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Inside this week



Page 2 - Hamilton St expansion update

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Is Neepawa inching closer to city status?



By Ken Waddell
 NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The Neepawa Banner & Press has obtained an early look at the preliminary census figures for population growth in cities and towns throughout Manitoba.

This survey conducted by Statistics Canada provides a statistical portrait of the country's growth over a four to five year period.

For the Town of Neepawa, while population growth has dipped from its lofty numbers in the 2016 and 2021 census, we continue to see a healthy rise in local residents.

Continued on Page 9

More than just a sponsorship

New Co-op naming rights deal announced for Gladstone Community Centre



Effective immediately, Gladstone's District Community Centre will be known as the Co-op Community Hall. Inset picture: Co-op General Manager Brian Hedley, M.P. Dan Mazier, MLA Jodie Byram and Westlake-Gladstone Mayor Daryl Shipman.

PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX

By Eoin Devereux
 NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

For the next five years, a facility that for many is the heart and soul of Gladstone, will go by a brand new name. Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op has secured the naming rights for the

Gladstone District Community Centre. Effective immediately and until the year 2029, the building will be known as the Co-op Community Hall. The five year naming rights deal is worth an estimated \$50,000.

The new Co-op oriented signage and branding through-

out the facility were recently installed. On top of that, an official unveiling event was held on Saturday, Jan. 25. Representatives from the Town of Gladstone, as well as the Co-op, and regional dignitaries were all on hand for the announcement. Many community members also

attended the festivities, which featured a free pork-on-a-bun lunch, children's activities, and a prize giveaway.

Continued on Page 7

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An opportunity to weigh-in

Town of Neepawa to hold open house for phase one of large-scale housing development



FILE PHOTOS

Pictured is a portion of the land that is included in the overall scope of Project 320 in Neepawa.

By Casper Wehrhahn
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The opportunity to weigh in on a large-scale project is coming to Neepawa next week. On Tuesday, Feb. 4, an Open House will be held in the Town Office at 275 Hamilton Street regarding phase one of what is formally dubbed as Project 320.

Project 320 refers to an overall purchase of 320 acres of land by the town in 2024, located in the north-west corner of the town. Phase one of this undertaking focuses on 58 acres of this land west of Neepawa's water tower, for the purpose of implementing a layout of mixed-use residential lots.

"The Open House allows for an explanation of what types of housing are

being included in Phase One and give the chance for feedback on the plan," said economic development officer Marilyn Crewe.

Crewe added, "Neepawa residents are encouraged to participate in the open house. The mixed-use residential concept plan was created by Sison Blackburn Consulting (SBC) Inc. in cooperation with the Town and using Neepawa's Housing Study data. A representative from SBC will be in attendance at the Open House."

The Housing Study, which was conducted prior to the initial land purchase, showed that Neepawa would need 460 new housing units by 2028 to meet the demands currently present.

In conjunction with these

statistics, Crewe provided further explanation on the overarching plan for Project 320.

"From an overall project perspective, Council has determined that the focus for 200 acres of the land will be for mixed-use residential, with the remaining 120 acres reflecting other community needs that will ensure that commercial, institutional and industrial development is properly sited and provides space for these varying land uses," Crewe explained.

To provide input on Project 320 - Phase 1, all are encouraged to attend the open house at the Town Office on Tuesday. The Open House will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.



Pictured above: A map showing a portion of the Neepawa area. The white outline indicates the 320 acres that were previously purchased by the Town. The plan for 58 of those acres is to be discussed at the upcoming Open House.

Preparations for Hamilton Street expansion begin

Bid for excavation of area accepted by Neepawa Town Council



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Portions of dirt have started to be removed from the land that has been set aside for the expansion of Hamilton Street on Neepawa's east end. Rempel Backhoe & Gravel was recently awarded that contract from the Town of Neepawa.

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The trucks are rolling and the work is underway on the first stage of Neepawa's ambitious expansion plan for Hamilton Street. Town Council has accepted a bid from Rempel Backhoe & Gravel Ltd for the excavation of land. This work will allow for the future extension of Hamilton from Broadway Avenue going east to the top of the hill.


Five contractors within our area were invited to submit bids. Rempel's was one of three bids submitted and considered for this proposal, which is exclusively focused on the excavation and hauling of the materials from the area. The work that will be done will see 25,000 cubic meters of soil taken away from the site, and removal of some oak trees. The actual road construction will be put out to tender in a separate bidding process.

"I broke this apart from

the whole entire road construction just because there was so much excavation work on this one and I didn't want to do it during spring or summer just because of the burden of heavy trucks and pedestrians and kids running around. So I thought off-season would be better," explained Manager of Operations Denis Saquet.

"So, for what we will pay, a little bit higher in construction cost for removal right now, I think we will gain, hopefully, by not destroying our streets with trucks driving around."

The accepted bid from Rempel Backhoe & Gravel Ltd was for \$246,526 plus GST. The work began late last week.



Kindergarten Registration for the 2025 Fall Term

will be held during the **regular school hours** at the following schools:

Hazel M. Kellington (Neepawa)
February 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 All Day

J. M. Young (Eden)
Feb 4 & 5 (Tues & Wed) Mornings only

Brookdale
Feb 3 (Mon) Afternoon only

R. J. Waugh (Carberry)
Feb 4 & 5 (Tues & Wed) 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please register at your school

- To be eligible for Kindergarten, a child must be five years of age on or before December 31, 2025.
- A copy of your child's birth certificate is required for their school file.
- For Newcomer Families, copies of your child's passport and residency documentation are also required. If further assistance is needed you may contact Neepawa Settlement Services 204-476-2055.





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1975: Pioneer Curlers take to the hacks at Neepawa

By Casper Wehrhahn
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

**125 years ago,
Wednesday,
January 31, 1900**

Note: The entries for 1900 are from *The Neepawa Register*, as *The Press* for that year is not fit for regular handling.

Col Attwood last week received his Fenian Raids service medal. It is of silver, about the size of a half-dollar piece, has two bars on which appear the dates of the service, and on the edge of the medal is inscribed the Colonel's name and place of residence at that time. It is a beauty.

Note: According to the *Canadian encyclopedia*, the Fenians were a secret society of Irish patriots who had emigrated from Ireland to the United States, with some members of the movement trying to take Canadian territory by force in order to exchange it with Britain for Irish independence. The Fenians launched several small, armed attacks from 1866 to 1871, which then became known as the Fenian raids.

These raids also took place at a time of growing concern regarding America's military and economic might and led to increased support for Confederation.

Some additional notes: In Britain, where the group originated, the Fenians were known as the Irish Republic Brotherhood. Eventually, both became known as the Fenians.

During one of the last raids targeting Britain's Canadian colonies, the Fenians crossed the Manitoba border at Emerson

and 40 men took over a customs office. They sought the support of Louis Riel in this action, however, instead of garnering his support, Riel raised volunteers to defend the frontier.

According to the *Canadian Encyclopedia*, the Fenians were named after the ancient Irish warriors known as the Fianna Eirionn.

While the Fenians' main goal was Irish independence, they were divided on how this could be achieved. Some favoured staging an uprising in Ireland, while others advocated for cross-border military action against Britain's North American colonies.

Miss Edith McGill has been re-engaged as teacher of the Iroquois school for another year; and, as an evidence of the satisfaction she gave during the year past, the trustees have given her the substantial raise of \$50 in salary for 1900.

**100 years ago,
Tuesday,
January 27, 1925**

McCreary: What might have been a very serious accident occurred last Thursday, when Jack Hunter, who is staying at Henry Campbell's west of McCreary, on the afternoon of that date went to the bush to cut wood. It seems that while felling a tree it lodged against another one and this one he also cut down and as they fell he had the misfortune to get in the way of one, knocking him down and falling on top of him and pinning him in the snow so he could not get out. He began calling for help and



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

The Pioneer Curlers tried their luck at the Pioneer Bonspiel in January of 1975. Pictured above is the Norm Montgomery Rink, the winners of the Williams Tom Boy Event. The members are Norm Montgomery, Clare Montgomery, Charlie Carlin and John Serle.

Robt. Campbell who was also in the bush at the same time, some distance off, heard him, someone who as with him. As the calling continued he thought he had better go and see what was wrong and found him under the tree and was starting to feel the effects of his imprisonment pretty bad. He was not able to stand when released. Mr. Hunter had visions of freezing to death as he thought no one would be likely to hear him and only for the timely aid of Mr. Campbell he certainly would have died soon where he was imprisoned.

before it was brought under control by Neepawa firemen considerable damage to the interior of the building was caused.

**50 years ago,
Thursday,
January 30, 1975**

Eleven members were present for the second meeting of the Glenella Knight Riders Snowmobile Club, held Jan. 22. Doug Stemoski from the Pembina Snow Skippers Snowmobile Club was also present.

**20 years ago,
Monday,
January 31, 2005**

A power outage last Saturday left the north end of town in darkness for over three hours before services could be restored.

Manitoba Hydro spokesman Bob McCreath said the outage was caused when an evergreen on the

17th tee at the Neepawa golf course blew over in high winds. When the tree fell, it got tangled up in hydro lines, cutting service to the town's north end.

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*.

Dear brothers, if a Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help him back onto the right path, remembering that next time it might be one of you who is in the wrong.

Galatians 6:1 (The Living Bible)

NEEPAWA LODGE NO. 24

A. F. & A. M.; G. R. M. meets in the Hutchings & Bemrose Block on the Wednesday evening at 8 p. m. on or before the full moon in each month. Members of sister lodges and visiting brethren are cordially invited to attend. P. B. Hazelton, W. M. A. Lowe, Secretary.

NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

Neepawa Lodge No. 24 had this ad in the Jan. 31, 1900 edition of *The Neepawa Register*.

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Highlights of the week

Decision Makers
Jeff Braun - Neepawa Area Planning District
Feb. 4 at 10:30 am | Feb. 5 at 5 pm | Feb. 6 at 4 pm | Feb. 8 at 7 pm

Neepawa Chamber - AGM 2025
Feb. 3 at 8 pm | Feb. 5 at 4 pm | Feb. 6 at 1 pm | Feb. 7 at 5 pm

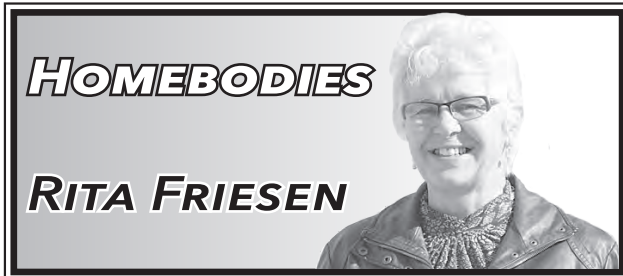
Men's Shed: Tour and Interview
Feb. 3 at 9 pm | Feb. 6 at 8 pm | Feb. 8 at 1 pm | Feb. 9 at 6 pm

BIGGER BINGO
Wednesday nights at 7 P.M.
Bonanza over \$20,000 • Blackout over \$10,000
Toonie Pot over \$12,000
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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



The pendulum swings...

As one ages we notice that the old becomes new. I'm old enough to have met wide leg jeans and bell bottom trousers three times! What has caught my attention is the tiny house movement. Possibly because now that I have cancelled television and rely on my smart TV for entertainment that is one of the free channels... The program is interesting and I firmly believe there is a need and a place for tiny homes.

Reflecting on the movement, the words of Malvina Reynolds, sung by Pete Seeger and hitting the top of the charts in 1963- "Little boxes, all the same..." They were both aware of the conformity and consumerism of the times and voiced their opinion. What does strike me that the tiny boxes they referred to were not all that tiny: basic single- family bungalows that all looked just the same. Like the houses in many a Canadian city built to provide homes after the second world war. In comparison to new builds today they were tiny house. In comparison to the settlers homes at the turn of the century, they were palatial.

A true tiny house would be a log cabin, chinked with mud and manure, some as small as twelve by twenty that provided a home for an entire growing family. For those that didn't have access to trees, they built a Semlin, a sub terrarium sod hut. For those, one dug down several feet, using the sod to build up the walls. They varied in size, most commonly fifteen by thirty- five with about fifteen square feet reserved for the livestock! Sod roof that dripped when it rained, perhaps a waxed paper window and a growing family. Now that's a tiny house! Remember that both the Mennonites and the Ukrainians, the ones most likely to live in a sunken sod home had large families.

The move today to a tiny home includes indoor plumbing, often a washer/dryer unit, fridge and stove. The units are clean, have windows, private or at least semi private sleeping quarters. I am certainly not ready to live in a tiny house. When I moved from the acreage to town I referred to my current home as a small house, it's not. Some of the floor plans for what is termed a tiny house compare to the three bedroom bungalows that farm families embraced as modern, spacious, convenient homes. And they are small in comparison to many of the new builds.

Part of this trend now includes the term granny pod: a small, self-contained unit on the big yard. I'm old enough to remember those too! A small, tiny, house where an aunt or uncle or grandparent could live with a degree of independence. Meals could be shared with family, as could some child care. That was before we had the convenience of 'old folks homes' or long term care facilities. Grandparents and grandchildren truly knew each other, the elder accepting the help of the youngster, and the youngster reaching out for comfort and cookies when home got hectic.

The pendulum swings, that which was old is new. There are a few other 'old' habits and customs I would love to see return!

Wisdom and comfort

The Bible clearly states we are to pray for our governments at all levels. We have several layers or levels in Canada, school boards, municipal, provincial and federal governments.

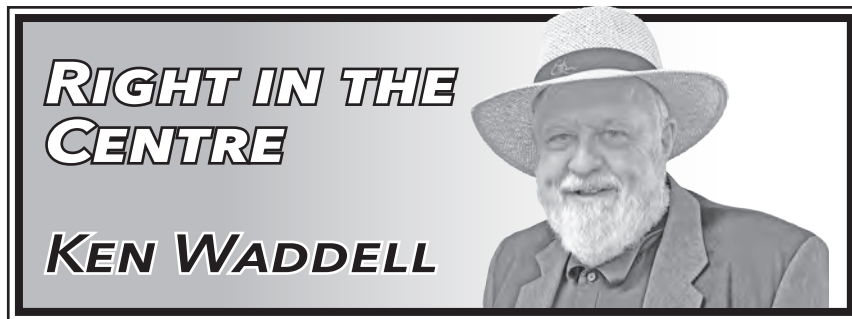
"13 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves." Romans 13:1-2

2 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.1 Timothy:2-1-2

The above Bible verses are simple enough and straight forward. We are instructed that God establishes our governments and that we are to pray for them. What if we don't like our government? The verses still apply. But what about evil governments like Nazi Germany. I am sure many millions of people prayed through those horrific times and we can be thankful that as bad as things are now, we aren't suffering from the effects of the Nazis.

That said, if ever our generation needed to pray for our government, it's now.

I think we are in for tumultuous times. With the bombardment of information we endure in this age, we know instantly when things happen, be they good or bad. I doubt that any era that people have known more instant information than we do today. If a butterfly flaps its wings in



“ We are instructed that God establishes our governments and that we are to pray for them. What if we don't like our government? The verses still apply. ”

Thailand, we can be told about it instantly, in full colour and with sound.

The internet has been harnessed by news media companies, by internet influencers and by political movements to mould us into their image. But we are not created in their image, we are created in God's image and that is the image that we must imagine, the image we need to pursue.

The United States has just gone through a transformational election. The previous government, the Democrats had taken the country in a direction that has been solidly rejected by the voters.

Canada is about to go through what may be a transformational election. The current government, the Liberals have taken the country in a direction that may be solidly rejected by the voters. Polling would indicate that to be the case.

We need to pray for Canada and the United States.

Prayer will do many things but two come to mind. One, prayer reaches out to God to extend His mercy and wisdom to governments. Two, prayer gives us comfort when it seems that the world and our world is crumbling.

In the coming months, may our governments deal wisely and decisively with the issues of the day. In both Canada and the United States there has been a lack of wisdom and correct decisions for a number of years. Change is coming at us like a tidal wave, may God bring mercy and wisdom to governments and comfort to us all.

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

NEEPAWA Banner & Press

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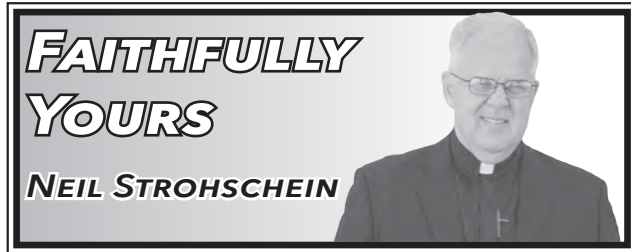
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It's time for us to act

King Solomon had everything any successful person could hope to have. He had "position." He was king of the most secure kingdom of his time. He had "possessions." The Bible tells us that his drinking vessels were made of gold. Nothing was made of silver, because it was considered nothing in his day. (See 1 Kings 10:22) In other words, "he had money to burn."

He also had "power." He wasn't a great military leader; so he used his skill in making business deals to increase his wealth, often at his neighbors' expense.

But the hype and glitter of Solomon's kingdom could not hide its fatal flaw. They had an imperfect king who ruled over an imperfect kingdom. This despite the fact that they had just dedicated a beautiful new temple in Jerusalem, setting it apart as "the place where God lived among his people." It had a full staff of priests, worship leaders and teachers who could offer sacrifices, lead people in hymns of praise and help



them learn how to apply the Law of Moses to their daily lives. Solomon and his people had it all.

But the glitz and glitter of Solomon's kingdom could not hide its fatal flaw. They had an imperfect king who ruled over an imperfect people.

No one understood that better than Solomon himself. So in his prayer of dedication for the temple, he admitted that there would be times when the people would ignore the teaching they had received, sin against God and suffer the consequences. "When that happens," Solomon said, "and the people turn to this place and call to you for help; then hear their prayers, forgive their sins and save them."

God's response is found in 2 Chronicles 7:14. He as-

sured Solomon that whenever the nation found itself in crisis: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sins and will heal their land."

Solomon's prayer and God's response have been a challenge to people of faith ever since. They call us to times of sober reflection when we ask ourselves how much we have contributed to the crises that our nation experiences. Let me explain.

As Canadians, we rely on local, provincial and national governments to do for us what we cannot, as individuals, do for ourselves. In return for these services, we agree that governments

can collect taxes on our income, on the value of the goods we consume and on the value of real property (like our homes). As long as governments use our tax dollars to provide essential services, and as long as we can see that we are getting good value for our money, we have no objection to paying taxes to cover these costs.

But we have demanded more from governments and they have promised to give us what we want. But what we want costs money—money that the government doesn't have (or so they say). So to get that money, they must either raise taxes or borrow funds to cover their deficit. They have been doing a little of each for at least 50 years.

Now we facing a financial crisis—a condition for which, in my view, we have only ourselves to blame. It's time for us to act. We must take the words of 2 Chronicles 7:14 seriously, repent of our selfishness and greed and ask God to forgive us and heal our land.

Letters

The more things change...

In today's Banner & Press (Jan. 24 edition), in the section Looking Back, is a report from 1975. To quote:

"The board of trustees were alarmed and dismayed ... of the preliminary spending estimates for 1975. What is even more appalling is that the increases are due mainly to inflation and wage demands and not to increases in services ...".

Sound familiar? Trudeau then, Trudeau now.

J.D. Mitchell
Elk Ranch, MB

A 'pathetic' system

I agree with your column "Lets just cut out the crap" (January 24th paper) and just to add a bit of substance, I have clipped articles of crimes from the Winnipeg newspaper over the last year or so and almost every crime was committed by someone who is either 'out on parole', 'Free on bail', 'Statutory release', 'Conditional discharge', 'Failing to comply with a probation order', 'Failing to comply with conditions of a release order and the latest, 'Failing to comply with conditions of an undertaking', 'Released on an appearance notice'.

Talk about crap!

This "catch & release" justice system we have in this country is pathetic at best and it just goes on & on and nobody seems to care or do anything about it.

Rick Sparling
Winnipeg, MB

*Would you like to send in a letter to the editor?
Email news@neepawabanner.com to submit yours.
Letters are limited to approximately 400 words
The Banner & Press reserves the right to edit letters
to fit available space.*

Gladstone Market report

By Tyler Slawinski
GLADSTONE AUCTION

Howdy cattle producers, This is Tyler Slawinski reporting from the Gladstone Auction mart for Tuesday Jan. 28. It was a milder week, making working outside a little more enjoyable. With better weather there were many cattle being trucked across the prairies into the markets. This week has many cattle producers taking full advantage of the strong cattle demand, as we all know how volatile the market can be especially if the "what ifs" actually become reality. Although it seems like the exact opposite of what should be playing out, the more caution that is discussed, the higher the market and the stronger the demand. The cattle futures were very strong once again today, and the front row was in full attendance

setting more record prices! We sold 1,672 head of cattle through the ring in Gladstone Manitoba on Jan. 28!

Cows and bulls are trending with higher averages. Feeding type cows and heiferettes are still selling stronger than yielding cows. Yielding cows still traded quite reasonable from 170.00 to 185.00 looking like strong demands. Feeding type cows are ranging between 186 to 200.00. Bulls traded steady ranging between 195.00 to 214.00. With these prices it's not hard to see why many of these young feeding type cows aren't getting a second chance! The cow herd isn't growing very quickly, and we are finally starting to see some optimism in the industry!

All classes of cattle sold well! Plainer type cattle, are still being discounted! Here is a look at the feeder market!

Gladstone Auction Mart

Cattle Market Report
Jan. 28, 2025

Steers	
3-400 lbs.	\$5.75 to 7.00
4-500 lbs.	\$5.19 to 6.23
5-600 lbs.	\$4.42 to 5.40
6-700 lbs.	\$4.15 to 4.90
7-800 lbs.	\$3.75 to 4.49
8-900 lbs.	\$3.50 to 3.90
900+ lbs.	\$3.05 to 3.66
Bulls	\$1.95 to 2.14
Heifers	
3-400 lbs.	\$5.15 to 6.20
4-500 lbs.	\$4.50 to 5.55
5-600 lbs.	\$4.22 to 4.87
6-700 lbs.	\$3.70 to 4.34
7-800 lbs.	\$3.54 to 4.09
8-900 lbs.	\$2.95 to 3.40
900+ lbs.	\$2.85 to 3.38
Cows	\$1.80 to 1.90

1,672 head sold

Some highlights from the sale, Charolais steers weighed 320 traded for a fantastic 700.00 bucks per pound! Black and Red steers weighed 415 and traded for 623. Crossbred steers weighed 574 and brought 519.00. Crossbred steers weighed 630 pounds and they hit 490.50. Mixed steers weighed 711 and they

checked out at 449.50. Cross bred steers 843lbs brought 390.25. Heifers, red heifers weighed 350 and traded for 600.00. Black hidid heifers weighed 441 and brought 542.50. Cross-bred heifers weighed 570 and made 459.00. Mixed heifers weighed 674 and traded for 419.00. And last but not least a big set of 726 pound Red and Black hidid heifers that rung the bell at 401.00. Hopefully that gives you an idea how the market played out!

Cattle producers if you have cattle to market, give us a call to book your marketing spot, and let us do our best to market your livestock!

This has been Tyler Slawinski Reporting for the Gladstone Auction Mart, and thank you for being a part of our industry!

Thumbs up, thumbs down



Thumbs down to the closure of Alberta Headquarters Peavy Mart, a hardware and farm supply focused on the hobby farmer and small acreage rural residents ... But that gave livestock producers another option !!

Robert Smith
Edrans, Manitoba

Would you like to send a thumbs up or thumbs down to an individual or group in the community? Please send it our way. Submissions must include a name and must be under 100 words.

We want to hear from you!

In person: 423 Mountain Ave. Neepawa

By fax: 204-476-5073

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HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

Sewing and stew

At the museum we have an old "RAYMOND" treadle sewing machine and I have my aunt's old "HUMEN" treadle sewing machine. Since most old sewing machines are Singers I wondered about these two makes.

Who invented the sewing machine? There's no simple answer, for many inventors contributed features to the final successful product. I will mention a few of the main inventors. Barthelemy Thimonnier was a French tailor who succeeded in creating a chain stitch sewing machine and got a patent for it in 1830. Soon his factory had eighty of these machines that were being used to sew uniforms for the French army. Tailors, who saw the new machines as a threat to their livelihood soon burnt down his factory. In 1846 an American, Elias Howe, patented a sewing machine that introduced a needle with an eye at the point, a shuttle to create a lockstitch, and an automatic feed. His was the first one that worked properly.

American inventor Charles Raymond's first sewing machine production paused in 1852 when Isaac Singer obtained a similar patent ahead of Raymond. When a patent fight rose, he packed up and moved his sewing machine factory to Guelph, Ontario as Singer's patent held no authority in Canada. The Raymond sewing machines stands and covers were a work of art and a lovely piece of furniture for your room. The one at the museum has beautiful designs in the wood case and is very striking piece.

At this time patent infringement became so intense that it led to Sewing Machine Wars. The lawyers were making all the money. Since sewing machines required parts covered by several different patents, an agreement was made with the larger players that a single, reduced licensing fee would be charged and divided proportionally among the patent holders.

In 1851, Isaac Merritt Singer patented the most practical sewing machine. As an engineer he improved upon several of the other designs. He combined Howe's eye pointed needle and up-and-down needle mechanism, added a pressure foot to hold the cloth in place, a basic tension system, and a foot treadle instead of a crank. The foot treadle, allowed users to operate the machine hands-free, while the vertical needle movement provided more precise and consistent stitching. Singer began mass producing his sewing machines and became the largest sewing machine manufacturer in the world.

The Singer Company initiated the installment payment plan for their machines. People who could not afford to purchase a sewing machine, could now get one. In 1903 the Wright brothers made their first successful flight using the plane's wing coverings which had been made on a Singer sewing machine. Singer began to sell at a discount to schools and to provide free sewing manuals. The philosophy was "If a girl learned to sew on a Singer, she would eventually buy one." It was not long before Singer was a name known around the world.

My aunt "HUMEN" parts were made in China and the machines were assembled by the Humen Sewing Machine Company in in Edmonton and Toronto. Apparently it could sew the farmers' binder canvases.

I learned to sew on a Singer treadle and now sew on a computerized sewing machine with an automatic needle threader. I had two free days last week so I made this stew for the slow cooker and tried this muffin recipe before sitting down at my sewing machine. A glorious two days!

Pork, sweet potato stew

1 Tbsp. oil	1 Tbsp. lemon juice
2 lbs. pork, cubed	1 tsp. dried thyme
1 large onion, chopped	1 -2 tsp. Dash
1 large carrot, sliced	2 Tbsp. dried parsley
2 medium sweet potatoes, cubed	3/4 tsp. salt
1 red pepper, diced	1/4 tsp. pepper
3 celery stalk, sliced	1 cup frozen green peas
3 cups chicken broth	2 Tbsp. cornstarch
1 tsp. grated lemon rind	1/3 cup cold water

In a large frying pan, heat the oil over medium-high heat. Brown meat in batches until browned on all sides. Transfer the meat to a slow-cooker. Top the meat with all the remaining ingredients except the cornstarch and water. Cover and cook on low for 8 hours. Mix the cornstarch and water together and stir into the slow cooker. Turn the slow cooker on high for 10-15 minutes to allow the gravy to thicken.

Carrot bran muffins

2 eggs	1 1/2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice or cinnamon	carrots
1/2 cup brown sugar	1/2 tsp. salt	1 cup raisins
1/2 cup oil	1 tsp. baking powder	
2 Tbsp. molasses	1 tsp. baking soda	
3/4 cup buttermilk	1 1/2 cup grated	
1 1/2 cup flour		
1 cup wheat bran		

In a bowl combine the eggs and sugar. Mix in the oil and molasses. Stir in the buttermilk. In another bowl add the flour, bran, spice, salt, baking powder and baking soda and mix well. Add to the first bowl and stir just until moistened. Do not over stir. Gently fold in the carrots and raisins. Fill prepared muffin tins 3/4 full and bake in a preheated 375°F oven for 20-22 minutes or until toothpick in the middle comes out clean.

Npa. Newcomers Coat Room
2024 season review

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEEPAWA NEWCOMERS COATROOM

The volunteer staff of the Neepawa Newcomers Coat Room had a very busy season throughout the past year helping individuals and families experiencing their first Canadian winter get matched up with their very own coats. The photo above was taken during the initiative's pop-up coat room held in November of 2024.

By Casper Wehrhahn
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The Neepawa Newcomers Coat Room (NNCR) saw a successful 2024. In a season review provided to the Neepawa Banner & Press, the local initiative noted that it was able to run two fully booked coat room weekends in October, as well as six pop-up coat rooms in November, December and then January of 2025.

"Both community and newcomer response was incredibly positive," said NNCR president Leisel Milligan.

2024 coat room season results:

- Winter coats given to newcomers in 2024 – 305. Seventy-nine went to children under the age of 15, 98 went to women of age 15+ and 128 to men age 15+.
- Volunteers who helped run the coat room and pop-ups – 41.
- New winter coats sponsored by community groups and members – 58.

Writer's note: Of the coats in their 2024

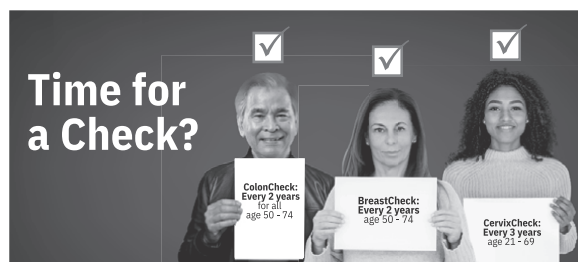
stock, approximately 40 per cent were purchased (134 total, which included the 58 sponsored coats). The remaining 60 per cent were donated.

Just as important was the report of countless smiles and welcomes exchanged through the coat room initiative.

Milligan noted that due to the overwhelmingly positive response, coat room inventory is currently low. As such, the coat room is now closed for the 2024 season and preparations begin for the next.

"As we apply for grants and seek donations moving forward we anticipate a replenishing of inventory in preparation for the next season. We are already looking forward to that," Milligan enthused. "Thank you for your continued support of the coat room. We are proud to add a small contribution to our amazing community that works for, and welcomes in, many newcomers."

The coat room accepts donations year-round. Further details can be seen on its social media.



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Changes announced to planned Co-op Travel Centre project in Gladstone

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The major project in the works for Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op in 2025 is going back to the drawing board. On Saturday, Jan. 25, management with the Cooperative updated the community members in Gladstone on the proposed construction of a 23,000 square foot Travel Centre.

The new proposed facility, which was first announced in 2023, was to combine the Food, Home and Building Centres all at one location. It's to be built around the land where the current C-Store/Gas Bar is located. That property was initially purchased by the Co-op back in 2000.

Co-op general manager Brian Hedley offered a brief update on the proposal, and where it currently stands. Hedley noted that the Co-op faced an adverse economic shift in 2023, along with several challenges in 2024, some

of which included:

- Glyphosate/fertilizer pricing devaluation;
- Depressed food margins;
- High inflation rates; and
- An increase to the overall operating costs.

Due to these issues, as well as uncertainty related to American tariffs being imposed on Canadian goods and Canada's response, the scale of the project has now been reconsidered.

"The above-mentioned items in 2023 and 2024 have negatively impacted our financial performance

and capacity to finance this project at its current state, and requires changes to the overall scope of the project. 2025 could also bring adverse impacts to our business given all the



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Brian Hedley of the Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op provided an update to the Gladstone community on its planned Travel Centre recently.

uncertainty," said Brian Hedley. "Estimated construction costs for the proposed project have come in substantially higher than originally projected. This will result in a change

in the project's scope. A reduction in the square footage is needed to lower

of the future phases of the project.

When it comes to the

the overall cost of the project."

Still moving ahead

Hedley stressed that the project is still proceeding, but will be slightly smaller than the original expectation. Part of that includes the Lumber and Hardware stores being removed from the new development and remaining at their current location in downtown Gladstone.

Meanwhile, the motel and quick service restaurant are still under consideration, and may become part

plans for the Grocery Store, Hedley stressed those are still proceeding and will be a massive improvement on what's currently available in Gladstone.

[The Grocery store] will be one of the newest designs, and we're hoping to keep it around that 16,000 square feet, which will still be a large facility. Much larger than our current space, which is, I believe, just under 4,000 sq ft.

With a large portion of prep-work and analysis already completed, this project will not have to begin all the way back at step one. The redesigned store will be resubmitted to the Federated Co-operatives Limited (FCL) for review. Once that review is complete, Co-op will provide the community with updated information

5-year, \$50,000 naming rights deal for Gladstone Community Centre

Continued from
Page 1

Co-op General Manager Brian Hedley expressed how excited the co-operative is to be associated with a facility. Hedley noted that Community Hall serves as a tremendous gathering place for the entire Westlake-Gladstone region, and having their name associated with that, means something to them.

"The Co-op is all about community and there's a great example of it right here. Our membership is local, our governing board is local. Everything is local. So, you know, we always try to support a lot of events within those communities,

within our communities," said Hedley.

Meanwhile, Westlake-Gladstone Mayor Daryl Shipman expressed the communities gratitude for Co-op's commitment. He also noted that this support will help maintain the Hall for years to come.

"[The Co-op's] support will help defray some of the costs of regular maintenance and cleaning, painting, repairs and replacement of worn out tables, chairs and equipment. This saving will allow council to put those dollars into other services and programs that will benefit all the ratepayers through the municipality," Shipman said. "Neepawa-

Gladstone Co-op has been a staple in the Municipality of Westlake-Gladstone for over 95 years, and this addition of the Co-op Community Hall shows their ongoing commitment to investing in the municipality."

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Neepawa hospital update



PHOTO BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

As work continues on the new Neepawa Hospital, the precise fate of the current hospital is still to be determined.

Pictured: The current Neepawa Health Centre (Neepawa Memorial Hospital) as it appeared on the morning of Jan. 29.

By Ken Waddell
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

A recent newsletter from Prairie Mountain Health contained an update on the Neepawa Hospital construction schedule. "Construction on the new Neepawa Health Centre is approximately half-way through completion. The building is sealed and watertight, with nearly all of the exterior building envelope completed including cladding, masonry and roofing.

Work to develop the 39 acre site, including a new heliport, is progressing nicely; landscape development, paving and curbs for parking lots are now visible, with asphalt work to begin in 2025.

In 2025, the primary focus will continue to be on the interior, building out all of the various hospital clinical program areas and public spaces. It's anticipated the building will be turned over to Prairie Mountain Health (PMH) in mid-2026 to begin several months of staff training, prior to seeing the first patient in the new facility in late 2026 or early 2027."

Even though the opening is still two years away, questions have been posed as to what will happen to the old Neepawa Hospital. It was built in 1954 and has had several additions and renovations over the decades. People who work in the facility are anxious for the new hospital to open. The current hospital is cramped, has a wonky heating system and is hard to maintain. That said, the chemo unit is relatively new and modern. The chemo unit, and some of the other parts of the hospital have a beautiful view. The location is on prime real estate adjacent to the high school.

A PMH spokesperson said. "No decisions have been made on the future function of the current Neepawa Hospital. PMH will review possible options once the new hospital is open."

This is familiar language to residents of Neepawa and area, being almost exactly what was said back when the old Eastview Lodge facility was being replaced by Country Meadows Care Home. PMH officials promised that the EVL site and building would be given to the Town of Neepawa. That made sense as EVL was built by Neepawa and area and was financed by a CMHC mortgage beginning

in the late 1960s. EVL, and Neepawa Hospital were given to the PMH at the time in the 1990s when health regionalization replaced the local hospital boards. In addition, a \$1million trust fund for the Neepawa Hospital that is administered by the Beautiful Plains Community Foundation was in the deal as well.

When EVL closed, PMH's intentions were overturned by the province as they dithered and pondered about the future of EVL. The Town of Neepawa had at least one developer who was willing to convert the 120 bed facility into 50 units of low income housing. The province delayed and delayed, let EVL decay, turned the heat off, pipes froze and in the end, EVL was demolished. All the Town of Neepawa got was bare lots on a hill that still isn't fully developed. In the bluntest of terms, Neepawa and Area was lied to by the Province of Manitoba.

That history raises concerns about what will happen to the current hospital and given the answer from PMH, there is good reason for Neepawa and area to get busy with some ideas of what stance they want to take on the fate of the old hospital. Should it be re-purposed? Should it be demolished? If the cost of demolition was spent on re-purposing, would that result in a valuable asset? Will the land revert to its proper owner, namely, the Town of Neepawa?

And what about the ambulance garage that is located at Country Meadows? The ambulance garage is not administered by PMH but by Shared Health. A spokesperson for Shared Health answered that question as follows:

"As part of the new Neepawa Hospital, there will be a two-bay ambulance bay for the purposes of dropping off and picking up patients sheltered from any adverse environmental conditions. This aligns with the infrastructure in place at larger regional sites across the province.

The current EMS station that is co-located with the Country Meadows PCH will remain as it currently is, and is unaffected by the new hospital build." No ambulances will actually be stationed at the new hospital.

Parking space decrease denied in Neepawa



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This aerial image shows the space that was requested to be converted away from parking spaces (outlined in white) in Neepawa, near Grit Force Fitness, the Salvation Army and Harris Pharmacy.

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

A request to reduce the number of required parking spots for a proposed downtown development in Neepawa has been denied. Town Council reviewed the application of Zen Developments Ltd, during a meeting held at the Municipal Office on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Zen was asking for a decrease in the number of mandatory parking spaces for its proposed commercial

development that it has planned for 342 Mountain Ave. They wanted the number to be changed from the required 44 off-street spaces to 34.

As part of the application process, this request was distributed to all nearby property owners, to give them a chance to respond. There were three respondents, all expressing their concern to a reduction of available parking in the area. They were worried that approving the alteration to park-

ing would create too much congestion in such a small space and hinder walking paths for pedestrians along the block.

Council reviewed the application, taking the public response to the reduced parking proposal into consideration. They voted to deny the request to decrease the number of off-street parking spaces, citing was just too large an amount to eliminate within the downtown core.

Sidney home succumbs to fire



PHOTO BY ROB SMITH

The Austin and MacGregor Fire Departments were dispatched to a structure fire on Cypress Street in Sidney on Saturday, Jan. 25 at 8:35 p.m. When Alpha 1 arrived on the scene, it was observed there was fire from the roof of the attached garage, which quickly spread to the attic of the house. Strong winds fanned the flames.



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Neepawa's population increase slows down compared to 2021

Continued from Page 1

The chart (to the right) shows the change in population for towns and municipalities in the Neepawa Banner & Press coverage area. Some numbers are up and unfortunately some numbers are down.

For 2024, the estimated population of Neepawa stands at 6,223. That's an increase of around 6.1 percent from the official population figures of 2021.

Just a note for keen eyed observers that the 2021 statistics stated now are different than what was stated when first released by Stats-Can back in 2021 and 2016.

For example, the Census enumerated a population for Neepawa of 5,685 in 2021, up from 4,609 in 2016 (a 23 per cent increase.) However, the "official" population in each year includes an adjustment for the census undercount.

Thus, the annual demographic statistics for Neepawa show, after an adjustment for the census undercount, a 2016 population of 4,743 and a 2021 population of 5,846 (an increase of 23 per cent).

The estimated undercount in 2016 was 4,743 minus 4,609 equals 134 persons (an estimated undercount of 2.8 per cent) and the estimated undercount in 2021 was (5,846 minus 5,685 equals) 161 persons (an estimated undercount of 2.8 per cent).

Stats Canada says, "During / after each census, "To determine

how many individuals were missed or counted more than once, Statistics Canada conducts postcensal coverage studies of a representative sample of individuals. Results of these studies in combination with the census counts are used to produce population estimates which take into account net under coverage."

This is a very important exercise at the national level and at the provincial level as these "official" population estimates are used for federal transfers to provinces that pay \$XX per capita to each province.

In an interview with the Neepawa Banner & Press, Neepawa Mayor Brian Hedley discussed these preliminary numbers, and said. "The increase in Neepawa is very good news. I am a bit surprised it isn't a bit higher. The population increase places pressure on infrastructure costs and maintenance along with housing."

The Town of Neepawa has launched a major land purchase for a housing initiative. An Open House is scheduled for Feb. 4 from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office where ratepayers can get a first look at the proposal.

(Editor's note: City status in Manitoba is met by a community reaching 7,500 people in population. This status was altered from 10,000 back in 1998 to grant that status to Dauphin as part of the 100th anniversary of its incorporation.)

	2001	2009	2016	2021	2024
Canada	31,020,855	33,630,069	36,110,803	38,239,864	41,288,599
Manitoba	1,151,451	1,208,555	1,314,140	1,391,924	1,494,301
Neepawa	3,419	3,494	4,743	5,846	6,223
Brandon	40,918	45,118	50,389	52,883	58,024
North Cypress-Langford	2,714	2,688	2,815	2,939	3,183
Carberry	1,550	1,619	1,780	1,864	2,103
Glenella-Lansdowne	1,420	1,255	1,193	1,157	1,228
WestLake-Gladstone	3,306	3,085	3,205	3,324	3,522
Winnipeg (CY)	638,312	664,744	727,345	772,330	843,640
Harrison Park	1,757	1,804	1,646	1,878	1,935
Minto-Odanah	1,222	1,251	1,209	1,146	1,180
Minnedosa	2,500	2,535	2,511	2,804	2,882
Rosedale	1,632	1,626	1,705	1,560	1,607
Clanwilliam-Erickson	915	917	865	1,031	1,061
Alonsa	1,671	1,362	1,264	1,234	1,220
McCreary	1,069	936	896	761	752
Ste. Rose	1,986	1,826	1,736	1,673	1,657

INFORMATION COURTESY OF STATS-CAN

A look at the population growth for Canada, Manitoba, and several locations through the Banner & Press publication area. These numbers include the new numbers currently being gathered for the next population census.

Neepawa campsite bookings moved to new website

By Casper Wehrhahn
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Camping enthusiasts looking to book into Neepawa's Riverbend Park will notice some differences this year. That's because the Town of Neepawa now has a fresh website to handle the bookings, which is expected to make the process run smoother.

As of November 2024, Neepawa's Riverbend Campground can now be found on the website 'Let's Camp'.

"Our previous campground system dissolved, and I had a very positive experience with Let's Camp in previous locations," said Cassandra Groen, Neepawa's director of recreation services. "This booking system is also user friendly and swimming lessons can be booked in the same place. This simplifies things for campers who also utilize the swimming pool."

Groen noted that while



this website is similar to other booking systems, this one has some added benefits for campers trying to plan a stay.

"This one has great on-line support contact, is user friendly and lays things out in a very simple and organized way. There's also the option to view the sites in a grid style with what's

available each week, or it can show it in a map layout with interactive boxes representing each site," Groen explained.

She added, "We're confident that this site will be a good switch in many aspects, and hope that it will be here long term for Camping and Swimming Lessons."

Neepawa's Riverbend Campground can be found on Let's Camp via the url <https://letscamp.ca/camps/neepawa-riverbend-campground>, or by doing a search on the website. Bookings are scheduled to open on this website for the 2025 season on Apr. 1.

SUBMITTED

The photo shown here is a screenshot of the new website the Town of Neepawa is using for campsite bookings. The Town hopes that this new website will be more convenient for those who wish to enjoy the Riverbend Campground in Neepawa.

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Annual 'Tigers fight Cancer' fundraiser underway in Neepawa

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

NACI students, along with parents and teachers have joined together once again to support a worthy cause, as the 5th Annual Tigers Fight Cancer Fundraiser is underway.

Troy Brister, a coach for the NACI Tigers hockey team, said since 2019, this event has supported local cancer care programs through a variety of efforts from the players. He added those efforts have included a hugely successful progressive 50/50.

"This year, we are doing the progressive 50/50, which the players started selling [on Jan. 21]. They are also doing a spare change collection at school to help raise funds. There will be a puck toss during the game to also raise funds," noted Brister.

The team will also wear special pink jerseys in their game on Feb. 14 versus the Minnedosa-Erickson Chancellors, as part of the awareness efforts. The festivities will also feature a game-day 50/50, with all of those proceeds also going toward fundraising efforts.

Brister said that along with the enthusiasm of the players over these past five



FILE PHOTO

Back in June of 2024, members of the 2023-2024 NACI Tigers hockey team was able to present four cheques, totalling \$5,500 to worthy local cancer care. Those presentations included: \$2,000 for the chemo unit at the Neepawa Health Centre (pictured); \$1,500 for Victoria's Quilts Canada (Neepawa chapter); \$1,000 for Central Plains Cancer Services; and \$1,000 for the establishment of an NACI fund to support families with children battling cancer.

years, they have been very fortunate to have a community of parents each and every season step up to lead this effort.

"We are very grateful for the support the town shows during this fundraising effort," said Brister.

For the past two seasons, the money that has been raised has gone towards Neepawa Health Centre's Chemo Unit, Victoria Quilt's and Central Plains Cancer Services. As well, the hockey team has been

able to start a fund at NACI for students and their families while fighting cancer. Since 2019, the Neepawa Tigers have raised \$14,650 to donate to cancer services, with each year more successful than the last. The team is hoping to keep that momentum going in 2025.

Tickets for the Progressive 50/50 can be purchased through any Neepawa Tigers player or by stopping by the NACI school office.

2019: \$750 raised;
2021: \$3,000 raised;
2022: \$5,400 raised;
2023: \$5,500 raised.



NACI Tigers defeat Killarney in Westman Hockey

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The Neepawa Tigers are slowly, but steadily gaining ground on the teams in front of them in the Westman High School Hockey League (WHSHL) standings. The Tigers did themselves a huge favour in that effort by beating the league's second best club, the Killarney Raiders, by a score of 4-3.

This game was a matinee matchup at the Yellowhead Centre on Thursday, Jan. 23. It would see the Raiders open up the scoring early, but then Neepawa's Wyatt Njegovan would reply with a pair of goals just 56 seconds apart, to make it 2-1. Those are Njegovan's 23rd and 24th goals of the regular season.

It appeared as though we'd go into the first intermission tied at 2-2, as Killarney scored once again with only 15 second in the first. But for the second straight home game, the Tigers finished with a flurry and scored with only one-second remaining before the break. And as well, for the second straight time it was Cohen Kulbacki who put away the puck, making it 3-2 after 20 minutes.

For the second, both teams scored early, as the Raiders tied it up once again only 15 seconds into play. Cohen Kulbacki gave Neepawa the one goal lead a couple minutes later, with his second goal and fourth overall point (2G -2A) of the afternoon. Njegovan

was credited with the assist, and ended the game with three points in total. Jude Carr, Zach Plett, and Carter Cruickshanks also notched their names on the stat-sheet, by adding assists. Harley Smith-Bellisle stopped 23 shots and picked up the win.

The next day, Neepawa would be on the road for a game versus the Roblin/Grandview/Gilbert Plains Raiders. The Tigers put up a consistent 60 minutes of solid play, and were rewarded with a 6-3 win. NACI ended up scoring a pair of goal every period to secure the victory. Wyatt Njegovan and Brock Pasloski opened things up for Neepawa, with goals in the first, while Cohen Kulbacki and Carter Cruickshanks were the contributors in the second. Kulbacki added another in the third, with Luke Nicholson tapping one in as well, on a power-play chance for the Tigers. It would be another win for goaltenders Harley Smith-Bellisle, who faced a total of 24 shots.

With this results, the Tigers improved to 15-7-1 on the season and just one point back of Virden for fifth in the overall standings, with three games in hand. Neepawa is also just five points back of Killarney, who are 17-5-2. Unfortunately, it's likely nobody will be able to catch up to the top team in the WHSHL, the Vincent Massey Vikings, who are a perfect 23-0-0 this year.

Tigers Basketball play in Rivers



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Neepawa Tigers Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball teams travelled to Rivers on Jan. 23 to play a pair of Zone 7 League games. The Boys team defeated Rivers 95-17, while the Girls squad won 48-33. In Junior Varsity play, the Neepawa Boys won on Jan. 22 against William Morton 57-33. Meanwhile, the Junior Varsity Girls lost to William Morton 47-19.

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MJHL Standings

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Dauphin Kings	37	26	10	1	0	53
Northern Manitoba Blizzard	39	23	15	0	1	47
Neepawa Titans	41	21	15	2	3	47
Virden Oil Capitals	40	16	23	1	0	33
Wayway Wolverines	41	15	23	2	1	33
Swan Valley Stampeders	40	9	26	4	1	23

Eastern Division	G	W	L	OTL	SOL	Pts
Winkler Flyers	39	30	6	3	0	63
Steinbach Pistons	41	30	8	2	1	63
Portage Terriers	41	29	11	0	1	59
Niverville Nighthawks	40	24	13	2	1	51
Selkirk Steelers	40	21	16	2	1	45
Winnipeg Blues	37	8	25	2	2	20
Winnipeg Freeze	40	6	31	1	2	15

Game results

Friday, Jan. 24 Wpg Blues 4-3 SO Neepawa

First Period
00:40 WPB C. Epp (8)
ASST: E. Gradt (10), T. Turner (1)
02:45 WPB W. Marceus (4)
ASST: M. Stanton (3), A. Thompson (10)
10:15 WPB C. White (11) PP
ASST: B. Assailly (16), A. Matar (21)

Second Period

No scoring

Third Period

01:47 NPA T. Tychonick (9)
ASST: C. Hegarty (10), C. McLeod (3)
10:45 NPA J. Clark (4)
ASST: G. MacDonald (4), D. McCann (4)
12:55 NPA M. Hartley (13)
ASST: D. McCann (5)

Overtime - No scoring

Shootout

Neepawa: D. McCann - No goal; L. Paquette - No goal; T. Tychonick - No goal.
Wpg Blues: R. Williamson - No goal; C. Epp - Goal; G. Stallman - No goal.

Scoring	1	2	3	OT	SO	Total	PP
WPB	3	0	3	0	1	4	1/4
NPA	0	0	3	0	0	3	0/3

Goaltender

WPB S. Couture - (W) 34/37 saves
NPA KC. Couckuyt - (SOL) 17/20 saves
Attendance: 411 - Yellowhead Centre

Saturday, Jan. 25 Neepawa 5-1 Wpg Blues

First Period

No scoring

Second Period

00:31 NPA T. Lewis (8) PP
ASST: C. McLeod (4), C. Hegarty (12)
09:43 NPA R. Gower (3)
ASST: J. Clark (4)
14:18 NPA T. Tychonick (10) PP
ASST: R. Gower (5), D. McCann (7)

Third Period

03:50 NPA J. Clark (5)
ASST: Unassisted
12:21 NPA M. Hartley (14) PP
ASST: K. Weisgarber (17), C. Kasprick (14)
15:55 WPB W. Dyck (6)
ASST: G. Stallman (9), T. Dolinsky (4)

Scoring	1	2	3	Total	PP
NPA	0	3	2	5	3/7
WPB	0	0	1	1	0/9

Goaltender

NPA M. Lobreau - (W) 31/32 saves
WPB S. Couture - (L) 33/38 saves
Attendance: 70 - Hockey For All Centre

MJHL Player stats

Leading scorers (MJHL)

	G	A	Pts
1. Connor Paronuzzi (STN)	18	43	61
2. Cayden Glover (DAU)	33	19	52
3. Adam Vigfusson (NIV)	25	27	52
4. Cam Bullinger (POR)	14	37	51
5. Nolan Nenow (POR)	15	33	48

Leading scorers (Titans)

	G	A	Pts
1. Mason Hartley	14	18	32
2. Tim Tychonick	10	19	29
3. Caden Hegarty	15	12	27
4. Colton Alexander	10	15	25
5. Cooper Kasprick	8	14	22

Tiger Hills Hockey

East

	G	W	L	OT/SO	Pts
1. Killarney	12	11	0	1	23
2. Rivers	13	11	2	0	22
3. Minnedosa	12	7	3	2	16
4. MacGregor	13	5	8	0	10
5. Neepawa	13	3	9	1	7
6. Carberry	12	2	10	0	4

West

	G	W	L	OT/SO	Pts
1. Virden	13	10	2	1	21
2. Boissevain	13	8	4	1	17
3. Hartley	11	6	4	1	13
4. Melita	12	6	5	1	13
5. Deloraine	13	3	10	0	6
6. Souris	12	2	10	0	4

Club 55 Bowling

Jan. 23, 2025: Ladies' High Single: Janice Absteiter 226. **Ladies' High Triple:** Eleanor Scott 496. **Men's High Single & Triple:** Darrell Gabler 296 & 672. **Other Good Scores:** Elsie Slimmon 162, 153; Bea Betts 153; Tara Ross 195; Carole LeBoutillier 157, 157, 162; Darrell Gabler 169, 207; Eleanor Scott 172, 167, 157; Judy Gabler 179, 162; Vivian Oswald 154; Laurie Kohinski 176; Frank Porada 170; Russ Taylor 195, 174, 224.

Titans power their way through difficult part of MJHL schedule

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

At the start of the MJHL season, everyone could have looked at the Neepawa Titans' schedule of games for January and reasonably have said 'This stretch will either make or break their season'. Well, it appears as though the Titans have passed through that stretch, and remain unbroken.

The first month of 2025 featured eight games for Neepawa, with five of them versus the three best club's in the entire league. In those five games against the Winkler Flyer, Steinbach Pistons and Portage Terriers, Neepawa would earn six of a possible ten points in the standings. With one game left in January, (played after the publication deadline) Neepawa has gone 3-1-3, and are tied for second place in the MJHL's West Division.

Titans Head Coach and General Manager Ken Pearson said while these



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Neepawa's Carter McLeod looks to hinder the Winnipeg Blues goalies' line of sight, during a game at the Yellowhead Centre on Friday, Jan. 24. The Titans and Blues played back-to-back games over the weekend, with Neepawa earning three of a possible four points in the standings.

last few weeks have been impressive for long-time fans of the franchise, for those in the locker room, there is just the expectation to compete hard no matter who the opponent is.

"We looked at it like we do every game and just

worry about the opponent that night. We always ask our guys for their best 60 minutes each night and I think for the most part, we got that," stated Pearson. "I believe that our guys are confident that if they play to the best of their abilities,

it will give them a chance to win every night."

The final game for the month for the Titans will be on Friday, Jan. 31, versus the Swan Valley Stampeders (9-26-4-1. 23 points). Start time at the Yellowhead Centre is set for 7:30 p.m.

Neepawa Farmers fall to MacGregor

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The MacGregor Wild have locked down, at least fourth place in the Tiger Hills Hockey League's East Division, with an 8-4 win over the Neepawa Farmers. Bryce Krauter (2 goals - 1 assist) and Preston McLeod (2G) lead the way with multiple goals, while Drake

Sheppard, Clarke Turner, Braden Klippenstein, and Declan Graham also scored for the Wild. Shane Byram (2G), Brad Marshall, and Bret Levandoski were the contributors for Neepawa, who now fall to 3-9-1 on the

season. With three games left on schedule and trailing by seven points, the Farmers can no longer mathematically catch MacGregor.

The Farmers have two more homes games left on the regular season schedule,

Feb. 1 against Deloraine and Feb. 7 vs. Killarney. The last game of the regular season for Neepawa will be Saturday, Feb. 8 in Minnedosa against the Bombers.

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All word classifieds must be prepaid before printing

• Cancellations and corrections only within business hours and corresponding deadlines
 • Please check your ad when first published the Neepawa Banner & Press will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion.
 • All copy is subject to approval by the Neepawa Banner & Press.
 • We reserve the right to edit copy or to refuse to publish any advertisement we deem illegal, libelous, misleading or offensive

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

Alanon meetings currently being held at 342 Mountain Ave, Neepawa - Old Co-op Store. Tuesdays at 7 pm. Call 204-841-2192

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

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

Notice

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

For Sale or Rent

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

Auctions

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

For Sale

Asound bar for T.V. \$75, Desk lamp still in box \$40, one new flip phone never used \$60, one flip phone used \$40, one high rise toilet seat paid \$99 used for 3 months \$45, vaporizer new in box \$45. Phone 204-510-9172 or 204-717-0628.

For Rent

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

Coming Events

Minnedosa ALC's Computer Course starts the week of February 24th. Contact Val Gawel in Room 2 of the Minnedosa Collegiate 74 Armitage Ave. Phone: 204-867-2519 or email alc@rrsd.mb.ca

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Notice

TENDER OF FARMLAND FOR SALE

Sealed, written tenders for the property described below will be received by:

Johnston & Company
 18-3rd Avenue N.W., P.O. Box 551
 Dauphin Manitoba
 R7N 2V4
 Attention: Jo Paul B. Gatapia
 Forbes Tender

PROPERTY:

Parcel One:
 Part of the NW 1/4 24-24-19 WPM - R.M. of Dauphin THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 24-24-19 WPM EXC FIRSTLY: THE SLY 350 FEET PERP OF THE NLY 490 FEET PERP OF THE WLY 370 FEET PERP AND SECONDLY: ALL MINES MINERALS AND SPECIAL RESERVATIONS AS RESERVED IN THE ORIGINAL GRANT FROM THE CROWN
 Approximately 155 cultivated acres

Parcel Two:
 NE 1/4 35-24-19 WPM - R.M. of Dauphin NE 1/4 35-24-19 WPM EXCEPT DYKE AND FLOODWAY PLAN 1198 DLTO
 Approximately 138 cultivated acres

Parcel Three:
 Part of the SE 1/4 26-24-19 WPM - R.M. of Dauphin SE 1/4 26-24-19 WPM EXC FIRSTLY THE SLY 450 FEET OF THE NLY 885 FEET OF THE ELY 650 FEET AND SECONDLY THE SLY 625 FEET PERP OF THE WLY 360 FEET PERP
 Approximately 148 cultivated acres

CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

1. Tenders on individual and/or all parcels will be accepted.
2. Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the Seller. Inquiries should be directed to Bruce Forbes at (204) 648-3699.
3. Tenders must be received on or before 3:00 p.m. on February 21, 2025.
4. Each tender must be accompanied by a 5% deposit cheque payable to Johnston & Company. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be refunded.
5. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE:

1. The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
2. In addition to the deposit, the balance of the accepted tender must be paid on a date no later than March 7, 2025, or evidence provided that the purchase funds will be available under conditions acceptable to the Vendor. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
3. Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1st, 2025.

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Obituary



Bernard Leonard Kreutzer

It is with very heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Bernard Leonard Kreutzer on Jan 26th, 2025. Bernard was one of a kind, born in Neepawa, MB on July 31st, 1946, to John W. & Irene (Huber) Kreutzer. He grew up in Plumias with a love for life on the farm. Bernard was raised with

his brother Harold on their home quarter in Tupper with many relatives surrounding them which he loved. Baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church he had a strong faith in the Lord. Bernard attended East Tupper school and once he finished grade 8, he farmed with Harold for 62 years. He also worked in Thompson in the mines one winter when he was 19. On Sept 30th, 1967, he married Donna Mae Jean Burnside, and they had two children, Jamie & Joy.

As they raised their family, Bernard taught Jamie to farm, hunt and fish and taught Joy to drive, swim and play ball with the Tenby Stingers. Donna loved gardening, sewing and raising their family together.

He was close to many people and that included his nephew, Merlin. With us living on the same yard, they spent many days hunting and farming together. Merlin was like another son to Bernard and Donna and was like a brother to Jamie & Joy. Bernard's friends and family brought him much joy and he was so proud of all his grandchildren and great grand daughter Madilyn.

Bernard loved people deeply, was always eager to help someone in need and lived life to the fullest. A stranger was a friend he just hadn't met yet. He would walk up to anyone, sit down and start talking as if they already knew each other and before you know it, they did.

You couldn't keep him off the lake or from hunting with Jamie, Jeremy, Harold and his friends. He was so proud of the time that he went fishing with five of his uncles and Jamie. One of his favorite past times was delivering fish to neighbours throughout the winter, giving him an excuse to visit people.

He is survived by his wife Donna (Burnside), children Jamie (Jackey) Kreutzer, Joy (Trevor) Klassen, his brother Harold (Mary) Kreutzer, grandchildren Jeremy (Amalie) Kreutzer, Julia Kreutzer, Cooper Klassen & Brady Klassen, great granddaughter, Madilyn Kreutzer, nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his parents John W. & Irene (Huber) Kreutzer, nephew Merlin Kreutzer, niece Beverly Burnside, Wayne and Karen Burnside and Delmar Burnside.

In 2 Corinthians 12:9 Jesus says, "My Grace is sufficient for you, it is not by your works but rather by God's grace we are saved". And we can take comfort that Bernard is in heaven, and we will be with him one day again. We love you and miss you already.

Funeral will be held on Saturday February 1, 2025, at the Zion Lutheran Church in Plumias at 2pm. Interment will take place at Tupper Cemetery.

Clarke's Funeral Home Gladstone/MacGregor in care of arrangements.
 www.clarkesfuneralhome.com

Thank You

Thank you

The Kolesar family would like to express their deepest gratitude for the exceptional care and compassion provided by the Neepawa Hospital and Palliative Care staff to Marion during their time in the hospital. Your dedication, kindness and professionalism made an immense impact during a very challenging period for Marion and family.

From the attentive medical care to the emotional support, every member of your team went above and beyond to ensure Marion was comfortable and well cared for. Your empathy and understanding brought us great comfort and peace of mind, knowing that Marion was in such capable and carrying hands.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to providing the highest standard of care. Your efforts have touched our hearts and will always be remembered with deep appreciation.

With sincere thanks
 The Kolesar Family

Notice

Rolling River School Division

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2025-2026



Kindergarten Registration for the Rolling River School Division will be held during February 3rd - February 7th, 2025 from 9:00-11:30am and 1:30-3:00pm. Children who will be 5 years of age on or before December 31, 2025 are eligible for Kindergarten.

Please register at the following catchment area schools:

SCHOOL	PHONE NO.
Douglas Elementary	204-763-4480
Erickson Elementary	204-636-2266
Forrest Elementary	204-728-7674
Oak River Elementary	204-566-2167
Onanole Elementary	204-848-2402
Rapid City Elementary	204-826-2824
Rivers Elementary	204-328-7416
Tanner's Crossing Elementary	204-867-2591

*Parents are required to present their child's birth certificate and medical number at time of registration.

*Please contact the School Division Office (204-867-2754 Ext. 0)

if unsure of your catchment area school.

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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 \$22.20/hour with incremental increases to \$23.55/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

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



www.neepawabanner.com



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. We are actively seeking to fill 5 positions.

The current starting wage is \$19.25/hour with incremental increases to \$20.55/hour based on tenure

Quick Facts:

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

What we can offer you:

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

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Email: ads@neepawabanner.com



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 150 positions.

The current starting wage is \$16.45/hour with incremental increases to \$24.60/hour based on tenure as per our Collective Agreement

Quick Facts:

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

What we can offer you:

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

Your duties may include:

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

We are looking for people who are:

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

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

Ways to apply:

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



CAREGIVER for a child with disABILITY

Please mail your resume to 36 Clare Crescent St. Neepawa, Manitoba, R0J 1H0

Qualifications:

- At least 6 months experience in caregiver for Child with disability
- Studied Caregiver course or related
- Willing to adapt/or adjust with the child schedule
- Preferably but not required knows to speak Filipino Language
- Preferably knows how to drive or with class 5 license
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NEEPAWA **Banner & Press**

Snowmobilers take on Journey for Sight



PHOTO BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

Journey for Sight came to Neepawa on Jan. 25. The crew of the annual snowmobile fundraising event pulled in to refuel and partake in a lunch at the local DQ. Funds raised by Journey for Sight support the Lions Eye Bank of Manitoba.

While at Neepawa, they were also greeted by Neepawa Lions members and received a donation of \$200 from the Prairie Mountain Snowdrifters. The cheque was presented by Roy Globak and received by Todd Rathwell. Overall, as of Sunday, Jan. 26, a total of \$31,000 (not including donations directly to the Eye Bank), has been raised by Journey for Sight. A total of 12 sleds and 25 support crew are participating in the 2025 Journey for Sight.

Neepawa Banner & Press Sponsor Night winners



PHOTOS BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

The Neepawa Banner & Press held a free draw at its sponsored Titans hockey game on Jan. 24. The winners of first, second and third were: Rob Macdonald, Brad Monias and Kevin Cook. Congratulations!

Neepawa & District Chamber of Commerce hosts its 125th AGM

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

A celebration of a year of local business achievements took place on Monday, Jan. 27 at the 125th Neepawa & District Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting.

The event was held at the Neepawa Legion Hall and saw an array of local business leaders assembled in a social setting to network. The evening also included some important information from both the Chamber, as well as Neepawa Tourism, on the year that was.

Chamber president Pam Miller provided an update on some of the items of note from 2024. In terms of those local highlights, the Chamber lauded its successes with the Business After Five events, the 4th Annual Restaurant Showcase, and the hosting of Manitoba Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Tour, which arrived in Neepawa back in September.

One other item saw Jennifer Wiebe represent the Neepawa & District Chamber of Commerce

at a Chamber Advocacy Day, held at the Manitoba Legislature in December.

As for what to expect in 2025, Miller highlighted a new Women in Business event, that has been scheduled on Apr. 4. Additional information on this event will be announced in the near future.

The financial outlook from 2024

When it comes to the details behind the Chamber's latest financial report, perhaps it's best to remember the old expression 'What a difference a day makes'.

A review of the numbers for 2024 indicates that the total expenses were \$51,337, compared to an overall income of \$47,707. That comes out to a financial loss last year of \$3,630.

The reason for this yearly loss can easily be pinned down on one specific item, or perhaps we should say one specific day, that being May 24, 2024. On that day, an unanticipated blizzard blasted through the region. Unfortunately, that day was also supposed to be the first day of Neepawa & District Chambers

Annual Fair. The inclement weather forced the cancellation of all mid-way related events for the day. That cancellation was seen on the bottom line for the weekend, as for 2024, the Fair brought in \$6,478, which is \$3,217 less than the previous year.

Had Mother Nature decided to be a bit more cooperative, the Chamber very likely would have been much closer to break even last year.

Neepawa Tourism

Next up was a presentation by Neepawa Tourism, who have partnered with the Chamber at its AGM for the past five years. Board chair Pam Brown shared some information on efforts from Tourism in 2024 to attract visitors to Neepawa, as well as a few of the challenges.

First, Brown discussed the positives, which included a partnership with Tourism Manitoba to stage the Ultimate Neepawa Giveaway.

This event saw a Winnipeg based couple win an all expenses paid weekend in our community.

the giveaway received positive feedback, both from the award winners and Tourism Manitoba.

As well, the expansion of Neepawa Tourism mural project continued with local art pieces installed near Dairy Queen and Riverbend Park. Over the last few years, murals have been placed throughout the community, with two more planned for near the Taylor Law office and Beautiful Plains Museum. The creation of a mural walking tour has also been conceived for the future.

Tourism signage was installed at the new viewing towers. In closing Brown also thanks Barb Bohn for serving as a board members for Neepawa Tourism and Chairperson of the Training Committee. Barb is one of the original founding members of Neepawa Tourism, and is stepping down after several years of supporting the project.

As for Tourism's financial outlook, Neepawa's economic development officer Marilyn Crewe provided an update on behalf of the volunteer group. The tourism budget reported its total expenses last year of \$18,808.75,

while income of \$22,405.36. Those results created a net profit of \$3,596.61. While all those numbers are down slightly from the results of 2023, they remain a positive for the organization.

Guest speaker/Business of the Year

This year's guest speaker was Bill Hogan, the Executive Director for Community Futures Westman (CFW). Hogan's speech discussed the role of CFW in promoting and assisting regional entrepreneurs, through a variety of means.

The final notable part of the festivities was the announcement of the Business of the Year. This year's recipient was Kinley Thomson Chartered Professional Accountants Inc. (A separate feature story on the business will appear in a future edition of the Banner & Press).

Don't be late!
Our ad booking deadline
is Tuesday at noon!

'Some things are priceless!'

Rural committee prepares to celebrate 140th birthday of Polonia



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARCHIVES OF MANITOBA

Pictured here is the Huns Valley Post Office at Reuben Andre's in 1899. Polonia was originally known as Huns Valley!

By Casper Wehrhahn
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The unique history of a long-standing Manitoba community will be celebrated this year. This is Polonia, previously known as Huns Valley. Polonia is an unincorporated community in the Municipality of Rosedale, located approximately 28 km north and west of Neepawa (or 12 km west of Eden). Come August, it will be celebrating its 140th birthday.

Preparations for the celebration are being spearheaded by the Huns Valley 140 committee, with the event proper taking place on Aug. 16 and 17.

Committee member William Smith told the Banner & Press that this celebratory project all sprouted from one simple question posed by Janice McCracken, a fellow committee member, one year ago. 'How old is Polonia?'

"With some quick calculations, we realized that it would be 140 years old in 2025. It didn't take long for both of us to realize that maybe we wouldn't be having the same conversation in 2035," said Smith. "Polonia will be 150 years old, but until then, all of us are getting older! Well, before you know it, Janice coined the phrase 'Huns Valley 140', as that's the name of the historic settlement our

ancestors started in 1885."

Polonia the 'best kept secret'

The settlement of the area was part of what was known as the Hungarian Colonization, a movement which included individuals immigrating from Hungary, as well as those from countries that were under Austro-Hungarian rule in Europe at the time.

On Aug. 16, 17 settler families were led by Baron Géza de Döry to the Stoney Creek valley. The area was christened as New Hungary and the post office named Huns Valley. Numerous families joined the community over time and the area was eventually renamed to Polonia.

The history and stories of Polonia are vast and rich. Smith shared his own thoughts on the community with the Banner & Press.

"It has been said that the Valley is the best kept secret in Manitoba. But hundreds of Canadians say when they drive back to visit Polonia, head down the hill and see the beautiful valley, that they feel at peace and they're 'coming home,'" said Smith.

He added, "Activities were always centered around the church, hall and the country store that I was raised in. We were always surrounded with family and celebrations. All

the members of our Heritage Committee can relate the same story, and what better way to get together and share those precious keepsakes and memories that have been collected over 140 years. Some things are priceless!"

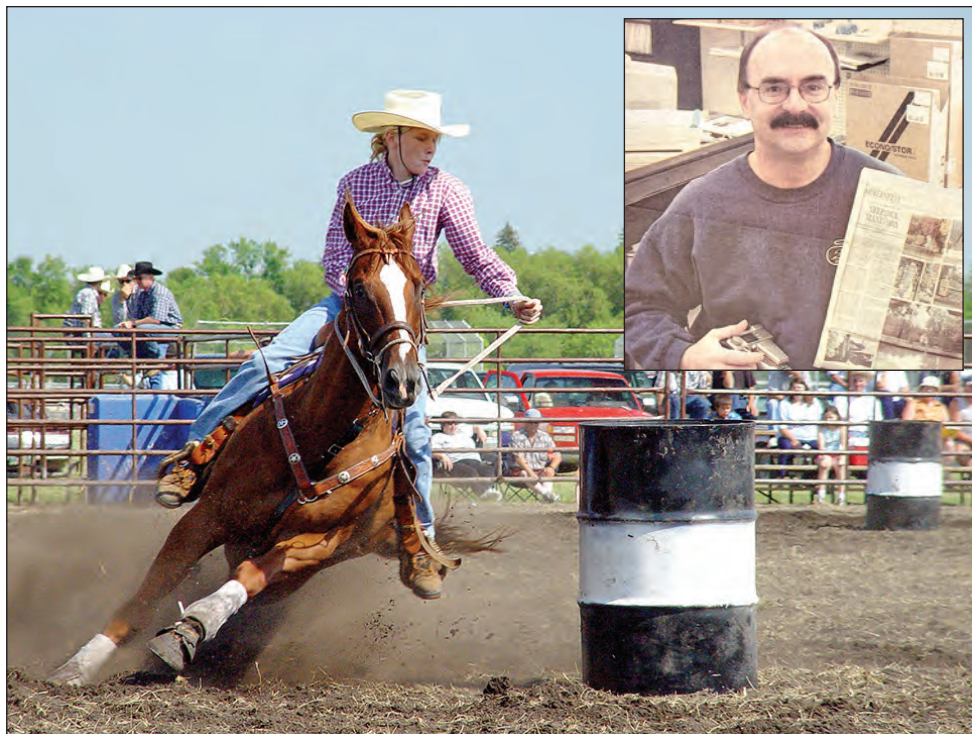
While the schedule for the celebration is still in development, the committee is arranging for homestead tours, ethnic entertainment, food souvenirs and more to be available. Smith also noted that the early response to this event has been very positive.

"Our registration drive has overwhelmed us at times as we gear up to entertain hundreds of descendants of the first pioneers," said Smith.

Providing a final comment, Janice McCracken added, "It takes a great number of people and funding to host this type of celebration. We are so grateful to those who are contributing their time and talents in organizing this event, and to those who are volunteering to work at it. Also, without the sponsorship from businesses and organizations, it wouldn't be possible to make this weekend happen."

The Huns Valley 140 committee can be contacted via email at hunsvalley140@gmail.com, or by call/text to Janice McCracken at 204-476-0516.

In remembrance of Don Prior



NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

This photo is inserted in memory of the late Don Prior (pictured inset). This year, Jan. 31, is the 20th anniversary of his passing.

Prior was a long-term staff member of the Neepawa Banner. He had an incredible eye for photography and captured many stories and memories that have been immortalized in the archives of the paper. We hope that the readers of this paper will take a moment to remember Prior alongside his family and the Neepawa Banner & Press.

Additional note: The inset photo was originally taken as a commemoration of one of Don Prior's photography related achievements. In 2003, an edition of The National Post contained a feature on Neepawa, which he was requested to provide photos for. Several of his photos appeared in the feature.

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