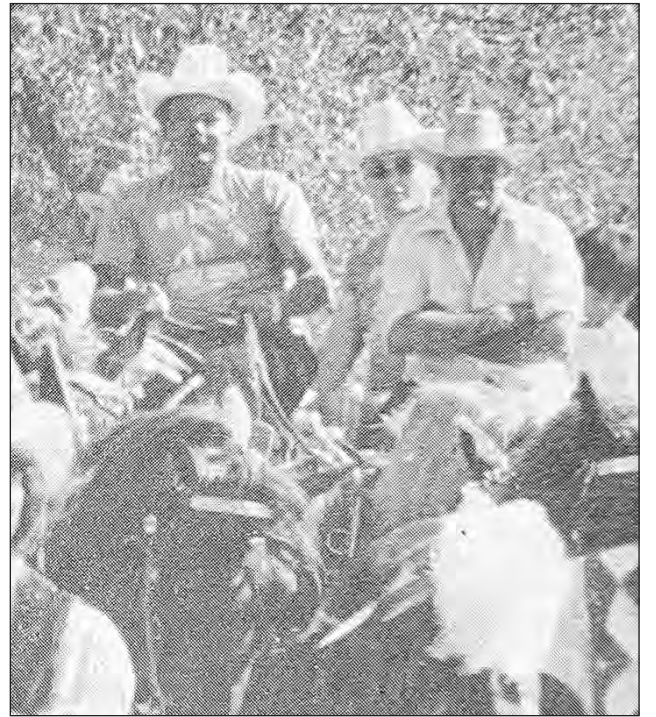
**20 years ago,
Monday,
July 24, 2006**

Two weeks of hot, dry weather with no rain forecast has wilted crops and turned June and July of 2006 into the driest on record.

A Neepawa man has started a petition objecting to the construction of a new ambulance facility on Neepawa Health Centre property, north of the present hospital.

Lorne Wahoski, whose Commerce Street home would back the new building, said he has no objections to an ambulance facility—just the proposed location.

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.



NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES PHOTOS

Big Valley Guest ranch had its grand opening in July of 1976.

Pictured above: After the ribbon cutting, the Premier and his family were seen wandering over the the valley's rodeo grounds via wagon. Schreyer appeared "home on the reins".

The event was also attended by other notable individuals such as Bobby Hull (pictured below) and Gordon Stewart (reeve of the Rosedale Municipality).



**I have chosen the way of faithfulness;
I have set my heart on your laws.**
Psalm 119:30 (New International Version)



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Highlights of the week

ArtFest Events in Neepawa

July 18 at 12:30 pm | July 29 at 8:15 pm | August 1 at 10:30 am

Blue Dolphins Swim Meet

July 28 at 12:30 pm | July 30 at 4:00 pm | July 31 at 9:00 pm

Vintage Natives vs Winnipeg South Blues

July 30 at 8:00 pm

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

**MANITOBA SUMMER GAMES
NEEPAWA (1976) INC.**

Volunteers Needed

The finals of the Manitoba Summer Games are only a month away and volunteers are urgently needed to help perform the many tasks required to ensure the success of this big event. The Summer Games Committee is looking for persons 16 years of age and over... they need ticket takers, clerks, typists, timers, marshalls, medical clerks, parking directors, etc. Don't worry about not being qualified — there will be adequate briefing sessions for all. If you would like to help, be it for a few hours or the entire six days, give us a call now or mail the form below:

I am interested in sharing in the fun of the Summer Games Finals.

I'd like to help:

☐ Clerk	☐ Medical clerk
☐ Marshal	☐ Switch board
☐ Move equipment	☐ Direct parking
☐ Type	☐ Time
☐ Mail room	☐ Take tickets

Help in some way not mentioned.....

My preference in sports is.....

Name.....

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Mail to: Games Co-ordinator,
Box 1976, Neepawa, Man. R0J 1H0

NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

With Neepawa planning to host the 1976 edition of the Manitoba Summer Games, volunteers were being sought after. This ad is from the July 22 edition of The Neepawa Press for that year.

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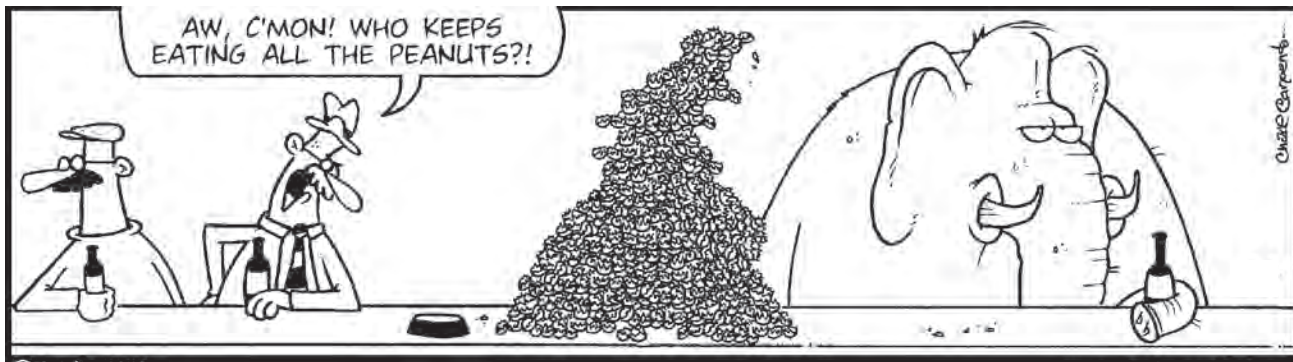
July 29 & 30 • SHOWTIME: 7:30 pm
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A young man must use his untapped powers to fight back against an evil alien and their army, who will stop at nothing to take over Earth and then the universe.

August 5 & 6 • SHOWTIME: 7:30 pm
Toy Story 5

Interested in volunteering? <https://roxyneepawa.ca/volunteer/>

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Many changes in the world of news and newspapers

I have noted a few times in this column that, over the past number of years, 20 or more Manitoba community newspapers have closed up shop. Almost all were corporately owned, unlike most community newspapers in Manitoba, which are privately owned.

There are only two corporately owned community newspapers left in Manitoba after last week's announcement that the Winnipeg Free Press is closing its last two Winnipeg weekly community news editions. At one time, the Free Press had five weekly community newspapers before reducing that number to two a couple of years ago. Now it has none in Winnipeg.

The Free Press' two remaining community newspapers are the Steinbach Carillon and the Brandon Sun's weekly edition, Westman This Week. As a long-time lover of newspapers, rural communities and the written word, newspaper closures sadden me greatly.

The latest threat to community newspapers and the factor that caused the demise of the two Winnipeg weeklies, is the removal of flyers from newspapers by Transcontinental Printing and its distribution arm, Targeo. TC has decided to move to an ad-bag system and will distribute bags of flyers through Canada Post under the brand name Raddar.

I am not sure how that will work, as up to 50 per cent of Canada Post mailboxes are labelled "Consumers' Choice," meaning those customers have opted not to receive flyers. Consumers' Choice is one of the reasons we don't use Canada Post. There are other reasons, but that was a major factor in this paper no longer being delivered through Canada Post.

Canada Post approved \$30.8 mil-

RIGHT IN THE CENTRE

KEN WADDELL



lion in bonuses for its managers and executives in 2025, the same year it recorded its largest pre-tax loss ever and accepted a \$1.03-billion taxpayer-funded bailout, according to government records obtained by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

I am not sure in what alternative universe an executive receives a bonus after hundreds of millions of dollars in losses.

In the television world, Corus Entertainment, owner of the Global Television Network and multiple radio stations, says programming changes across Canada will result in dozens of job losses. Five of those positions are in Manitoba. There have been many other cuts at internet and television companies.

Most media outlets, including newspapers, television and radio networks, receive government subsidies. The most notorious is the CBC, which receives more than \$1 billion every year.

There is also the Canadian Journalism Labour Tax Credit, under which news outlets receive a tax credit for each journalist they employ. In addition, there is the Local Journalism Initiative, while Google funding is distributed by the Canadian Journalism Collective.

A couple of years ago, the federal government announced an agreement with Google over Bill C-18, the Online News Act. The tech giant had

threatened to limit Canadians' access to news on its platforms, similar to the approach taken by Meta.

Under the agreement, Google will pay Canadian news companies \$100 million annually.

Google has officially become the world's most profitable company, reporting \$116 billion in net income over the past year.

Meta took a different approach and blocked access to Canadian news content, including this newspaper. Facebook's parent company, Meta, reported a net profit of \$62.3 billion in 2024.

Large internet companies should be compensating news outlets for their content because they make a great deal of money from news content produced by other people.

There is something I have been wondering about for a while. With all the subsidies coming directly from government, as well as through government-mandated policies, will the day come when all media income comes from government? Or is that part of the plan, so that no news organization will hold government to account?

It is moving closer to reality.

I hope and pray that the media can continue to hold governments and businesses to account. But that means newspapers must stay local, produce good content, and continue to earn the support of advertisers and readers.

Homebodies

RITA FRIESEN



The night of the fireflies...

These tiny little portable flashlights have fascinated me since my childhood. We had a set of paternal relatives that lived several miles away, close to a set of railway tracks and with wet low lands nearby.

Back then, we cautiously captured the flying insects, keeping them in glass jars and watching the flickering glowing lights. We always released them before heading home, never thinking of trying to relocate them. I never noted them around our farmyard, perhaps too dry and not as much natural habitat.

The years we lived on the acreage east of Neepawa it was common to spot, and watch, the fireflies, usually on a humid evening in late June. On the east side of our home was a second floor balcony. One evening, before last rounds, I stepped out on the balcony. I simply stopped and stared. And then I summoned the grandson that was spending time with us that summer. We stood there, surrounded by fireflies.

They settled on the railing, on the balustrade, on us. Watching the miracle, it seemed a reflection of the Milky Way, so numerous and so twinkling, a band that flitted and sparkled above the dry creek bed. I don't know how long we stood there, in real time. The saying 'time stood still' applied that evening. The silence — even the highway traffic had stilled, the broken darkness, the beauty, we simply stood.

That moment of beauty took me back to a summer night in 1974. Travelling home from Carman, the announcer on the radio suggested that anyone that could get away from bright lights hasten to do so. The Northern Lights were putting on a quality show. I was away from any lights, miles from home yet miles from the nearest town. I pulled over and stepped out of the vehicle. Now this was Southern Manitoba, near Carman, and the lights were dancing directly above me. These last few seasons we have been blessed with incredible photos of the aurora borealis. That summer night outshone them all. In the perfect silence, one could hear the angels singing as they danced across the night sky.

The colours were brilliant, they moved, melded, and spun. Hues so intense one could only marvel. That segued to a summer night on a boat dock at Camp Koininea. A night of a meteor shower so stunning that we broke curfew for all who wanted to witness the wonder of falling stars, shooting stars, meteors flashing and reflecting in the still lake water.

By nature I am a night owl. The quiet of the dark invites me to sit and think a bit. I am ever thankful that my home here in town is close to the tracks, away from too many bright lights. I can step away and again see the wonder of the Northern Lights, the brilliance of the night stars, and every once in a while — the fireflies. It will be on a warm, humid, summer night, and there they are. Waiting for me. And so, as an anticipated guest, I pause and admire. I no longer feel the need or desire to capture them. I simply admire and wonder.

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News releases and leads: news@neepawabanner.com
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423 Mountain Avenue, Box 699, Neepawa, Manitoba R0J 1H0
Telephone: (204) 476-3401
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Letters to the editor

Letter: Minnedosa prepares for the worst in the best ways

When the Little Saskatchewan River threatened to flood Minnedosa in early July, I learned about the caring heart and hands of this town.

Having moved to Minnedosa from Toronto in April to care for my ailing parents, Murray and Florence Carter, I had already experienced much personal care from people here. But with the approaching flood, I saw broader community care in this big-hearted town.

At the first town meeting on July 4, when flood waters surged toward Minnedosa, many people expressed concerns, some with tears, others with anger. Mayor Ken Cameron handled the questions and tensions with wisdom, poise, and grace.

Afterwards Cameron spoke to me about the recurring flooding from the creek by my parents' house and how the town is seeking to find solutions. He cared about our family's needs.

The next day, I drove out to the town shop at 157 Crerar Bay to help fill sandbags. When I entered the large shed, I paused, unsure of where I was or what to do. Then I saw familiar faces.

Rev. Marc Vandersluys, Minnedosa Evangelical Covenant Church's senior pastor, stood by a huge pile of sand, tirelessly shoveling it into bags. He wasn't just a pulpit-preaching pastor. He got sweaty and dirty out there serving the community.

In a bright red shirt, Ray Baloun smiled and encouraged people as he also shoveled sand.

"Hey everyone!" he boomed, "This is Annette Ford, all the way from Toronto. She recently moved here to care for her parents!" Then he introduced me to each person in the shed.

"It helps if everyone knows everyone else here as we work together," said Baloun. "It makes the work easier."

I never dreamed I would enjoy tying sandbags, holding bags for the shovelers, and even shoveling the sand with sweat dripping off my face. But I did enjoy it because of my new friends with caring hearts and sandy hands.

I returned home to watch the foxes frisk in the meadow, the deer investigate our rhubarb patch, and the bluebirds dine on our feeder, and I thanked God for the privilege of living in this beautiful town, with a community that genuinely cares.

Annette Ford
Minnedosa, MB

Manitoba MLAs' paid more than double average American state rep

Canadian provincial politicians were paid substantially larger salaries than American state representatives in 2025, according to a new report from the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

"Manitoba MLAs are among the highest-paid politicians in North America and they're not delivering better results," said Gage Haubrich, CTF Prairie Director. "Giving bigger paycheques to politicians doesn't lead to better outcomes for taxpayers."

The median Canadian provincial politician made nearly three times the salary of the median American state representative at \$113,637 and \$45,002 respectively, according to the report.

Manitoba MLAs earn a base salary of \$112,273. That's more than double the median American state representative. Backbench MLAs took a 2.8 per cent or \$3,005 raise last year.

Manitoba's top combined marginal tax rate is higher than rates in all American states.

While MLAs are paid significantly more than most of their American peers, the province's economy is not keeping pace. Manitoba's GDP per capita is lower than all American states but Mississippi.

"Manitoba politicians take double the pay of their average American counterparts while hitting families with higher taxes and less economic prosperity," Haubrich said. "Manitobans pay some of the highest taxes in North America and deserve politicians focused on lowering their bills and delivering for taxpayers, not padding their own paycheques."

Gage Haubrich
Prairie Director
Canadian Taxpayers Federation

HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

Strawberries

Sweet red strawberries benefit your memory, boost your immune system, keep your heart healthy and are just delicious. Apparently, they got their name from the way they grow. They "strew" baby strawberry plants away from the mother plant. So, we are really eating "strew berries". Strawberries are ideal candidates for strawberry desserts like fresh strawberry pie and they're a must in any summer fruit salad. They're also the perfect topping on a big stack of pancakes.

This pie is so easy to make and so yummy to eat.

Fresh strawberry pie

- 5-6 cups sliced fresh strawberries
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 2 cups water
- 3 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 1 small box of strawberry flavored Jell-O
- 1 (9 inch) prepared graham cracker crust or baked pie shell

Mix sugar, water and cornstarch together in a medium-large saucepan. Stirring all the while, bring to a boil. Turn down the heat and cook for one minute or until thickened. Stir in the package of Jello. Let cool slightly for a few minutes. Fold in sliced strawberries, toss until well coated. Pour into prepared crust. Chill until well set, about 2 to 4 hours. Serve topped with whipped cream.

A great summer breakfast or lunch.

Strawberry pancakes

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup of mashed strawberries
- 2 cups milk
- 4 Tbsp. oil
- 1 1/4 cup white flour
- 1/2 cup whole wheat flour
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- Fresh sliced strawberries for serving

Beat the eggs. Add the strawberry puree, milk and oil and mix well. In another bowl mix the flour, sugar, baking powder and cinnamon together. Add to the wet ingredients and stir just until moistened. Cook on a hot griddle turning only once when bubbles cover the unbaked side. Serve with fresh strawberries, syrup and whipped cream.

Course vandalism at Neepawa Golf & Country Club



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEEPAWA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Significant damage was recently caused by a vehicle at the Neepawa Golf & Country Club. It's believed that the vandal came off lagoon roads, just north of the golf course. If anyone has information on this incident, please email pro@neepawagolf.com

Provincial neighbours celebrate Neepawa-born author's 100th birthday



PHOTOS BY J A FORRESTER

Neepawa, Manitoba wasn't the only place celebrating the 100th birthday of Margaret Laurence. Over in the neighbouring province of Ontario, a reception was held in the Lakefield College School Library. A combination of authors and moderators assisted with the celebration, which featured a birthday cake and a portrait of Margaret Laurence, which was commissioned by Knockabout Media of Montreal. Two filmmakers, Ryan Barnett and Sonia Gemmiti, were present to partake in and film the event.

Top photo: Moderator Hollay Ghadery, Terry Fallis, Kate Cayley, Marcus Cutler, LLF Chair John Boyko, Loretta Garbutt, Marilyn Simonds, Rod Carley, Moderator Charles Foran, Plum Johnson, Souvankham Thammavongsa, and Moderator Amy Jones at the LLF's reception in the Lakefield College School Library.

Above left: Filmmakers Ryan Barnett and Sonia Gemmiti posing with the portrait of Margaret Laurence. The Neepawa Banner & Press is told that the footage they took is planned to be posted on Knockabout Media's website.

Above right: Vanessa Stark, new LLF Chair, cut the birthday cake for those in attendance at the reception.

Margaret Laurence Home story competition winners announced



PHOTO BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

Pictured: A view of Neepawa's Margaret Laurence Home as it appeared on July 18. Festive decorations were set up for the commemoration the 100th birthday of author Margaret Laurence, who resided in Neepawa in her youth. She was born in Neepawa on July 18, 1926.

Banner Staff NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

There was plenty of activity in Neepawa on July 18, with the annual market, ArtFest, and more grabbing peoples' attention. Included in the very busy weekend was the official announcement of winners for the Margaret Laurence Home (MLH)'s short story contest.

The contest was organized to help celebrate the 100th birthday of Neepawa-born author Margaret Laurence. Entries for the contest had been accepted from June 9 to July 13, and over 20 submissions were received.

"Thank you for celebrating Margaret Laurence's birthday with us through your wonderful stories," the MLH board said in its public announcement.

- Contest winners**
- Beginner category:** Isabel Hildebrandt, for the story titled 'The Angry Teacher'.
 - Intermediate category:** Joaquin Velasco, for the story 'The Warrior and the Reaper'.
 - Advanced category:** Carleen Buchan, for the story titled 'To Love a Mother'.

Congratulations to each of these writers.

Each of the winner's stories will be available on the MLH's website (margaretlaurencehome.ca), and their social media. As of the Neepawa Banner & Press's print deadline, the stories were yet to be posted. However, a brief preview of each story is available in the results announcement on the MLH's social media page.

Hey! you!
If you're reading me that means others are too! Place your ad here!
Call 204-476-3401

Old Canada: Minnedosa's Main St. in 1905



PHOTO COURTESY OF OLD CANADA SERIES

Shown here is a view of Minnedosa's Main Street in 1905. As can be seen, this was long before the roads were paved. Although many things have changed, the overall view of this street still feels quite similar to today!

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Neepawa agrees to lease deal with Assiniboine College

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The final hurdle in the return of a Practical Nursing program to Neepawa in 2027 has been cleared. On Tuesday, July 14, Neepawa Town Council approved signing a new lease agreement with Assiniboine College for the rental of the Neepawa Training Facility.

The agreement, which begins Aug. 1 and runs until Sept. 30, 2028, will see the facility used as a base for the college's Licensed Practical Nursing program, which scheduled to begin in January.

The space, located in the former RCMP building at 239 Mill Street, will also be used for an adult

learning centre. Under the terms of the lease deal, the Town of Neepawa will receive \$5,000 per month.

This marks the return of Assiniboine College to Neepawa, as the inaugural two year program launched back in early 2024. During its' year hiatus from Neepawa, the program was taught in Steinbach.

Practical Nursing is Assiniboine's single largest program and is currently being delivered in 11 communities across Manitoba, including permanent sites in Brandon, Winnipeg, Dauphin and Portage la Prairie.

Extra overnight rainfall cause overland flooding on some Minnedosa streets



Additional rain last week created some overland flooding issues in Minnedosa on Thursday, July 16. The intersection of 1st St. S and 3rd Ave. S.W., as well as 4th Ave. S.E. (pictured) were the most heavily impacted.

PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX

MOONLIT CANOPY | 49.4398° N, 99.6455° W

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MANITOBA
CANADA'S HEART IS CALLING

PHOTO: MOONLIT CANOPY

What's on the market?



PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX AND CASPER WEHRHAHN
The Riverbend Maker's Market shifted to the Beautiful Plains County Courthouse grounds this year. Booths of a variety of vendors were set up throughout the yard.



Music, food and creativity at Neepawa's ArtFest



PHOTOS BY CASPER WEHRHAHN AND EOIN DEVEREUX
Pictured here are a few scenes from Neepawa's ArtFest, including artists with their in-progress works, a live musical performance, new benches for the Neepawa Art Trail, and a delicious barbecue provided by the Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op.



MISSION: POSSIBLE Success!

The annual CPMB Westman Stationary Bike Race raises funds to enrich the lives of our Members! Your generosity pays for much needed equipment like scooters, wheelchairs, adaptive bikes as well as supports adaptive hockey and accessible playgrounds in Westman.

CYCLING FOR CP provides ACCESSIBILITY, MOBILITY and FREEDOM in the community! CPMB gets no government funding so...your gift helps keep our lights on and, assists our Members in living more independent lives! Thank you, we could not do this without you! #CPProud



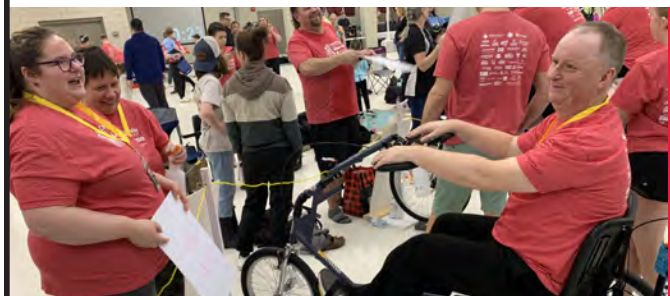
Saturday, April 18, 2026
NEW Bike Race RECORD!



Thank you Neepawa—
Together we raised *\$88,912.50!



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SAVE THE DATE: Sat. April 17, 2027 • Keystone Centre, Brandon

HAPPY RETIREMENT SHIRLEY MERKE!

After all the years, all the client calls, and all the wisdom you've shared, it's finally time!

Here's to slow mornings, no alarms, and doing exactly what you want, when you want.

We're incredibly grateful for everything you've given this team, and we wish you a joyful, well-earned retirement.

To our valued clients that have come to know and rely on Shirley for everything: you're in great hands. Echo Clarke will be taking great care of you from here.

echo.clarke@hubinternational.com
204-953-3587



Racing to the finish throughout Neepawa



PHOTO SOURCED FROM THE MARGARET LAURENCE HOME



PHOTOS BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

Shown here are just a few scenes from the many challenges that were faced by the participants of the 2026 edition of Amazing Race Neepawa. Contestants journeyed throughout Neepawa, rushing to be the first to cross the finish line and potentially be declared the champions—all the while having fun and getting closer acquainted with the many of the town's businesses and organizations. Whether it was steering a remote controlled forklift, finding 'flags' at the local Legion, a gauntlet of physical fitness, or something else entirely, it certainly appeared that everyone gave their all for each challenge.

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I'm honored to serve the residents of Carberry and the surrounding area, and I look forward to growing alongside this community for years to come.

- Ryan Youles
Financial Experience Officer
Carberry Branch



Stride Credit Union is proud to be expanding and opening a new branch in Carberry. Come and meet our new Carberry team at our Grand Opening Celebration BBQ on August 12, between 11:30am and 1pm, at our new branch, located at 10 Main Street in Carberry, MB.





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Plein air workshop leaves artists excited for 2027

By Casper Wehrhahn
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

For some in Neepawa and area, July 16 to 18 was an exercise in the arts. People of varying levels of experience got together on those days for a plein air painting workshop, organized by local artist Shannon Desjardins and ArtsForward's Yvonne Sisley, and guided by Perry Haddock.

Perry Haddock is a Canadian plein air artist hailing from British Columbia, and a member of the Federation of Canadian Artists.

"It's been lucky for me, actually, because it's been a fabulous experience. And Shannon [and Yvonne] did so much prep and organizing that I really didn't have to do anything other than show up," said Haddock. "I've never been to Manitoba, much less a small town in Manitoba, so this was a whole new experience."

A plein air event was held in conjunction with ArtFest for the first time last year, with this year's event being an expansion of the concept. The first two days of the workshop had all participants together up in the Kelwood area, with lodgings at the bed and breakfast known as 'North of 16'. Then, on July 18, the workshop shifted to Neepawa's Park Lake and ArtsForward.

Sessions were held both outdoors and indoors, depending on heat and other factors. Elements aside, the nature of plein air painting, such as a gradually shifting light source (the sun), provided unique learning curves of the participating artists.

Included in the learning process was also a critique period at the end of each day, where the artists gave feedback on each other's work.

Overall, Desjardins shared that those who took part found the workshop to be a valuable experience.

"At the end of the workshop, everybody is excited about what we've learned, and excited about the connections we've made. And excited about next year because this is not the end of it," said Desjardins. "We all really loved this experience and want to keep it going."

Haddock added, "I also heard some discussion among the others this mor-



Pictured left: Beginner and experienced artists alike watching and listening intently as Perry Haddock provides a demonstration during day two of the workshop. While Haddock primarily works in acrylics, he directed the class in a way that the participants would be able to transfer skills to their mediums of choice.



Pictured right: An over-the-shoulder view showing an artist hard at work within ArtsForward, after the workshop shifted indoors on July 18 to take a break from the heat.

ning— as we were packing up and complaining about the mosquitos— that they have plans to meet more often. Just get a few of them together and just do some plein air painting, which is part of what this is all about. It's not just a work-

shop weekend, it's to turn people onto the idea of plein air painting, and the social aspect. Because when you paint, most people who are painters, it's a pretty solitary activity. You do it at home in your study, or at your kitchen table, and you don't

always get a chance to meet with other artists, socialize and learn from each other."

Highlighting this further, Haddock shared that the social aspect of things also simply helps an artist create.

"I've met once a week with a friend of mine for 25 years and we do plein air almost every time— except when we're lazy or the weather's wet, and then we still go to the studio and

paint," said Haddock.

While it is far too soon to share any specifics on next year's event, Desjardins said, "We have tons of ideas. Stay tuned, it's going to be exciting!"



Jodie Byram
MLA for Agassiz

Agassiz Constituency Office
Box 550, Neepawa | MB R0J 1H0
204.390.5428
officeofagassizmla@gmail.com

19th Annual

Manitoba Youth

Beef

ROUND-UP

Neepawa, MB

July 31

August 1 & 2

2026

WWW.MBYOUTHBEEFROUNDUP.WEBSITE.COM

Manitoba Youth Beef Round Up



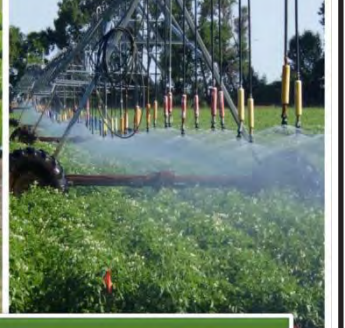
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Personal

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

Notice

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

Birthday

You are invited to a
COME & GO TEA
in celebration of
JUDY WATSON'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

Saturday, August 1, 2-4 pm
at Elks Manor
Rec. Room
Neepawa, MB



Obituary

Robert (Bob) Wilson

The family of the late Robert (Bob) Wilson wishes to express our deepest gratitude to our relatives, friends, and neighbours for their comforting words and acts of kindness during our time of loss. Thank you to everyone who attended the funeral service to honour and celebrate his life. Your love and support have brought us immeasurable comfort during this difficult time. We extend our sincere appreciation to Gloria Mott for leading such a beautiful funeral service, and to Becky Nikolaisen for providing lovely piano accompaniment. We would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the church choir, the ladies who prepared and served lunch following the service, and to Acadia Colony for their beautiful singing as well as generously catering the evening gathering at the farm. A special thank you to Chris Renwick and the Wellwood Community Hall for the use of chairs and tables. Your kindness, thoughtfulness, and support will always be remembered and deeply appreciated.

Retirement



I want to personally congratulate Brenda Birch on her retirement after years of dedicated service as my constituency assistant in Neepawa.

Brenda actually lived in Ottawa for a number of years, but she liked to joke that she had to move back home to find a job in politics. Since then, she was the friendly face and the steady hand for so many people back home who needed help navigating the federal government.

She helped so many people over the years and always went above and beyond, doing it all with an incredible amount of care, patience, and compassion.

I had the privilege of being on the road with Brenda over the years, and some of my favourite memories are the time we spent together getting to know the people and communities we both serve.

Earlier this year I had the honour of presenting her with a Community Service Medallion while she was in Ottawa to recognize everything she has given to the region.

It's not easy to find people who work hard every single day, and it's even harder to find those who love their job every day too. Brenda was both and she leaves our constituency better than she found it.

I hope you'll join me in thanking Brenda for her years of service and wishing her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

-Dan Mazier, M.P.

Notice

A Bible Quote NKJV Timothy 3:12, Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

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

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

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

For Sale or Rent

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

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Neepawa Banner & Press offers full research and re-print services from our 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

Hep Wanted



R.M. of Minto-Odanah

Seasonal Equipment Operator/Laborer

The Rural Municipality of Minto-Odanah is accepting applications for a Seasonal Equipment Operator/Laborer. This position is full time seasonal. Duties to include operation of various municipal equipment and other general duties as assigned.

A Class 3 driver's license would be an asset but not required.

Resumes will be received until the position is filled.

Only those individuals selected for an interview will be contacted.

Submit applications to:

R.M. of Minto-Odanah – Seasonal Equipment Operator/Laborer
49 Main St., Box 1197, Minnedosa, MB R0J 1E0
Fax: (204) 867-1937
Email: admin@mintoadanah.ca

Farm Help Wanted

Jenner Farms Ltd. is a grain farm located 11 miles southeast of Minnedosa, MB. We are looking for responsible and motivated individuals to join our team. We operate modern equipment, and offer competitive wages based on skills and experience.

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Contact Justin
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Westward Ford - Neepawa is seeking a dynamic and customer-focused **Sales Consultant** to join our team. As a Sales Consultant, you will be responsible for guiding customers through their vehicle purchase experience, providing expert advice, and delivering excellent service to ensure complete satisfaction. The ideal candidate will have strong communication skills, a keen understanding of customer needs, and a drive to succeed in a competitive sales environment.

Responsibilities:

- Provide a knowledgeable, welcoming, personal, and professional vehicle-buying experience.
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- Keep up to date on industry technology advances including new products, features, accessories, and manufacturer incentives.
- Maintain a customer follow-up and prospect development system to build and maintain clientele.

Requirements:

- Retail sales experience is preferred
- Excellent interpersonal and relationship-building skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to communicate with customers in multiple languages is preferred
- MPI salesperson's permit (can apply for permit upon hire)
- Must possess and maintain a valid class 5 driver's license or equivalent
- Must be available on weekends

Requests for reasonable accommodation will be accepted during the hiring process.

Please send all resumes to Darcy Hawkins
darcy@westwardford.com

Tender



TURTLE RIVER SCHOOL DIVISION

Invites tenders for

Clear Diesel Fuel & Clear Gasoline

Tenders for approximately 50,000 litres of clear diesel fuel and 190,000 litres of clear gasoline to be delivered to various Division owned tanks situated throughout the School Division.

The duration of the Tender is from September 2026 through June 2027.

Tenders will be accepted until 12:00 pm CDT Friday August 21, 2026.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Please send tenders to:

Collin Janzen, Transportation Supervisor
Turtle River School Division
Box 309, McCreary, Manitoba, R0J 1B0
Phone: 204-835-2067 EXT: 5
Email: cjanzen@trsd.ca

Notice



TURTLE RIVER SCHOOL DIVISION

NOTICE OF VOTERS LIST / PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION

Notice is hereby given that a copy of the VOTERS LIST may be revised at:

808 Burrows Road on Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.

At this time the Senior Election Official (S.E.O.) will be available to update the voters list by:

- adding the names of voters who are entitled to have their names on the list;
- deleting the names of persons who are not entitled to have their names on the list; and
- making such other correction of errors to the list as required.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY:

A person is eligible to have his or her name added to the Voters List if he or she is:

- 1) a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years of age on election day; and
- 2) a resident of the local authority for at least six months prior to election day.

APPLICATION FOR PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION:

A voter may apply in writing to the S.E.O. (at the address / fax number below) no later than September 22, 2026 to have his/her name and other personal information omitted or obscured from the voters list in order to protect the voter's personal security. The application may be submitted in person, by mail or fax and must include your name, address and include proof of identity.

All changes to the voters list must be completed on or before September 22, 2026.

Dated at the village of McCreary in the Province of Manitoba, on July 17, 2026.

Shannon Desjardins
Senior Election Official (S.E.O.)
Turtle River School Division
Box 309, 808 Burrows Avenue
Phone (204) 835-2067 Fax (204) 835-2426

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e.k.kostenchuk.ltd@gmail.com

Help Wanted



Freezerco Inc.
A subsidiary of HyLife Ltd.
30 Market Blvd., Steinbach MB Canada R5G 2X9
t:204.424.5359 | f: 204.424.5177

Hog Receiving Barn Worker (NOC85100)
Why join our team?
Freezerco Inc. is currently hiring five (5) Hog Receiving Barn Workers to join our team at 623 Main St. E., Neepawa, MB. As a subsidiary of HyLife, a global leader in food processing, FreezerCo Inc. offers the opportunity to build a rewarding career in a safe, team-oriented environment while supporting one of Canada's leading pork production operations.
Starting wage: \$20.75/hour, with incremental increases up 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!!!!

Job duties include:

- 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. Knowledge of animal behavior is an asset.
- Capable of working in diverse environments, including exposure to varying temperatures, humidity, and odors
- 1 to 7 months of 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

FreezerCo Inc. is committed to providing equal employment opportunities to all applicants, including Indigenous Peoples, newcomers to Canada, youth, older workers, veterans, and members of visible minority groups.

Ways to apply:
Online at <http://hylife.com/careers/> or mail to PO Box 10,000, 106 Mill St., 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

Business Address: Freezerco Inc. 106 Mill St. East, Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0

FreezerCo Inc. has an accommodation process for employees with disabilities. If you require accommodation during the recruitment or employment process because of a disability, please contact jobs@hylife.com. An HR representative will work with you to determine reasonable accommodations on a case-by-case basis. Our accommodation policy is available upon request.

Join FreezerCo Inc. and start building your future today.

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



@HyLifeLTD @hylifeltD @HyLife



HyLIFE
FOODS

Industrial Butcher (NOC 94141)
Why join our team?
HyLife is a global leader in food processing, with a vision to be the best food company in the world. To achieve this, we are currently expanding our team and have exciting career opportunities at 623 Main St. Neepawa, MB. We are actively seeking to fill 100 positions.

The current starting wage is \$17.95/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, Youth, 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 @hylifeltD @HyLife



HyLIFE
FOODS

Technical Sales Specialist – Exports (Japan Market) (NOC 62100)
Location (On-Site): 623 Main St E, Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0
Number of Position(s): 1

Why join our team?
HyLife Foods LP is a global leader in food processing with a vision to be the best premium pork company in the world. Our mission is to take care of our employees, customers, animals, communities, and our company.

We are seeking a highly skilled Technical Sales Specialist – Exports (Japan Market) to support and expand our business relationships within Japan. This role is primarily responsible for managing customer relationships, developing export sales opportunities, and ensuring alignment between customer requirements and product offerings for the Japanese market. The successful candidate will serve as the key commercial contact for customers and distribution partners.

What we can offer you:

- Competitive annual salary of \$95,000.00
- Vacation entitlement in the first year
- Comprehensive benefits package – dental, vision, extended health, and more
- Permanent full-time employment
- Employee Referral program – Minimum of \$500!
- Free Parking
- Company events
- And more!

Your days will include:

- Preparing quotations and sales documentation, including pricing, contract terms, delivery requirements, and sales agreements.
- Promoting sales to existing Japanese clients while identifying and developing new business opportunities within Japanese distribution channels.
- Assessing customer needs and recommending appropriate products and solutions based on customer requirements and market conditions.
- Developing reports, proposals, presentations, and supporting materials to communicate product benefits and sales opportunities.
- Representing HyLife in export sales activities and maintaining strong relationships with customers, distributors, and business partners in Japan.
- Conducting sales transactions, negotiating commercial agreements, and providing input into product specifications to ensure customer requirements are achieved.
- Providing ongoing customer support, resolving product and service-related issues, and supporting customer complaint investigations and corrective actions.
- Reviewing market conditions, competitor activity, product innovations, and emerging industry trends to support business growth and sales strategies.
- Advising customers on export requirements and regulatory considerations while ensuring compliance with customer and market expectations.
- Monitoring quality and production levels to ensure customer specifications are met, including supervising product fabrication and supporting meat quality improvement initiatives.
- Facilitating training on product specifications and requirements, supporting new product introductions, and working closely with Operations, Production, and Quality Assurance teams to ensure successful execution.
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Submitted: Canada Post and the shuttering of community newspapers

The shuttering of Winnipeg's Community Review means 200,000 households will no longer get the benefit of a free community newspaper delivered to their door. It also means that more than 800 people who deliver the paper and their families will be affected.

This is an unforced error that never should have happened. How did we get here? The answer is complex.

First, there is a high degree of concentration in the flyer printing market in Canada. Montreal-based TC Transcontinental enjoys the dominant position in the marketplace thanks, in part, to a 2012 Competition Bureau-approved asset swap.

Second, municipal and provincial politicians have passed environmental regulations, however well-intentioned, have unintended consequences. Former Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante passed a municipal bylaw that led to the end of distribution of Publisac (a plastic bag with flyers and a community newspaper). Several provinces, including Manitoba, have imposed extended producer responsibility levies on printed newspapers. Ontario's Premier Doug Ford made the wise decision to exempt newspapers from this kind of stealthy journalism job-killing tax in his province.

Third, Canada Post is the biggest culprit. TC Transcontinental, which had distributed Publisac door-to-door in Quebec,

formed a strategic partnership with Canada Post, which as a Crown corporation was not beholden to municipal bylaws. They bypassed Mayor Plante's new regulation by distributing a curated bundle of flyers called Raddar through the national postal service. Unlike Publisac, Raddar did not include a community newspaper. On the sidelines of this saga, news publisher Métro Média and its more than 30 hyperlocal publications — including 17 print newspapers — shut down.

In partnership with Canada Post, TC Transcontinental recently expanded its Raddar offering across Canada. It is understood that Canada Post — which has a mandate to "charge postage rates that are fair and reasonable" — is offering TC Transcontinental rates below what it is offering to community newspapers. To its own benefit, the Crown corporation has effectively shut community newspapers — their private sector rivals — out of flyer distribution, lessening competition substantially in that market.

This is not the first time community newspaper publishers have felt the squeeze of Canada Post in the flyer distribution market. As of January 2024, community newspapers with commercial inserts were no longer exempt from Canada Post's Consumers' Choice program, which allows Canadians to opt out of receiving 'junk mail'. Canada Post made that decision without stake-

holder consultation or economic/social impact analysis and failed to recognize that community newspapers — with or without an insert — are not 'junk mail'; they are a social good.

The juxtaposition of the shuttering of Winnipeg's Community Review at the same time as the revelation of \$30.8 million in bonuses at Canada Post has not been lost on community newspaper publishers across Canada.

What should Ottawa do about it?

First, Joël Lightbound, the Minister responsible for Canada Post, should ensure the Crown corporation is treating community newspapers fairly and offering them comparable pricing to what it offers to TC Transcontinental.

Second, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage should conduct hearings into the role Canada Post can play in the sustainability of community newspapers — ensuring the relationship is one of partnership, rather than predatory and parasitic.

When a community loses a newspaper, like Winnipeg's Community Review or Métro Média's publications in Quebec, the information vacuum can lead to people getting their news from less than reliable sources — like AI and social media — which can create division that drives people apart. Without a check on local government,

corruption, mismanagement, and wasteful spending often flourish, which can result in higher municipal taxes and borrowing costs.

It was not foreign Big Tech monopolists like Google and Meta that caused Manitoba's largest community newspaper to shutter. It was Canada Post.

And it's not like we weren't warned...

Thirty years ago, in his review of Canada Post's mandate, George Radwanski recommended that postal service get out of delivering unaddressed junk mail (i.e., flyers), concluding that the Crown corporation engaged in inappropriate practices that created unfair competition for private businesses like community newspapers.

As a former Toronto Star editor-in-chief, Radwanski knew the news business. He noted that Canada Post was actively siphoning advertising revenue away from the news industry and adroitly cautioned that the state-granted mail delivery monopoly should not be in the business of crippling the financial health of newspapers.

A healthy democracy demands a healthy community news media ecosystem. Let's level the playing field and restore competition in the flyer distribution market before more community newspapers shutter.

Paul Deegan
President and
Chief Executive Officer
News Media Canada

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History lessons with Helen: Prairie pests

By Helen Drysdale
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The prairies are usually on the drier side which makes them ideal breeding grounds for grasshoppers. John the Baptist is said to have lived on locusts and honey. I hope he dipped those grasshoppers in the honey to make them a little more palatable. There have been plagues of grasshoppers long before the settlers came to the prairies. The Red River settlers experienced terrible infestations of grasshoppers leaving the settlers without food supplies for the winter months. Clouds of grasshoppers flew in, darkening the sky, their chittering wings sounding like rain on a tin roof. The grasshoppers would pile up to over a foot high in places and ate the crops, gardens, trees, leaves, grass, wool off sheep and even clothes left on the clothesline to dry.

In the 1930s, as if the dust storms weren't enough, plagues of grasshoppers in biblical proportions appeared across the prairies. The grasshopper outbreaks made the great drought of the Depression far more serious than it otherwise

would have been. The great hordes of grasshoppers often clogged the radiators of cars making the cars overheat and making the roads and railway tracks so slippery they were dangerous to drive on. Poultry ate the insects, giving a bad taste to the meat and eggs. In the 1930s most grasshopper baits consisted of sawdust, with Paris green, an arsenic, mixed with water and spread through the fields for the grasshoppers to eat. To combat the horror of the situation, humour was often used. Postcards were made of pictures of gigantic grasshoppers strapped down to railway cars or being ridden like a horse. Of course these were sent to the faraway city cousins.

As a child in the early 1960s in Saskatchewan the grasshopper infestation was dreadful. My siblings and I would catch the grasshoppers and put them in mudpies as "the raisins" for our chickens to eat. The grasshoppers had scratchy legs and spit on us, flying into our faces and getting down our shirts. How we despised them. In 1963, \$40 million worth of crops were lost due to grasshopper infestations in Saskatchewan.

One of the other prairie pests was the gopher. Its proper name is Richardson's ground squirrel. Gophers inflicted damage on agricultural crops as they fed on the roots and stems significantly reducing yields. The mounds of dirt they create can also damage farm equipment and just make the ride on equipment so much rougher. Poison was mixed with grain and carefully slipped down the little varmints holes. Municipalities often put bounties on gophers, usually a cent per tail. During the 30s this was a great way for kids to earn money. The kids would put the tails in a tin can until the can was full. Often it was the teacher's job to count this can of smelly tails. I am sure the teacher took the kid's word for how many tails were in that can. The kid's method of catching the gophers was with a twine with a noose and a pail of water. The back entrance was closed, the water was put down the front entrance and the noose was set. As gophers are very inquisitive, they had to come up and see what was happening. Soon, you had another penny to add to your collection of

tails. A penny went a long way in those days.

During the 1930s another pest was multiplying quickly. The tumbleweed or Russian thistle was not native to North America and had come from Russia with grain seed. At maturity, the plant breaks away from the roots at ground level and tumbles across the landscape, dispersing the seeds along the way. Each plant can produce up to 200,000 seeds in a growing season. The plants are up to 1.2 m (3 1/2 feet) tall and spread as much or more horizontally as vertically. As the plant matures it dries out and becomes brittle causing the harvest machinery to plug up thus making harvesting a much more difficult job to do. Livestock can eat it when very young but later it becomes too spikey and woody for livestock to eat. The Russian thistle piled up against fences and barns, often to 20 feet deep. They were highly flammable, making matters worse in the drought-filled prairies.

To add insult to injury, farm losses were compounded by infestations of cutworms, army worms and sawflies. The sawflies



PHOTO SOURCED FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

A pair of gophers, also known as Richardson's ground squirrel. These are a common sight in Manitoba and other provinces across Canada.

ate the inside around the lower stem of the grain plant. The sawfly effected plants fell over in minimal wind or rain. In the 1920s an average crop of wheat on the prairies produced 17 plus bushels of grain per acre. In Saskatchewan in 1937, the

worst year of the Depression, the average yield per acre in Saskatchewan was 2.7 bushels per acre. Farming practices needed to change to help with the soil erosion.

To be continued.

Plumas' Zion Lutheran Church marks its 125th anniversary

Submitted
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Zion Lutheran Church of Plumas, Manitoba celebrated its 125th Anniversary on Sunday, July 12. The theme of the anniversary was "Shout for joy o inhabitant of Zion" Isaiah 12:6.

Because of some flooding issues and very hot weather, the festivities were held in the Plumas Community Hall. Zion's activities included a 10:00 a.m. Matins Service led by Zion's Pastor James Vosper and guest Pastor John Kreutzwieser, a former Pastor of Zion, who delivered a sermon titled "The Precious". A delicious brunch of eggs, pancakes, and sausages was then served. The pancake mix was donated by our local P&H (Parrish and Heimbecker), a grain buyer agribusiness. Guests were invited to view a display of Church memorabilia brought in by present and past members. Donna Lach



Pictured left: Reverends Antonio Reyes (from the Philippines), Tom Prachar, Mark Smith (former pastor of Zion), James Vosper (current pastor of Zion), John Kreutzwieser (former pastor of Zion), and Niram Tamsakun (from Thailand) were all in attendance for the celebration. Pictured right: Church members Irma Lach, Ruby Mauthe (oldest member), and Bernice Walker with the 125th anniversary cake.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

prepared a running slide show of church events from the past years. The afternoon contained a time of fellowship and visiting with past members and attending dignitaries such as Rev. Tom Prachar (Emeritus Central District President), Rev. Niram Tamsakun (Director of Missions for Thailand

Concordia), and Rev. Antonio Reyes (President of Lutheran Church Philippines). Rev. Antonio had just served three weeks in Neepawa, our sister Church. We pray the Rev. Antonio and his lovely wife, Arlene, will return once more to serve in this neighboring community. At 3:00 p.m. an

anniversary service was held with Pastor Vosper leading. Pastor Mark Smith, a former Pastor of Zion, delivered the sermon based on our theme verse Isaiah 12:6. The visiting Pastors also participated in the service with readings. Music accompaniment was provided by two former members. Lenora Buffi led

the morning service, and Patti Kreutzwieser for the afternoon service. Patti Kreutzwieser also organized and conducted a choir for the services. The day concluded with a cake cutting and refreshments. A large cake with our anniversary logo and theme was cut by Zion's oldest members Ruby

Mauthe, Bernice Walker, and Irma Lach.

It was a wonderful day and a joyous celebration. As the Psalmist declared in Psalm 118:24 "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." May our Lord's blessing continue to be upon Zion now and forever more!

Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op donates \$30,000 to Gladstone & District Arena



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Representatives for Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op present a cheque for \$30,000 to the Gladstone & District Arena.

Submitted

NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

In May 2026, Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op announced a new donation program via their social media channels. The Community Development Fund brings funds into the trading area where they're needed most. Non-profits and community groups were invited to apply for up to \$30,000 in funding to go towards capital investment projects. Half of these funds came from Federated Co-operatives Limited.

Thirteen applications were submitted, and after thorough review, the Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op Board of Directors chose the Gladstone & District Arena as the recipient. Tanya Speiss, Treasurer of the Arena, applied for funding to support new insulation in the arena. Tanya says, "Currently we have tin walls with no insulation. This is causing stress on our ice plant. Without insulation, the temperature fluctuates

with the outside temperatures resulting in warm temperatures inside at the beginning of our season. This causes our plant to overwork creating overwhelming Hydro bills. This also creates large amounts of condensation, often ruining our ice surface. On the opposite end, when the temperature plummets to -40c, we must cancel our activities as it's unsafe for children to be exposed to those temperatures for long periods of time."

The Gladstone & District Arena received the full \$30,000 donation which will cover a large portion of the costs to insulate. The Arena will continue fundraising and hopes to complete insulation in the summer of 2027.

"We find our minor hockey children are missing out on ice time at the beginning of their season. By insulating the tin walls, it will allow for an earlier start which would allow for more development time on ice for our children. Last but

not least, not only do our skaters find temperatures very cold in the dead of winter, but our spectators do also as well. With an insulated building, our dedicated fans will be a little more comfortable while cheering on their athlete," says Tanya.

Ally Potrebka, Marketing and Member Relations Specialist at Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op, says, "It's been exciting for us to bring these funds to Gladstone for the first year of the Community Development Fund. All the applications we received were for important programs throughout our trading area. Whether it's upgrading older buildings or creating something new for the communities' growing needs, we understand there are many groups that could benefit from these funds. We plan to open applications in February and give annually to one group."

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Neepawa citizen excelled at Western Elite Bred Heifer show



PHOTO BY SHOWCHAMPIONS

Madisyn Robertson of Neepawa exhibited her purebred Limousin bred heifer, EMF/HR Naomi 503N, at the Western Elite Bred Heifer Invitational during the Calgary Stampede. This invitation-only showcase features top junior exhibitors ages 9 to 21 and is limited to Grand and Reserve Champion yearling heifers from select junior shows across Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan. Madisyn earned her qualification at the BMO Junior Beef Supreme at Canadian Western Agribition this past November, securing her place among an elite group of young cattle people invited to compete on the Calgary Stampede stage.



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