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Inside this week



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 Accessibility issues in Neepawa

Early Deadline!

Deadline for July 4th issue:
12 noon, Monday, June 30th

Bayanihan spirit in Neepawa

Joshua Jackson
 NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The Tagalog word bayanihan (bai • uh • nee • haan) translates into community or camaraderie, which was aplenty in the town of Neepawa, as many area residents came out to support the fifth annual Filipino Heritage Celebrations.

Flag raising

June 12 is an important day for members of the Filipino community. It marked Philippine Independence Day, a significant national holiday commemorating the country's declaration of independence from Spanish colonial rule on June 12, 1898. Members of the community made their way to Stoney Creek School Riverbend Park dressed in full traditional regalia to raise the flag of the Philippines as part of the weekend of celebrations. Neepawa Mayor Brian Hedley, Councillor Yvonne Sisley, and Aggasiz MLA Jodie Byram were all on hand to witness the ceremony. The flag-raising ceremony also included the playing of the Philippines National Anthem, speeches,

and then guests were treated to pancit and buns.

Celebrating past, present, and future

This year's theme for the Filipino Heritage Celebrations was 'celebrating Filipino resilience: Past, Present, and Future.' One of the event directors and President of the FilCan Association, Van Afuang, said this year's theme is connected to family.

"A strong foundation for resilience is family. The basic unit of society, the attention and love is focused within the family, a complete battle to the point of sacrificing our own lives to provide for the needs and wants of the family," he said.

This year's fifth annual Filipino Heritage Celebrations carried more weight and meaning for all of those involved. Tragedy struck the Filipino community in April 2025 as a vehicle-ramming attack took place during Vancouver's Lapu-Lapu Day festival, a celebration of Filipino heritage. The attack left 11 people dead and at least 32 more injured.

"In light of the tragic events in Vancouver that



PHOTO BY JOSHUA JACKSON

The Bisdak float was part of the parade at the fifth annual Filipino Heritage Celebrations. The Bisdak region ended up winning the competition as part of the celebration.

highlighted the Filipino community, the celebration and volunteerism served as a powerful statement of strength, solidarity, and to hold on the spirit of Filipino-Canadians," said Afuang.

Neepawa's Streets were lined with onlookers as the Filipino Heritage Celebrations took to the streets. Many floats cascaded

around Neepawa's downtown, which showcased the unique culture and history of the different regions of the Philippines.

Dancers danced, floats passed out toys and candy, and floats were intricately designed to reflect Filipino cultures and their home regions. He hopes those who came out to the celebrations

developed a deeper appreciation for Filipino culture and a desire to learn more about what Filipinos can share and offer as a commitment to the community.

to showcase and celebrate our culture, traditions, and even language. This helps Filipinos who became Canadian citizens, immigrants and newcomers feel more

connected to our roots and allows us to share our heritage with the wider community."

Included in the evening festivities were a live band, a raffle, supper, and a grand competition, with more than 10 acts performing.

Continued on Page 19

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Neepawa 'not as accessible as it should be'

New resident shares concerns, Town assures commitment to safety

By Casper Wehrhahn
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Patsy Kimball, a newcomer to Neepawa, has greatly enjoyed her time here thus far. As a highly independent and active resident of Kinsmen Courts II (KK2), Kimball has spent her two months of residency meeting the friendly and courteous people, taking in the variety of events Neepawa has to offer, and more. Neepawa, however, has not made this easy for her. The primary reason? The condition of the sidewalks.

While sidewalks and roadways in disrepair can be a hazard to anybody, they provide additional challenges for those with limited mobility in particular. The height of pedestrian access points on sidewalks also contribute to the issue of accessibility.

These challenges can range from inconveniences, to incidents resulting in injuries. One such incident was experienced by Kimball on May 28.

"I had just gone by [White's Funeral Home]. I went off the sidewalk to cross the road and to go up the other side. When I went, because the lip is

pretty high, it jerked me and it tipped me over the curb, the big curb. It tipped me over there and I went completely onto my side on my wheelchair," said Kimball. "I scratched my arm and my knuckles, and I got a bruise from [falling on top of the arm of my wheelchair] too. So we had to call the ambulance."

Kimball explained that she uses an electric wheelchair to get around. This is due to limited mobility caused by partial paralysis, which she is currently undergoing physiotherapy for.

Kimball wasn't with company on her outing at the time of the incident, but two other individuals happened to see the accident occur.

"They came right up and they phoned emergency services for me," said Kimball. "The people were really kind; a lot of people stopped [to check on me]."

Many sidewalks not accessible

Corrie Ford, the activities director for Kinsmen Courts II, also happened

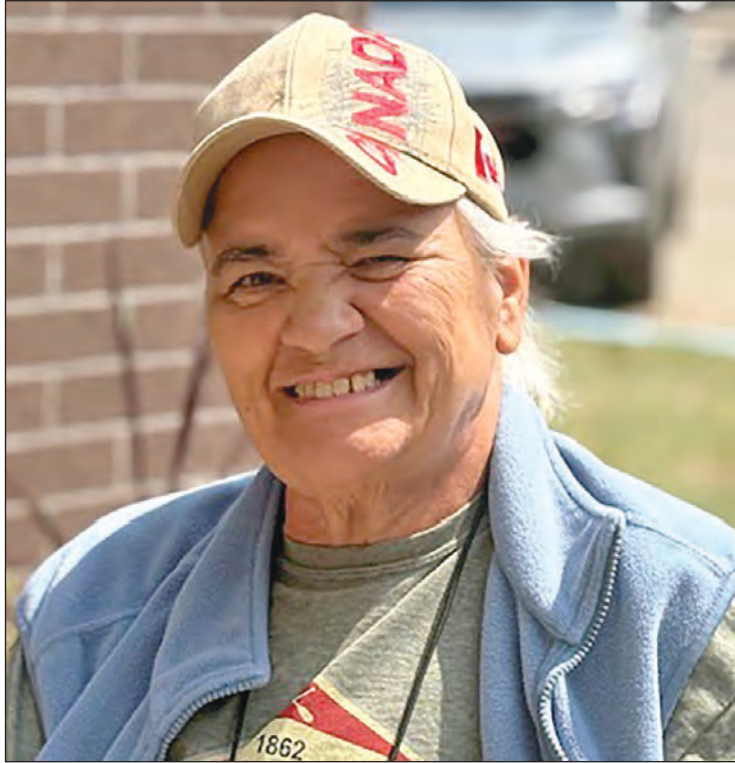


PHOTO PROVIDED BY KINSMEN COURTS II

Patsy Kimball, a new Neepawa citizen who resides at Kinsmen Courts II (KK2). She sustained minor injuries following an accident related to sidewalk conditions and accessibility within the town.

to be passing by the area while Kimball was being tended to and stopped to stay with her until she was picked up by the emergency medical staff.

"The police had showed up right away," said Ford.

Ford later added, "We were standing waiting for EMS to come pick her up, and [the police officer in attendance] looked down and he said that he's never thought about it, but every road access off the sidewalk, they're not accessible. He said that they are either too steep or there's a drop-off. He said none of them are safe, and he hadn't really looked into that, too... He also said that it was really good that Patsy was not strapped into her chair, because the chair would have been on top of her. And picking up those chairs is hard, they're quite heavy."

Kimball noted that she had made note of Neepawa's sidewalk accessibility issues, as well as their disrepair,

since moving here. And, on a separate occasion prior to the May 28 accident, her chair had gotten stuck and assistance from another pedestrian was required.

"I went to talk to the Town twice before my accident, and I went again after the accident," said Kimball, who was not satisfied with the responses given. "I was so disappointed."

Kimball added, "Even to go to the [Town] office, I had to push the door open and tell someone to send somebody out to talk to me."

The reason Kimball was unable to enter the Town Office is that, while it does have a ground-level entry that is accessible for other mobility devices, there is a raised segment at the doorway that makes the entryway impassable for her wheelchair.

Kimball 'disappointed'

Multiple problem sidewalk areas were made note

of during the interview, including sections along Main Street, Hamilton Street (ex: near the Kerr Block and Roxy Theatre), and Davidson Street (near the RBC parking lot).

Conditions of the roads are also a factor, as, according to information provided by Ford, scooter safety guides state that if a sidewalk is unsafe to use, that it is best to use the roads.

"And, in Neepawa, as we all know, people back out everywhere. So going down main street, driving behind the cars with or without a flag, is worse than being on the sidewalk," said Ford.

Kimball shared that she was disappointed by the responses provided by the Town when she met with them, stating, "I

want them to fix the sidewalks right away. I don't want excuses, I know there's money. They're supposed to be here to make things safe for us, and they're not."

Dana Menzies, executive director of Kinsmen Courts I and II also provided a brief statement, highlighting the importance of accessibility considerations.

"Neepawa is a growing community which many senior citizens of the surrounding areas are relocating to," said Menzies. "Neepawa offers medical services and everyday conveniences that smaller towns do not have. It is a shame that new residents to Neepawa are finding the community not [as] accessible as it should be."

One item that was appreciated however, was the recent implementation of crosswalk lights near Giant Tiger.

Continued on Page 12



PHOTO BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

What may be a simple half step up for some, could be a hazard for others. According to interviews with Neepawa resident Patsy Kimball and KK2 activities director Corrie Ford, many sidewalk access curbs in Neepawa are not truly accessible for those with limited mobility. Seen here is an example of one of the many pedestrian access curbs found in Neepawa.



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1975: Bee sting causes army truck overturn

By Casper Wehrhahn
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

**125 years ago,
Wednesday,
June 20, 1900**

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

Franklin: Quite a procession of bicyclists halted at our village on their way east after attending the convention. They reported a good time.

Franklin: Some of our citizens and settlers visited Rapid City last Thursday to attend the annual county meeting of the Orange Order.

Glenellan: The people here are determined to have their annual all-day basket picnic the success of the season. Arrangements are being made for baseball and football tournaments. Beside the team competition, a first class list of sports is being prepared, including all manners of foot-racing, jumping, horse races, etc., etc. The Glenallaners are prepared to make every arrangement for the comfort and convenience of visitors.

Glenholm: James Montgomery has the foundation of a fine house finished on the Ridge Road.

**100 years ago,
Tuesday,
June 19, 1925**

School inspector Herriott is being transferred from his present district and is offering his Gladstone residence for sale.

Mrs. Russell Batters had opened a beauty parlor at her residence on Fourth Avenue.

Congratulations to Jno. Crawford and John Simpson who celebrated their 69th birthdays this week.

The conference of farm women in Knox church on Wednesday was a most interesting one, there being a large attendance and a number of very important subjects ably discussed by different speakers.

Advice has come from Hammond, B.C., of the death there last Friday of Jane Pockett, widow of the late Jonas Potter, formerly

of the Springhill district. The deceased lady was one of the pioneer women of this part of the country, having come here with her husband in 1878 when the nearest postoffices were Minnedosa and Salisbury. That was before Neepawa and Arden were on the map and Bridge Creek was just calling for recognition...

The Potter homestead at Springhill was occupied until 1905, when a move was made to British Columbia.

**75 years ago,
Thursday,
June 22, 1950**

Amid a setting of tulips and spring blossoms, St. Johns Anglican Church, Kelwood, was the scene of a pretty wedding scene Thursday, June 8, at 5p.m. when Rev. F. H. White united in marriage Gwendolyn Blanche, twin daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Burton and Walter Edwin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Austin Smith, both of Kelwood.

One of the most striking and effective examples of remodelling and redecoration seen for a long time has transformed the interior of the Neepawa Hotel one of the town's largest brick buildings and a landmark known far and wide in the history and growth of Central Manitoba.

Built about 1891, the hotel was the home away from home for many thousands of early settlers and for travellers moving their sample wares for distribution to the sleeping giant that awakens the world's greatest agricultural area.

T. S. Morrison, superintendent of the newly opened Sandall-Brock Mansion here, has issued an invitation to citizens of Neepawa and district to attend a public inspection of the building, formerly the Neepawa Hotel, on Saturday, June 24, between 2p.m. and 8p.m.

**50 years ago,
Thursday,
June 19, 1975**

Robert Bruce Montgomery, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Montgomery, Neepawa, has received

his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg. He is now employed with Ellanco Chemical Co. in Brandon.

Diane Lynn Turko, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Turko, of McCreary, Man., was among the 123 students who graduated from the Health Science Centre School of Nursing...

Miss Turko, in September, will be employed at the Health Science Centre as a Registered Nurse on a medical ward.

It was indeed a thrill for all the members of the committee who arranged for the 50th anniversary of church union, when former and present residents of the Brookdale, Oberon and Ingelow and Gordon districts gathered to take part in the church services held in the auditorium of the Brookdale school June 8, filling it to capacity.

Maurice and Della Desjardins, two new Neepawa residents, will operate Desjardins Colour TV and Radio, a new business enterprise in Neepawa. They, along with their daughter of nine months, moved to town from McCreary where they resided for a year. Mr. Desjardins has been in the business for five years after taking his training in electronics at Keewatin Community College in The Pas, and also toured as a professional musician for a year and a half. The couple, both from the Laurier district, are expecting their second child shortly. In addition to the sale of radios and TV's, Mr. Desjardins will service all electronic equipment.

Edrans: Belated birthday wish to Wm. McCullough, who celebrated his 80th birthday on Sunday, June



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BANNER & PRESS ARCHIVES

The above scene was the result of a bee sting in June of 1975. The driver of this 5-ton army truck had been approaching the west side of Neepawa when he was stung by a bee, which caused him to swerve and overturn his vehicle. The truck was part of a convoy passing through town on its way to the Armed Forces base in Winnipeg following a month and a half of training at Camp Wainwright, Alta. In the back of the truck was a Bren gun carrier, which added a fair amount of weight to the load. Neither driver nor passenger were injured. Traffic was delayed for nearly an hour, with heavy duty crane equipment being used to set the truck upright.

15, with a family supper held in the Edrans Hall when 23 members of the McCullough families sat down to a surprise supper for Grampa. Several of the grandchildren were unable to attend.

**20 years ago,
Monday,
June 20, 2005**

The Viscount Cultural Council has a new home.

VCC administrator Brenda Kryschuk said the organization takes possession of the former Baptist church on First Ave. July 1...

She said in its current space on Mountain Ave., any class with over eight participants has to be moved to another location.

A Neepawa senior had a rude awakening last Saturday, when a pellet blasted through his front picture window.

Gordon Anderson said he was sound asleep when he heard a loud cracking sound around 5a.m...

Anderson said he walked over to his front window to discover a hole around one inch in diameter and glass on the floor. He called the police, who found a pellet on the floor...

While Anderson was shaken by the event, he said he has no plans to leave the apartment he's lived in since 1996.

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.

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This ad for Goossen Auction Service was placed in the June 20, 2005 edition of the Neepawa Press.

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Be still my heart

It's an old expression, one I grew up hearing, sometimes in a rather derisive tone; it's an admonition to oneself to calm down when overly excited. It can be used in romantic situations, it can also be used in very day ordinary occurrences. I used it twice this week.

In our evening walk Arie and I paused to speak to small gatherings on the street. The first grouping was painting the pride colors on the sidewalk outside of the Arts Forward Building. Some were long time trusted friends, some are relatively new trusted acquaintances. We spoke cheerfully, lightly and with respect and appreciation for each other and the reason for the need for pride colors to become normal. Just a bit further down the street we stopped to chat with the group working on the new green space, between the Gill and Schmall office and our MLA Jodie's office. This group is creating a place where folks can sit, share lunch, rest, chat...a safe public space honoring the Dream Team and it's purpose. At both sites ordinary people, my neighbours and friends were working quietly and diligently to make our town, our community, our world a better, more caring home for all. For all. People with differing goals and aims, people with differing hopes and fears, people from differing cultures and creeds, people with differing genders. For all. My heart came near to bursting with pride. Be still my heart.

And then, just days later, I read, and re-read a letter to the editor by a person who grew up in this community, who holds dear their faith and creeds, and under smooth words cloaking personal beliefs, with smooth words creating a visible and damaging rift in our community, and my heart first hurt intensely, and then came near to exploding with grief. Be still my heart.

Too often I am silent when I have an opportunity to speak. Partly because I am often in public view, partly because it can be challenging to speak as in individual not being the voice of my family, my faith family, my community or my world. I am speaking in my own voice, for myself, for I cannot be silent. I can no longer be silent. My closest friend and travel companion is married to a wonderful woman who likes and trusts me. I have learned the cost they have paid for their love for each other and their marriage. One of my grandsons is engaged to an amazing man and they have entrusted me with their marriage celebration—okay, I get to officiate their vows, there is no way I want to plan more than that! One of my nearest and dearest is bisexual. It's no big deal. IT'S NO BIG DEAL!!! Each one of these beautiful people love me, respect me, laugh with me, cry with me, encourage me and plain accept me. What more could I possibly wish for? Each one of them carry their creeds and beliefs, sometimes much the same as mine, sometimes very different. It's no big deal.

Be still my heart... it truly can burst with pride, and be crushed by injustice, all in the same week, all in the same place, all in my home community.

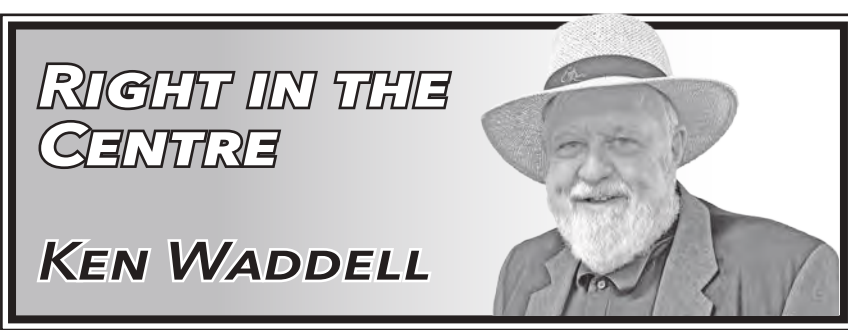
Freedom of speech is a high priority

Over almost 36 years as a publisher, I have tried to have an even and fair hand in determining our policy on letters to the editor. First and foremost, in almost every case, the letter must be signed by the writer. There have been over 1,800 editions of the papers we have published in almost 36 years, way more if you count that we have published two and sometimes three papers per week. Since June 2024, with the addition of the Virden Empire Advance, we have three editions per week.

In all that time, I may not have published a letter writer's name to protect a person who might have been injured in some way by having their name published. Unsigned letters may have happened, but not often, and not recently. Almost always, the letter writer's name goes in the paper. If a person is afraid of repercussions around publishing their name, then they should likely take up their case or complaint with the RCMP or their lawyer, not the local newspaper.

Occasionally, we are told in person, or in writing, that we shouldn't publish a certain opinion letter. There have been a very few times when, if I felt a letter was inaccurate, libellous or inflammatory then I (or my staff and I) have discussed it and said "No, this isn't true or might be libellous or could be inflammatory," and we set it aside.

The following is a famous quote, "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." The quote is attributed to many sources so I will leave it up to readers to seek out the original source. There are varying opinions on who originally said it. It wasn't me, but I do see great merit in the quote. As much as possible, we



"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

need to have free expression and the more the better. Ideas, theories and behaviours all need considered and civil responses.

Over and above that, letters get published and sometimes people think and have told us we shouldn't have published a letter. That's a slippery slope because not publishing a letter is actually censorship and restricts free speech.

In Canada, one does not have to agree with an opinion, be it in print, on radio, TV or the internet. Opinions are like noses, everyone has one.

It's important that the local newspaper be prepared to publish news, columns or opinion pieces and letters to the editor. I hate to think how restricted our society, our democracy would be if news, columns and letters to the editor were not available to readers.

But because you don't like an opinion...Which is exactly what a letter is, that doesn't give you the right to request that it not be

published.

Rest assured, with many letters we have published, I didn't like either the content or the tone, the ideas or the claims. However, in the interests of society, democracy and freedom of expression, it's important that, as much as possible, opinions and ideas be put out there for examination.

Political parties, interest groups and people in general want to restrict available information to their own echo chamber so people will be restricted in the amount of material they have for consideration. They only want you to hear or read opinions they agree with.

So, it's up to news media in general, and newspapers specifically, to allow as much diversity of opinion onto the pages as possible.

Remember, don't shoot the messenger!

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

423 Mountain Avenue, Box 699, Neepawa, Manitoba R0J 1H0
 Telephone: (204) 476-3401 Fax: (204) 476-5073
 Toll-free: 1-888-436-4242 (within Manitoba) www.neepawabanner.com
 Subscription Rates in Canada 1 Year: \$61.38 (including taxes) Online subscription \$36.00
 Customer Account 558680-99-Postage paid at Neepawa, Manitoba

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY
 AD DEADLINE: TUESDAY NOON PRIOR TO ISSUE DATE
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 Circulation as of May 2024: 7,275



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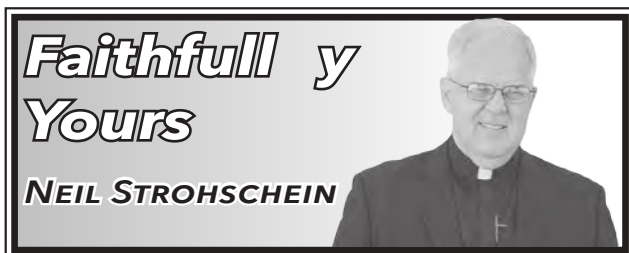
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God's response to crisis times, Part II

Last week's column identified two things that God will not do when individuals or nations face crisis times. First, God will not violate our freedom to choose how we respond to the problems we face. He will offer us his advice if we seek it. His Spirit will speak to our spirits saying: "This is what you should do." But we are free to decide if we will follow his advice, if we will ignore it or rebel and do the exact opposite of what he's told us to do.

Second, he will not shield us from the consequences of the choices we make. The Old Testament prophet Jonah learned that lesson the hard way. He had been called to warn the citizens of ancient Nineveh that they were about to face God's wrath because of their sins. Jonah chose to go his own way. That choice put his life and the lives of many others in jeopardy. But the threat of imminent disaster got his attention and revealed that God takes greater delight in showing mercy to those who seek it.



The turning point in Jonah's story came when he cried out to God for help—help for himself and help for those whose lives would be lost if their ship was destroyed in a violent Mediterranean storm. God heard Jonah's prayer; and God's answer gave new meaning to the phrase: "Desperate times require desperate measures."

To save the lives of those around him, Jonah had to die to himself and his vision of a perfect world. He had to get off the boat (either under his own power or with help), jump into the water and put his fate in God's hands; and that's just what he did.

His choice saved the lives of all those on board that ship. God's response (immediately calming the stormy sea) radically

changed their lives. The Bible tells us that they cried out to God, sought his forgiveness for their sins, offered sacrifices and vowed to honour, worship and serve God for the rest of their lives.

What about Jonah? He was treading water in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. To get his life back on track, he had to go back to the place where he first rebelled against God; and deal with the sin that started this crisis. But swimming back to shore wasn't an option. How would he get there?

God's answer was quite unique. The Bible tells us that God prepared a big fish that swallowed Jonah and gave him an exclusive, three-day ride back to dry land. It wasn't dignified

and it wasn't instantaneous. But it was effective. The 96 hours Jonah spent in the stomach of this fish enabled him to rebuild his relationship with God and prepare for the renewal of his call to Nineveh and the events that followed.

As serious and life-threatening as Jonah's crisis was, he and all those on the ship with him were never without hope. Neither are we. As a society, especially in North America, we are reaping the legitimate consequences of economic, social and moral choices we have made since the end of World War II. We are to blame for the mess we're in.

But God will have mercy on us if we ask for it. And he will show us the way back to the political, economic, social, moral and spiritual strength we had back then. The way back may not be instantaneous or dignified, but it will be effective.

Next week—Jonah's lesson for Canada and Canadians.

Letters

Editor's note: A letter to the editor in the June 13 edition of the Banner & Press has elicited several responses in this week's newspaper.

We work hard to have a Letter to the Editor policy that is open to a wide range of opinions (See editorial on Page 4). —Ken Waddell.

We can have both

Shame on Neepawa Banner & Press for publishing last week's letter by Bryce Parrott. You gave Neepawa & Area Pride front page coverage last year but tear it down only months later - continuing to prove you are not a safe space and part of the reason locals of the LGBTQIA2S+ community may still feel threatened. You accomplished printing a "click bait" article and it's not a good look.

That being said— and it will unfortunately but not intentionally feel secondary as I'm focusing more on the second part of the published letter - I do agree with raising a Filipino flag for the month of June as well. Look to "Your Dollar Store with more" for inspiration— both can hang side by side.

I'm so grateful last year's Pride celebration went off without trouble. A huge crowd gathered— there were smiles, conversations, dancing, pride and *gasp* RAINBOWS all day long. We were all a little nervous, but as the day progressed, the guards came down. This hesitancy shouldn't be felt around the world anymore— especially in a beautiful, diverse town like Neepawa. We won't let letters like Bryce's make us feel the need to build up walls again. The pride sidewalk was just repainted outside Arts Forward—a good show of strength and resilience amidst the hate. I believe that letters like yours, Bryce, would be more likely to promote depression and anxiety rather than a rainbow Pride flag. I don't follow the teachings of your god and the ever changing radical quotes on the signs outside of churches don't align with my beliefs but I drive on— take that advice instead of creating divide. Who gave you power to decide which neighbour deserves love?

When a party leader condemns DEI initiatives and others follow, you're darn right it becomes political. A democratically elected leader is supposed to represent and protect his or her riding/province/country. When individuals raise concerns about not feeling safe where they live or work, it's my hope they have a strong leader's voice to advocate for them. In the past— wait... sadly in the current too—, people were/ are being threatened, beaten or worse for speaking up and defending their rights to same sex relationships, deciding to transition, deciding to publically live as their authentic selves... this forced their voices to be silent for way too long. It's pretty sad that it's taken this long for political leaders to stand in solidarity with their LGBTQIA2S+ constituents. (There are long standing good ones out there— not bashing the political scene as a whole!)

To address the concern: "It is not clear how they should treat one another..." Hmm — like a living, breathing person such as yourself?! Why should it change if you happen to find out someone's sexual orientation or preferred pronouns are different from your first assumption... A "hello" or a handshake are still universal greetings. If that's all you can handle, walk on.

We don't need to learn how to be men and women in the traditional, black & white defined way. We can learn how to be humans. Add some colour to your life and be kind.

Adrienne Mack
Neepawa, MB

Additional letters on Page 14

Thumbs up, thumbs down

Thumbs down to the artificial flowers that are placed at the Riverside Cemetery. I wish people would stop putting those flowers on the graves in Neepawa. They look very tacky after being out in all kinds of weather.



Gail Cathcart and Cameron Smith
Neepawa and Winnipeg (formerly Neepawa), MB

A big thank you and thumbs up to everyone who came out to enjoy two evenings of music in the Margaret Laurence Home yard and donated over \$500 to support the Little Valley Jamboree. Beautiful weather and the talents of Mavis Roe and Rob Waddell made each night so enjoyable..



Blair and Kim Chapman
Neepawa, MB

A huge thank you to the amazing staff at the Neepawa Golf & Country Club for the top-notch food service - we were truly impressed! Special thanks to the wonderful golf pro, Landon Cameron, for the unforgettable golf cart convoy tour of the stunning course. Our Kinsmen Kourts & KKII seniors had the time of their lives out there, and it wouldn't have been the same without your incredible hospitality and care!

Dana Menzies
Neepawa, MB

Thumbs up to the committee members and participants at Neepawa United-Anglican Shared ministry service on June 8, acknowledging the 100th Anniversary of The United Church of Canada. It was faithful, joyful and spirit filled. The stew and biscuits, cake, strawberries and ice-cream were a grand topping.

John Lea
Gladstone, MB

Thumbs up for the wonderful Senior's excursion to Clear Lake June 16th courtesy of Age Friendly Manitoba's caring program. We enjoyed sunshine, a delicious lunch at the Lake House, walks thru the gardens, streets and shops Special thanks to Michelle and Cassandra our hosts, our Handi-van driver Ricki and also the great company of our group.

Liz Sumner
Neepawa, MB



Thumbs up to the town gardener and the Neepawa Garden Club for keeping all the planters and flower beds looking lovely. As well, a thumbs up to the developer and tradesmen who are working diligently to bring the Kerr Block (next to the Roxy) back to full use.

Christine Waddell
Neepawa, MB



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 | By email: news@neepawabanner.com

HELEN DRYSDALE

OUT OF HELEN'S KITCHEN

What's for supper

Do you ever find yourself in the kitchen staring blankly at the fridge wondering what to cook for supper? The daily decision of what to whip up for supper can be daunting, especially at the end of a long day. Here is help. Your whole meal planned for you. Add a side salad to go with this meal and the planning is done. This meal is cooked in the oven, dessert and all. The potato casserole can be made the day before, refrigerated and baked the day you need it.

Lemon baked pork chops

These lemony pork chops are tender, juicy, and packed with flavour, perfect for a weeknight meal.

4 pork chops	1/2 tsp salt
1/2 cup bread crumbs	1/4 tsp. pepper
1/2 tsp dried crushed rosemary or 1 tsp. Dash	1 egg, lightly beaten
1 tsp. powdered garlic	1/4 cup apple juice or white wine
1 tsp. grated lemon zest	2 Tbsp. lemon juice
	1 Tbsp. oil

Trim the pork chops of excess fat. Preheat oven to 350°F. In a pie plate, mix the bread crumbs, rosemary, garlic powder, lemon zest, salt and pepper. In a bowl, mix together the egg, apple juice, lemon juice and oil. Dip the chops into the egg mixture and then into the crumb mixture. Place on a broiler tray or a rack in a roasting pan and bake for 40-45 minutes or until cooked through.

Mozzarella mashed potatoes

3 lbs. potatoes, peeled and quartered	1 tsp. salt
3 Tbsp. butter	1/2 tsp. pepper
2 garlic cloves, minced	1 cup sour cream
2 green onions, finely diced	1 1/2 cups shredded Mozzarella .

Cook the potatoes in salted water until tender. While potatoes are cooking melt butter in a pan and add the garlic and green onion. Sauté for 2-3 minutes. When the potatoes are finished cooking drain well. Mash with a potato masher until smooth. Mix in the remaining ingredients. Put the potato mixture into a greased casserole dish and cover. Bake at 350°F for 30 minutes, remove the cover and cook for 10 minutes more.

Ginger baked apples

4 apples	1/3 cup chopped raisins
9-12 small ginger snap cookies	1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 cup melted butter	1/2 cup water
1/3 cup chopped walnuts or shredded coconut	

In a food processor or blender, process ginger snap cookies until you have one cup of cookie crumbs. In a bowl mix the crumbs with the butter. Add the walnuts, raisins and cinnamon. Cut the apples in half cross wise. Scoop out the core. Place in a baking dish skin side down. Spoon the crumb mixture into the cores. Top the apples with any remaining crumbs. Pour the water into the bottom of the baking dish. Cover with foil and bake in a preheated 350°F oven for 30 minutes. Remove foil and bake uncovered until apples are tender but still holding their shape. Baking time will depend on the type of apples you are using. Enjoy.

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Rainbows and Love

When I was a teenager, growing up in a small town, I had never heard of Pride. I didn't know what it meant to live openly, safely, or authentically. Today, Pride is more than just a celebration, it's a lifeline for many. Pride started out as a social movement with the Stonewall protests in 1969 and has become a global movement. It was born out of resistance and today, continues to shine a light on the ongoing fight for equity, safety and dignity.

Pride is a celebration of diversity. Humans are not cookie cutters, meant to fit into a certain mold. We are a beautiful mosaic of differences. You see, there isn't one right way to be. That's like saying everyone should be right-handed, it's not practical and not realistic to assume that everyone should be the same way. So, you may be asking, "Why do we still need Pride, don't we have equity already?" Equity can be taken away as quickly as it can be given and while many 2SLGBTQIA individuals have individual rights and legal protections, that doesn't always translate over into everyday acceptance or safety. 2SLGBTQIA youth are still highly represented amongst the homeless population, trans and gender diverse folks still face higher rates of violence and unemployment. Equity is not a permanent state and needs to be defended, in Canada we are seeing rising anti Queer sentiment as a response to what is happening in the states. We may feel secure in Canada, but it doesn't mean the security will last. Celebrating diversity includes amplifying voices within the

**YOUR
LISTENING EAR
DELSIE MARTIN**

2SLGBTQ+ community who face additional marginalization—like Black, Indigenous, Two-Spirit, and trans people.

Pride helps people (especially young people) see that they are not alone. Suicide rates amongst 2SLGBTQIA youth are undeniably high and these rates drop dramatically when youth feel seen. When our youth know that their identities are valid, it gives them space to explore this identity in a safe way. When we make the choice to be parents, we don't say to ourselves, "I want a kid who is blonde, good at sports and an excellent academic". Parenting is not Build a Bear; we don't get to choose who our kids are. So, we have a choice, we either show up for our kids and validate who they are, or we deny them those rights and start investing in a whole lot of counselling and literally put our kids lives at risk. Pride is about protecting our future generations and helping them grow up in a world surrounded by love, equality and openness. Isn't that what all parents want for their children?

Pride is for everyone to celebrate. Pride is about love in all its glory. It's an invitation for everyone to celebrate love, inclusion and freedom. Allies are an ESSENTIAL part of Pride. Pride is about community, and everyone needs an accepting community, and our allies show everyone how a community can sur-

round someone with love and build them up. When allies speak up in conversations and challenge homophobia or transphobia, or support inclusive policies, it helps reduce stigma. This is especially important in spaces where members of the 2SLGBTQIA community feel unsafe. If you are an ally, know that you are so appreciated, embraced and loved by those around you.

So, this month, I ask you to reflect on the word "love" and what that means for you in supporting those in your community. Because when we lead with love, we create a world where everyone—no matter who they are or who they love—can belong and thrive.

Delsie Martin (BA, MSW, RSW), is a Registered Social Worker working out of The Wellness Clinic in Brandon. She can be reached at dmartin@wellnessclinicbrandon.ca.

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'It's time to take that step'

Rec Facility Committee pleased with initial public response

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

There appears to be huge interest in starting a serious conversation about the future of local recreation. That conversation publicly kicked off on Tuesday, June 10, at the Yellowhead Hall in Neepawa, with a meeting to explore the need for a new regional rec facility.

The meeting was organized by the Neepawa and Area Recreation Facility Committee, and guided by Wayne Jacobsen. The gathering's intent was to discuss the vision for what might best serve area residents in sport and wellness.

But before that discussion could proceed, it needed to be decided if even pursuing the construction of a new facility to replace the Yellowhead Centre, was even a necessity. The consensus, for those who attended the meeting was an overwhelming yes.

But now with that out of the way, the next matter to discuss was the potential location for a new facility. Jacobsen announced the committee had been able to narrow it down to four possible locations:

Site one: 5.0 acres of donated land just southwest of the Tim Hortons' on a portion of land nearby what is known to locals as the former chicken barn property;

Site Two: 4.77 acres exactly west of the current Neepawa Curling Club building;

Site Three: 5.0 acres northwest of Neepawa, which is part of 320 acres purchased by the Town for development in 2024; and

Site Four: 4.08 acres (with potential growth to the north), located slightly south of the Neepawa Golf & Country Club.

All four of these choices have their positives and negatives if the construction of a new rec facility proceeds. Those details were explained during the discussion off each



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Approximately 90 people showed up to the presentation hosted by the Neepawa and Area Recreation Facility Committee. These people had the chance to voice their opinion on a variety of locations.

individual plot of land.

For site one, (*Slightly southwest of Tim Hortons'*) some of the positives to consider are a location with easy access, as well as the land itself being donated, should this project go ahead on this spot. A negative to consider, however, is the costs to install all the water and sewer lines in the location from scratch.

In regard to site two, (*The Curling Club*), its location next to the existing Neepawa Curling Club building is considered a positive, but access and the slightly smaller amount of acres available to build are viewed as potentially hindering future expansion to the facility.

Site three (Project 320 location) has plenty of acres available, and will be part of a new suburb for Neepawa to be built within the next decade. The exact location in the development for a rec facility, has not yet been decided, however.

As for site four, (Close to NGCC), available space allows for possible expansion of the facility. Proximity to the former garbage dump location, and possible traffic concerns were discussed as possible drawbacks.

During the Q & A session from the audience, a comment was also

brought up regarding a fifth option, located on land much closer to the golf course than the current site four property. It was explained that land is currently privately owned and not, to the best of their knowledge, for sale. It was suggested, however, that enquires could be made.

The meeting concluded with the around 90 people who attended being given the chance to share their opinion on the best location. Everyone was given a red and a yellow sticker, and told to select their preferred choice. Red was used as the first choice, while yellow indicated the second option. The options preferred were as follows:

•**Site one:** 43 red (first choice) and 26 yellow (second choice)

•**Site Two:** 28 red and 16 yellow;

•**Site Three:** 4 red and 9 yellow, and

•**Site Four:** 15 red and 14 yellow.

(*Some individuals choose to only vote for their first and preferred option.*)

It should be noted that this was not an official location vote, but simply a way to gauge the communities' thoughts on what they believe would be the best option. There are several other factors to be

considered when it comes to the official selection of a potential site.

After the meeting concluded, Wayne Jacobsen spoke with the Banner &

Press and noted that he and the board were pleased with this initial response.

"When you facilitate an open forum, you don't know if you're going to get 20 or 200 people, so I think this is a good turnout. But this is really step one in a long process. A chance to generate ideas, generate discussion, and a little bit of feedback," said Jacobsen. "But the first step in any solution is acknowledging that it's time to take that step. That's what a big part of tonight was all about."

The online version of the presentation is expected to be available for viewing in the near future. Once those details are confirmed, the Banner & Press will share the information on how to view it online.

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Immigrant Settlement Services, Salvation Army, partner to enhance newcomer support in Neepawa



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Representatives with the Salvation Army and Neepawa and Area Immigrant Settlement Services have partnered on a new and enhanced support program.

By Joshua Jackson
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

A new collaboration between The Salvation Army and the Neepawa and Area Immigrant Settlement Services will offer enhanced support and services to newcomers and the wider Neepawa community.

The partnership will offer practical assistance and resources available through The Salvation Army to clients who need and request this additional support during their settlement period. NAISS will provide services like orientations, language training, employment support, and other settlement-related assistance to immigrants.

The partnership was spurred by a shared commitment to serve the community and to address urgent social challenges.

“We recognized that by combining our unique strengths, whether that be resources, networks, or specialized services, we could have a greater impact,” said Neepawa and Area Immigration Settlement Services Executive Director Ilce Pineda. “Our mutual goals around compassion, dignity, and community support make this a natural collaboration, and we’re excited about the potential to extend our reach and effectiveness together.”

This collaboration unites the practical support of the Salvation Army alongside the specialized knowledge

of NAISS to create a more holistic approach to helping newcomers settle successfully in the area.

The partnership aims to provide easier access to essentials, food, clothing, housing support, and cultural orientation in a more welcoming and coordinated environment.

“For the broader community, it promotes inclusion, builds cross-cultural understanding, and helps newcomers become active, contributing members of the local economy and society. Ultimately, it strengthens the social fabric of Neepawa and supports a healthier, more connected community for everyone,” said the Executive Director.

Both organizations plan to facilitate events and programs that promote intercultural understanding, encourage community integration, and build networks among newcomers and the broader Neepawa community.

“We are excited to invite Everyone to our upcoming multicultural event at noon, July 26, at Riverbend Park in Neepawa. In collaboration with The Salvation Army,” said Pineda. “We will also be collecting non-perishable food donations during the event. Please consider bringing an item to support families in need in our community.”

NAISS is grateful for the opportunity to work together in support of newcomers in the Neepawa

community.

“This partnership is a reflection of what makes Neepawa so special - a community that cares, welcomes, and uplifts one another. We invite the community to stay engaged, volunteer if they can, and continue showing the generosity and kindness that defines this town,” she said. “Together, we’re not just providing services — we’re building a stronger, more inclusive Neepawa for everyone.”

Former United Church Minister returns for special 100th celebration



PHOTO BY JUDITH ELGERT

Neepawa United-Anglican Shared Ministry church held a very special 100th anniversary service on Pentecost Sunday, June 8. The service was titled 100th Anniversary, Deep, Bold, Daring. Former Neepawa United Church minister, Rev. Joe Ball brought the message to the service with input from numerous church members. Pictured above: Under direction of Brian Bailey accompanied by Blair Chapman. Three members of the present choir were part of the choir 50 years ago (1975) for the 50th anniversary when they sang “The Great Parade”, musical piece about dedication and commitment



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Margaret Laurence Home is open for the summer

By Kyla Wahoski
M. LAURENCE HOME

What if I told you that one of Canada's most influential female writers, who was progressive, thoughtful, and ahead of her time, was born and raised right here in Neepawa?

My name is Kyla Wahoski, and I am entering my final year of a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Kinetics at the University of Ottawa this fall. I find joy in volunteering (currently coaching Neepawa Timbits soccer), and being active on campus in a variety of clubs, reading romance and science fiction, playing piano, and spending time with loved ones. I'm very honoured to be taking on the full-time role of caretaker and tour guide for this historic site, as well as learning more about our very own Margaret Laurence.

I'm joined by Rebecca Davidson, our part-time team member, who helps



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Margaret Laurence Home in Neepawa, one of the town's historic sites.

ensure the tidiness of the home and that each visit is memorable.

I'll admit, when I first visited her home as a child, I was oblivious to the beauty, history, and intelligence that lived within its walls. From the welcoming veranda to the

original woodwork that adds timeless charm to every room, this house is filled with stories, character, and inspiration.

At the Margaret Laurence Home, we invite you to experience her life. Begin your visit with a self-guided or audio tour that

brings each room to life. Step into the front room, with original furniture, then move to the living room where many of Margaret's original books are on display. In the dining room, you'll find treasured family mementos that offer

a deeper glimpse into her personal life.

Upstairs, explore the board and research room, filled with fascinating newspaper articles and memorabilia. Don't miss the Margaret Laurence room, a tribute to her aca-

demical achievements and literary legacy, showcasing just a fraction of her extraordinary impact.

Before you leave, be sure to stop by our gift shop, where you'll find a special selection of Margaret's books, including *The Stone Angel* and *This Side of Jordan*, as well as unique keepsakes like magnets, keychains, postcards, and locally crafted items. They make perfect gifts for both visitors and literature fans.

We're committed to making your visit warm, welcoming, and unforgettable. For the rest of June, we're open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and weekends from 10 AM to 5 PM. Starting in July, we'll be open seven days a week, with the same hours.

Come explore the life and legacy of Margaret Laurence at 312 1st Avenue, Neepawa. We can't wait to welcome you.

2025 MISSION: POSSIBLE Success!

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

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Neepawa's new downtown mini-park complete



PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Work on the Gill & Schmall Dream Ride Park was completed recently. The 'pocket park' was a collaborative effort between Neepawa's Dream Ride and Gill & Schmall Agencies, as well as many other helping hands.

Community visit spurs donations to local food bank



PHOTO BY JOSHUA JACKSON

(Left to right) Riding Mountain MP Dan Mazier, The Honourable Anita R. Neville, and Gladstone United Church Community Food Cupboard Coordinator Laurel McConnell posed for a photo on June 7, during The Honourable Anita R. Neville's visit to Gladstone. The Lieutenant Governor stopped by the Gladstone United Church Community Food Cupboard for a tour and donation. Around three hundred pounds of food was donated by the Lieutenant Governor's Sharing Hope Initiative, a program where guests are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items when attending Government House events, which in turn get donated to food banks where the Lieutenant Governor visits.

A step towards improvement



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE WADDELL

On Wednesday, town crews were working at Mill and Mountain in downtown Neepawa to improve street drainage at that corner. The work was being done in advance of the re-paving project between Mountain and First Avenue on Mill Street. That particular block was scheduled to be re-paved in 2024 but was delayed.



Upgrades on the go at Neepawa Esso

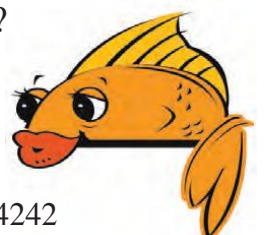
PHOTO BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

Neepawa's Esso gas station (seen at left) had all pumps closed off on Wednesday, June 18. Work was seen being done that day at the pumps, with crews cutting into portions of the cement pad. Specifics on the work being done were not able to be gathered at this time.

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Happy Canada Day!

Canada Day, a day marking the birthday of the country, is right around the corner. Canada's confederation took place on July 1, 1867. In the present, this day is marked with celebrations both locally and across the country, providing many with a day off to celebrate by partaking in community activities. Shown below, on the right side of this page, are some of the activities that will be available in Neepawa and Minnedosa. Have fun, wear sunscreen, and stay hydrated!



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2:30-3:30pm: Co-op Bike Parade @ Riverbend
3:30-7:00pm: Facepainting/Temporary Tattoos
3:30-7:30pm: Obstacle Courses & Kids Activities
7:30-11:00PM: Live Music & Performances
Dusk: Fireworks
More Activities/Details To Be Announced Soon!
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TOWN OF MINNEDOSA PARKS AND RECREATION
CANADA DAY
JULY 1, 2025

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MINNEDOSA BEACH
10:00-11:00 FREE Zumba with Solange LaBelle
Sandcastle Building Contest

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COTTON CANDY

11:00-4:00 Kidz Zone
11:00-6:00 Lions Canteen in Pavilion
12:00-12:30 Florence Bold Memorial Spray Park Grand Opening
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with Mayor: Ken Cameron

12:00-4:00 Valley Cruiser Car Show
2:00-3:00 Hoop and Hat Aerial & Fire Show
3:00-4:00 Hoop and Hat Circus Workshop
4:00-8:00 Corn Hole Tournament
4:30-5:30 Expressive Dance with Crystal
5:30-6:15 TNT Family Performance
6:00-8:45 Live Local Music on Pavilion Deck
Featuring: Luke Paulson, Heidi Hislop & Guest

6:00-Dusk Bonfire with FREE Hotdogs & Marshmallows
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Thank you for reading the Neepawa Banner & Press.

Curb modification planned, but will take time

Continued from Page 2

The Neepawa Banner & Press reached out to the Town of Neepawa for their perspective on the matter. Colleen Synchyshyn, chief executive officer, responded on behalf of the administration. Synchyshyn stated that the Town acknowledges meeting with Kimball on a few occasions to listen to her concerns regarding the overall condition of Neepawa's sidewalks and curbs.

"Insofar as the specific issue she brought forward related to her accident, a work order was created for Public Works to determine the appropriate course of action," said Synchyshyn. "Ms. Kimball was told that depending on what kind of repair is needed, it might take a bit of time. Once a problem area is inspected, the degree of repair is determined and an appropriate course of action identified."

Synchyshyn explained further, adding, "For example, a reasonably quick repair can be made if the issue is relatively simple such as an uneven edge. This can be remedied with the Town's sidewalk grinder. However, sidewalks that have been broken, cracked or crumbling can quite often require a partial or full replacement which comes at a greater cost and is subject to scheduling and contractor availability."

The Town's current plans to address sidewalks that may be in poor condition is to, as in previous years, inspect them to ensure they do not pose a risk to those



PHOTO PROVIDED BY KINSMEN KOURTS II

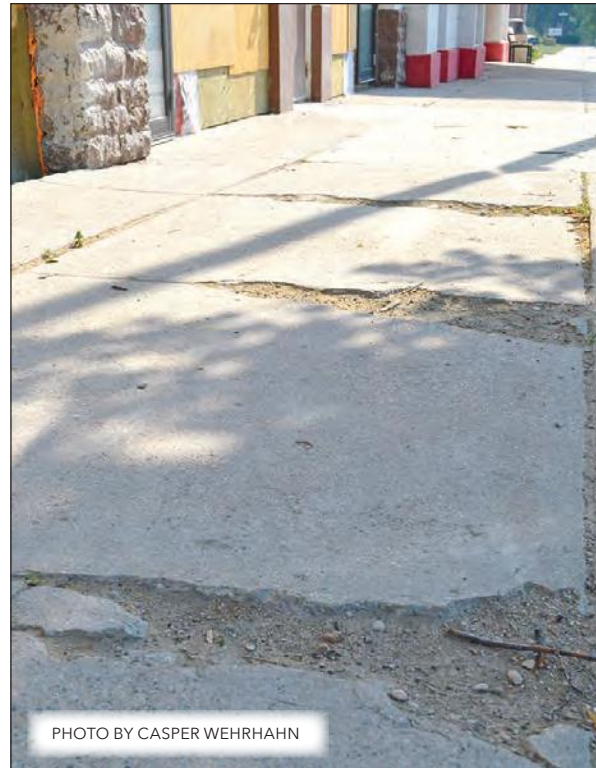


PHOTO BY CASPER WEHRHAHN

Pictured left: A portion of Kinsmen Kourts II's mobility scooter garage. Activities Director Corrie Ford told the Neepawa Banner & Press that many residents who come to live at KK2 either own a scooter already, or will buy one once they have moved in. Adjustments have been made to the garage to hold more scooters, as it exceeds what was originally accounted for in the construction plans.

Pictured right: Crumbling or heaving sidewalks are also an issue of accessibility and safety. This segment is located near Neepawa's Kerr Block and Roxy Theatre, and is one problem area KK2 resident Patsy Kimball highlighted as being an issue for those with limited mobility.

who use them.

"If replacements are warranted, these replacements are completed in a manner that would meet or exceed what is required under the legislation," said Synchyshyn. "Thinking ahead, as Neepawa grows, local planning documents take into account the need to connect the community with active transportation paths that provide safe and easy access for all users, including those with disabilities and the senior population."

Synchyshyn added, "As everyone can appreciate,

there are many curbs in the community that need to be modified to create a reasonable transition for individuals utilizing a mobility device. As part of inspecting the sidewalks, the curbs will also be assessed and a targeted approach will be taken to ensure all curbs are safe and provide ease of access. Areas that pose the most risk to any individual will be addressed as a priority."

Overhaul can be overwhelming

The Neepawa Banner & Press confirmed with

the Town of Neepawa that there were funds accounted for in the 2025 budget that would target sidewalks. The total for that particular budget this year is \$70,000.

"Unfortunately, with the budgets being prepared at a time when the sidewalks are still covered with snow and ice, we were unaware of the extent of sidewalk deterioration at the location where Ms. Kimball fell. As a result, it was not included in the projects for 2025," said Synchyshyn. "Should we be able to accommodate a renewal, or a partial renewal within this

year's budget, we will do so. However in the short term, every effort will be made to have Public Works repair the sidewalk to a safe and passable condition."

The Town of Neepawa has had an approved Accessibility Plan since Nov. 24, 2017. According to Synchyshyn, the document for this plan is updated every two years. This plan was implemented following the Accessibility for Manitobans Act that was passed in 2013, "providing authority in support of measures, policies, practices and other requirements necessary to

make significant progress towards achieving accessibility in Manitoba by 2023".

The Town also developed a Customer Service Standard on Oct. 2, 2018, an Accessible Employment Standard on Nov. 3, 2020, and an Accessible Information and Communication Standard on Nov. 21, 2023.

"The Town is committed to ensuring the safety of its residents and visitors. As part of our Asset Management Plan, we will be proceeding with a condition assessment of sidewalks and curbs in the community, to outline a reasonable repair and/or replacement program," Synchyshyn said in her final comments. "While progress may seem slow, the financial burden to overhaul and retrofit a community's infrastructure can be overwhelming."

'Look after the people'

Providing an additional comment in her own interview, Kimball stated that the Town is lucky somebody hasn't been hurt more seriously due to the conditions around the community.

"I told them I was so disappointed in how they let this town go," said Kimball, who later added, "Look after the people! It's unsafe, this isn't a place to come and retire."

According to Kimball and Ford, the Town of Neepawa has not reached out to Kimball directly regarding the matter.

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MJHL regular season schedule set for the Neepawa Titans

By Joshua Jackson
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League (MJHL) has announced its schedule for the 2025-26 regular season, beginning on Friday, September 19.

Opening weekend features 11 games taking place over the course of the weekend involving 12 of 13 member teams.

The Neepawa Titans kick off their schedule on September 20 against the Portage Terriers before heading to Portage to play the following day.

The MJHL will continue with two divisions for the 2025-26 season featuring the MGEU West Dauphin Kings, Neepawa Titans, Northern Manitoba Blizzard, Swan Val-

ley Stampeders, Virden Oil Capitals, Waywayseccappo Wolverines. While the MGEU East Division consists of Niverville Nighthawks, Portage Terriers, Selkirk Steelers, Steinbach Pistons, Winkler Flyers, Winnipeg Blues, and Winnipeg Monarchs.

Each team will play a 58-game schedule that concludes on Sunday, Mar. 15, 2026.

Neepawa first faces the current MJHL champions, the Northern Manitoba Blizzard at home on Nov. 2, their largest homestand is three games on Dec. 14, 19, 20, and their final home game of the season takes place on Mar. 14 against Swan Valley.

Cubs and Mavs series features back-to-back ties

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

When it comes to sports, there is such a thing as two teams being just too evenly matched. But for the Neepawa Cubs and the Minnedosa Mavericks, that concept of competitive equality was recently taken to a bit of an extreme, as they ended up tied in a pair of games.

The first of these two matchups was on Wednesday, June 11 in Minnedosa, and concluded in a 3-3 draw. Mavericks pitcher Luke Gugin, as well as Lincoln Murray for the Cubs, would have complete game efforts on the mound. Gugin surrendered just five hits, while Murray countered with seven. As for strikeouts, it was Murray with the superior results, registering five, compared to three for Gugin.

The second game between these clubs on Friday June 13, was in Neepawa, and closed out tied at 6-6. This game was much more influenced by the offence, which included a two run homer for George McNeil in the top of the first inning. That is already McNeil's third home run of the year for Minnedosa. The Cubs countered in the bottom of the second, bringing around five runs in total. Late in the game, however, the Mavs scored a pair of runs in the fifth and sixth innings, to take the lead. The Cubs replied with one of their own in the booth of the sixth, and it would remain tied from there. Cole Kopytko and Ryan Gower were each 2-for-3 at the plate for the Cubs.

These results create a lot of uncertainty in the middle of the Santa Clara Baseball League standings. Minnedosa is third in the league, with a 2-3-3 record, while Neepawa is tied for fourth with the Carberry Royals, with identical 2-3-2 records.

The Royals' recent games saw win a 13-12 over the Austin A's on Wednesday, June 11. Carberry's Jared Bridges went 3-for-4, with three RBI, while teammate Russell Adriaansen



PHOTOS BY EOIN DEVEREUX

George McNeil rounds the bases after hitting a two run homer for the Minnedosa Mavericks on Friday, June 13, in a game against the Neepawa Cubs.

knocked out a homerun.

The next game between these two teams was on Friday, June 13, a would see Austin bounce back with a 6-1 victory. For the Royals, Cory Billieart hds a huge night going 4-for-4 with

three singles and a double.

The other series from last week was the Portage Padres and the Plumas Padres. In these games, Portage asserted its dominance over the rest of the league, first hammering the Pirates 16-

3, and then following up with a 13-6 result Friday night in Plumas.

All these results have the Padres in first overall at 8-1-0 in the standings, while Plumas are still in second place, with a 4-3-1 record.

Ste. Rose School Grad Ceremony
Ste. Rose School
Friday, June 20 at 1:30 pm

The Neepawa Banner & Press apologizes for missing this announcement in our Graduation section.

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Letter to the editor: There could be another option in the building of a new arena/recreation centre

I read in the Neepawa Banner and Press that there is a renewed effort in Neepawa to begin the process of constructing a new arena / rec centre. Kudos to the proponents of this effort, if only their task weren't so daunting.

Well, that's why I'm writing. There is a way for Neepawa to have one of the most efficient, the most functionally flexible and cost effective arenas around, using a made-in-Canada building solution that's been used around the world. One only has to do one major thing... get over the first impression of its appearance! What I am suggesting is for Neepawa to adopt the idea of using a "Sprung Structure" for its future rec centre. (*Links to their website for your reference. <https://www.sprung.com/projects/>*)

That first impression is often taken completely wrong and ultimately to the detriment of the planner(s). I get it, as rural prairie dwellers, our first thought when seeing a Sprung Structure is another canvas quonset, typical of the many temporary, or portable sheds used in the ag industry. However this structure couldn't be further from one of those, besides appearance. I must interject here that I am NOT affiliated with the Sprung company in any way, however I did consult with them for information while I was a Neepawa Counselor.

What I learned at that time was eye opening. From my discussions with Sprung reps and visiting their buildings I came to realize that the Sprung structure should probably be THE new arena for

every small town in Canada for a multitude of reasons. Probably the most important reason right off the hop is price. Going with a pre-engineered, modularly constructed building eliminates paying for engineering and architects. There are numerous testimonials of reference that state costs coming in at HALF the price of a typical building. Imagine what that really means. It not only results in potential reduced burden on taxpayers, it could mean a more flexible facility, with more features catering to more uses. Case-in-point; It's no secret that the diversity of Neepawa's population has impacted the types of recreation its residents seek to enjoy. By utilizing a structure that cost significantly less from the outset, the town could build a larger facility and

fill it with capabilities to convert uses, such as collapsible seating to enlarge the floor surface for varying seasonal sports or events. Imagine a high quality 1000 seat hockey arena for Titans hockey, with actual individual seats, that turns into an indoor soccer, basketball, or major event facility with little effort!

Needless to say there are a multitude of advantages for a small community to use one of these structures instead of traditional construction. They state they've constructed over 12,000 buildings in more than 100 countries for virtually any use you can think of. Again, get beyond the visual of a fabric shelter, please, these are not them. Reluctant to sound like a company salesman spewing all the finer details of these build-

ings, I'll leave it to the reader to go to their website, review their information, and even visit one of their buildings.

The final point I'll make is that the proponents of a new arena in Neepawa will have serious struggles along the way. The suggestion contained herein could alleviate a significant number of those struggles, if they only employ an open mind. At the very least, go ahead and develop the communities dream facility, have it costed out utilizing traditional construction, then just for shitz & giggles, let Sprung come in with their costing for a comparable facility. I think everyone would find it worth the effort.

**Monty Simon,
Standard, AB**

Letter: Bargain in good faith with an essential service

I'm writing over concerns I have with the ongoing...long drawn out...process of "negotiations" between the government and the postal union.

In the past few weeks, I've had packages cancelled through

Amazon, and I can't buy from a certain business since the strike action vote because I get my mail delivered to a P.O. Box. It seems to me that the government is using "sharp practices" in order to force the hand of postal

employees to comply, and this is not okay. I think that if the Liberal government can just give away billions of my tax dollars to the useless CBC...Which is just their propaganda tool...then they should be able to come up with

a solution to a problem which is obviously affecting our economy in already tough times.... Bargain in good faith with the Canadian postal union...pay them...it's an ESSENTIAL SERVICE...unlike the CBC.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

**B.J. Mummery
Neepawa, MB**

Be the reason someone feels welcomed, seen, heard, valued, loved and supported

These are words I have continually had playing over in my head this week. These are words my parents instilled in me.

I will start off by saying I was absolutely floored when I opened the Neepawa Banner last week and read the letter that was published. First, I agree in freedom of speech and the right that Mr. Parrot has to have his opinion. What I don't agree with is his offensive speech and this letter was truly offensive to me and many in my community.

Secondly Mr. Parrot you do not speak for me or for much of this community. Neepawa is a community of inclusion and one that has its arms wide open for everyone no matter colour, race, gender, age and definitely not one that cares about who you love or how you identify.

I think some facts should have been checked before this letter was published or a little fact check box after the letter to provide truth to the reader. First, I do agree that June has many celebrations including Pride and celebration of Filipino Heritage month. The facts that should have been checked is at Riverbend Park both flags are flown and have been done so proudly by the Town of Neepawa. Riverbend held a flag raising ceremony to celebrate the rich culture and history of the Filipino community.

Second fact that should have been looked closer at is who is at higher risk of suicide. Since this letter stated your view was that there was a higher rate of anxiety, depression and suicide in the 2SLGBTQI community. I did do my research, and a search took me to the Government of Canada website published in 2024 which states the following populations with higher risk of suicide in Canada:

- Men and boys

- People serving federal sentences
- Survivors of suicide loss and survivors of a suicide attempt
- Some First Nation and Metis communities, especially among youth
- People who live in Inuit regions in Canada
- Women have higher rates of self-harm. Self-harm can be a risk factor for suicide
- Thoughts of suicide and suicide related behaviours are more frequent among 2SLGBTQI & youth in comparison to their non-LGBTQ peers.

There are a few reasons that the LGBTQ community is put at risk of suicide, factors that can be the reason for the strain on one's mental health and potentially lead to suicide include:

- Discrimination manifesting as bullying, physical violence, rejection (leading to isolation)
- Lack of support from family, friends and community
- Predisposition to depression, anxiety or substance abuse
- LGB individuals who contemplate suicide face the stigma of being different in sexual orientation and the stigma of suicide

What can reduce the risk?

- Effective mental health care/health care
- Community and School Support
- Strong relationships with family and friends and acceptance

So, let's be clear this flag is flown to show that the com-

munity is accepting, supportive and a safe space.

I am not sure why you think you need to treat boys like boys, and girls like girls. Why can't you just treat people like people. Why can't you treat people with care, compassion, respect and love for them as individuals not for what their gender is or who they love? Why do you need to have certain specific rules and roles for genders? Sexuality is not one of the fundamental building blocks to help a child understand the world. The five building blocks of early childhood development are Love-Security-Stimulation-Nutrition- and Health.

Our community and our Town promoting special interest groups is valuable, they promote all these groups and what they have to offer individuals who are visiting or who are new to our community. We look to our town council who have been voted in as leaders and one that promotes equality.

I will say another point in your letter I do agree with was "as Canadians we have a freedom to express ourselves and put up any flag we would like". This sir is one of the lines that is true in your letter. I am proudly flying a pride flag at my home.

Your offensive letter is your opinion but if you don't like that this community is inclusive and supportive maybe this community is not where you should be. I don't think anyone should stay where they don't feel truly happy or where they don't feel they can support the community or our leaders.

"All people should be treated equally regardless of who they love" I am an ally. I am not Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Pansexual, Intersex or Asexual.

I just support this crazy thought that everyone should have equal rights.

**Andrea Wilson
Neepawa MB**

Additional letters are on Page 17

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Ad Deadline: **Tuesday Noon****To PLACE AN AD:****Telephone:** 204-476-3401/ 888-436-4242**Fax:** 204-476-5073**Email:** ads@neepawabanner.com**All word classifieds must be prepaid before printing**

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- Please check your ad when first published the Neepawa Banner & Press will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion.
- All copy is subject to approval by the Neepawa Banner & Press.
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Obituary



Elsie Dann/Elsie Behrendt
1931-2025

Memorial service will be held June 28, 2025, at 2 pm at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 260 Rodney Bay N. Neepawa, MB. Officiant; Chas Harrison. Zoom ID 868-8659-3663 Pass code 20010

Mom was born June 20, 1931, in Kenora, ON, while her father was working on the construction of Highway 17 as part of a government relief project during the Depression. That Fall the family moved back to their farm NW of the Village of Riding Mountain where she spent her childhood as the second child with 5 sisters and one brother.

Times were difficult during the Depression years. Even before her teen years she often worked as a hired girl to make enough money for school supplies. School was important to her, she loved to learn. Next was Normal School and achieving her Teacher's Certificate. Camperdown School near Glenella, MB, was her first teaching position 1950-51 followed by Aux Marais School, Letellier, MB 1951-52 That summer mom married (Wil) bert Dann, and they lived in Winnipeg while planning their dream of establishing an auto-body business in the Village of Riding Mountain.

Dann's Auto-Body became a reality in 1959. Over the years the building expanded, and the tow trucks increased to a fleet. Mom became business partner, bookkeeper, and also fed and boarded employees. Probably many of them remember her pies that she could whip up in no time. The red paint worn off the rolling pin handles is testimony to this. For the next 30 years the business thrived until dad's sudden passing, Aug 2/89. Mom sold the Auto-Body that Fall but remained in the much loved house they had built in 1969. Later mom married Gerd Behrendt from Langruth, MB, and together they travelled the world. Some of her favourite trips included Europe, Arizona, Niagara Falls, Yukon, Queen Charlotte Islands, San Francisco, LA, a Caribbean cruise and many road trips to Alberta to visit family.

Gerd predeceased mom in 2022. Mom spent her final years in Country Meadows Care Home from Dec/2015 till her passing. She quietly faded away with Alzheimer's and died peacefully on Feb. 2/25.

Mom was very creative always knitting, crocheting, or sewing something. Her handiwork was flawless and included everything from wedding gowns to baby outfits and continued on to her great grandchildren. There was always a big garden planted with plenty of canning and freezing tucked away for the winter right up until her broken hip and onset of dementia. She loved her flowers especially Spring tulips, lilies, and roses. The birds were well fed, and she always had a friendly squirrel named Charlie. Mom enjoyed music and learned to play the piano in her 50's. She was very proud of herself when she learned to play "Somewhere My Love," the theme song from Doctor Zhivago. Most of all mom loved spending time with her grandchildren. Sleepovers, making their favourite foods, making doll clothes together and other projects were moments she treasured.

Her paternal grandfather was a Bible reader which first piqued her interest as a young person. But it wasn't until years later that a neighbour rekindled her interest, and she was baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses in 1973. She was loyal to her faith and actively involved in her congregation until her dementia took over.

Mom was predeceased by her parents, William and Thelma Henry (Ames), husbands (Wil)bert Dann and Gerd Behrendt, sisters Mabel Tolley, Vivian Law, Joan Schoenman, Wanda Levandoski, and Jane Levandoski

Surviving are her 3 daughters Bonny Dann, Heather Timlick (Malcolm), Mona Dann-Janzen (Wayne). 5 grandchildren Tanya Hayes (Jason), Jodie Dann-Advice (Craig), Amy Sheffield (Scott), Jason Timlick, Leah Dann-Janzen (Kaylen), 9 great grandchildren Ceanna Daniels (Connor), Ewan, Finn, RyAnne, Arrington, Dannika, Maliyah, Alex, Riley, 1 great great grandson Seraphim, brother Herb Henry, brother-in-law Leonard Levandoski, many nieces, nephews and cherished friends.

Flowers gratefully declined. Thank you to White's Funeral Home for their professional services. Thank you to Country Meadows for their wonderful care.

Personal

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

Notice

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

Notice

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

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

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

In Memory

*In Memory of***Art Harris**

May 31, 1929 - June 20, 2013
A page in our book of memories is gently turned today.

Dorothy and Family

Obituary

William "Bill" Arthur Thomson

It is with profound sadness that the family announces the passing of William "Bill" Arthur Thomson.

Bill passed away peacefully on June 10, 2025 at the Portage General Hospital at the age of 74 with his family by his side.

Bill was born in Gladstone, MB on July 24, 1950 to Robert

Burns and Isabella Thomson. He received his education in at the Langruth School while growing up on the family farm in the Airdale district of Langruth.

Following his schooling, Bill moved to Winnipeg where he worked at Motor Coach Industries. He married the love of his life, Alma Kopp, on August 9, 1975, and in 1980 they moved back to Langruth to take over the family farm after the passing of Bill's father.

Bill loved the farm and all aspects cattle farming. He would spend countless days every summer making hay in the marsh, enjoying the smells of the fresh cut hay and the breeze on his face. His favorite time of the year was bringing the cattle home from pasture in the fall and seeing how all his calves had thrived over the summer. One of his favourite activities was taking the grandkids out on the side by side to check on the cows and deliver some treats.

Bill and Alma retired from the family farm in 2018 and moved to their retirement home in Portage la Prairie, MB. He spent his retirement years following his grandchildren, attending all of their hockey and ringette games all over Manitoba, loving every minute. He was very proud of all of their accomplishments.

Bill leaves to mourn in his passing his wife Alma, his son Ian (Cherie), grandchildren Sarah and Alyssa, his daughter Vicky (Volker), grandchildren Noah, Jessica and Natalie, brother Robert (Cora), sister Lillian (Keith), brother-in-law Julius (Patricia), sister-in-law Hilda (Pierre) and many nieces and nephews.

Cremation has taken place and a celebration of life will be held by the family at a later date.

The family would like to thank the doctors, nurses and staff at the Portage General Hospital for the excellent care Bill received during his stay.

A tree will be planted in memory and cared for by
McKenzies Portage Funeral Chapel.
www.mckenzieportagefuneralchapel.com

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

Notice



NOTICE OF BY-ELECTION

FOR THE OFFICE OF COUNCILLOR

Notice is hereby given that a vote of The Town of Neepawa will be taken to elect one (1) Councillor from the following duly nominated candidates:

CLARK, DAVE

GRANT, SHERI

VOTING PLACES

Voting places will be open for voting on Wednesday the 16th day of July, 2025 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the Town of Neepawa Civic Administration Office, 275 Hamilton Street, Neepawa, MB.

IDENTIFICATION MAY BE REQUIRED BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO VOTE.

A person may be required to produce one piece of government issued photo identification (for example - driver's license or passport) or at least two other documents that provide proof of identity.

ADVANCE VOTING

For the purpose of accommodating persons who are qualified to vote, but who have reason to believe that they will be absent or otherwise unable to attend their proper voting place on election day, an advance voting opportunity will be located at the Town of Neepawa Civic Administration Office, 275 Hamilton Street, Neepawa, MB, and will be open June 30, 2025 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

MOBILE VOTING

For the purpose of accommodating persons who are qualified to vote, but reside at a health care facility, a mobile voting station will be set up at the following facilities on Election Day:

Country Meadows PCH 1:30 p.m.- 2:15 p.m.

Neepawa Hospital 2:30 p.m.- 3:15 p.m.

APPLICATION TO VOTE BY SEALED ENVELOPE

A voter who is unable to go in person to the voting place or vote in advance, may apply in person, in writing, to the senior election official at Box 339, Neepawa, MB R0J 1H0, fax (204) 476-7624 or by email to cao@neepawa.ca

If applying in person*, a voter may apply between June 18, 2025 & July 13, 2025.

* A voter applying in person may pick up a sealed envelope ballot package at time of application.

If applying by mail, fax or email**, a voter may apply between June 18, 2025 & July 13, 2025.

** A voter applying by mail, fax or email will receive a sealed envelope ballot package by regular post, or by making alternative arrangements with the senior election official.

Colleen Synchshyn, Senior Election Official
Town of Neepawa, Phone (204) 476-7603 cao@neepawa.ca

Help Wanted

Announcement



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





@HyLifeLTD @hylifeltd @HyLife



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

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

@HyLifeLTD @hylifeltd @HyLife



Industrial Butcher (NOC 94141)

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

The current starting wage is \$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






@HyLifeLTD @hylifeltd @HyLife

Career Opportunity
LICENCED FUNERAL DIRECTOR & EMBALMER

Braendle-Bruce Funeral Service is a rural, privately owned funeral home with offices in Russell, Shoal Lake, and Erickson, MB & Esterhazy, SK. Are you committed to serving families/community with dignity and respect; effective communicator; pays attention to detail in fast-paced environment; team player; a Funeral Director and Embalmer in good standing or willing to train; clear driving record and able to use various computer programs. Salary based on experience and skills.

Call 204-773-3786
Send resume to: admin@braendlebrucefs.ca
www.braendlebrucefs.ca

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UPCOMING EVENTS

YOU ARE INVITED! Manitoba Highland Gathering - June 21 & 22, 2025 in East Selkirk, MB. Swords, Heavies, Paddling, Highland Dance, Pipes & Drums, Villages, Cars, Animals, Market & Food, Unicorns (Sunday only)! <https://manitobahighlandgathering.org>

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Ad booking deadlines are Tuesdays at noon!

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Letter: Why build for the future with a small town mindset?

First, thank you to the Regional Rec/Event Centre committee members for taking on this important initiative, when it comes to a new facility for Neepawa and surrounding region. But here are some thoughts on new arena capacity to consider.

It was suggested at the meeting of June 10 that we should be building the facility for the projected needs 20 years from now and beyond. I agree. An effort in that regard today is the right thing to do for the economic and functional viability of the project long term. I would like to focus on the arena portion here.

For arguments sake, I'll use Dauphin and Virde as

examples. The city of Dauphin has a population of just over 8,000. Their arena seats 1,763, plus standing room. The three largest crowds so far this year were at the Kings playoff run (1,256,1,821, and 2,246).

The population of Virde is just short of 3,500. Their arena, opened in 2011, seats 1,200. In their last playoff run they averaged 1,170 seats sold. Wasn't the population of Neepawa just short of 3,500 when our present 1,200 seat facility was built? So for me it is just awfully hard to defend or bother to consider any building with less capacity than the present Virde model or that of our existing rink built 53 years ago. So as we sit on the precipice of doubling the

population of 50 years ago (if we are not already there) and the inevitable evolution to Manitoba's next city what are the options? A smaller arena?? That dog won't hunt.

Ross McBride
Neepawa, MB

P.S. Swan River had proposed a \$7.2-million retrofit of their existing arena. After the preliminary 7.2 estimate increased to \$9-million they scraped the project. They are now in a process leading to the construction of a new arena. To be clear, that retrofit estimate was for an arena only facility.

Letter: Why can they not be themselves?

I commend Bryce Parrott for the reasonable manner in which he presented the issue of the flags that should be flown in Neepawa (*Letter to the editor - June 13 edition*). It is important that we are open to discussing varying views in our society.

For some time, I have been questioning why it has become, almost "popular" to change one's gender. Humans, as all mammals, are born either male or female. However, there can be from one to four per cent that are born with some variation in their sexual make up.

During World War II, women showed that they could do almost any job needed. Since then the opportunities for women, and men, began to expand in all areas of life, regardless of their gender. In my family,

my younger brother enjoyed and excelled in the kitchen, where as I preferred being outside or in the barn! These interests continued into adulthood. However, often they don't. It is known that a teen's brain continues to develop and their interests often change, through the teen years. With that in mind, why the pressure to attach "labels" to them that might cause challenges later? Why can they not just be themselves? A lesbian friend of mine, made an interesting comment to me saying that no one should make any "physical" changes until at least 20 years of age.

As Bryce mentioned there seems to be considerable anxiety and depression, this also is concerning when one compares their lifestyle to what their grandparents endured.

Perhaps there is a different reason.

Blaise Pascal, who made significant contributions in the area of Mathematics, Science and Philosophy, wrote in the 17th century on the subject of mankind's craving for meaning and happiness. His ideas have been paraphrased to say "There is a God - shaped vacuum in the heart of every man" or as Jesus said: "come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I WILL give you rest.... let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you WILL find rest for your souls. (*Matthew 11:28-30*).

Muriel Gamey
Neepawa, MB

Letter: Startled and disappointed

I was startled and very disappointed to read Bryce Parrott's letter in the Neepawa Banner & Press this past week. While the opening few sentences initially seemed like a good faith argument to celebrate our Filipino community, it quickly became clear that the true purpose was to make false claims about the LGBTQIA+ community. The letter contains six sentences pertaining to why we should fly the Filipino flag and 19 sentences about how the writer believes the LGBTQIA+ community are confused, suicidal, and pose a threat to society and children. What's even more concerning is these views were platformed without any note from the paper's editorial team. The writer nods to the higher rates of suicide in LGBTQIA+ people, but is dismissive of the known fact that acceptance and respect lowers these rates. He also claims that "many" in the community are "uncomfortable" with the "ideology" of LGBTQIA+, and that the pride flag does not represent the community of Neepawa.

As someone who was raised here and has returned to live and work in Neepawa, I love this community, I love the people and the work I do here. I don't believe that Bryce speaks for the majority of the community in his letter, which is at best misinformed and at worst actively harmful. My experiences here have been that Neepawa is a loving and supportive community. And while no community is free of prejudice, that the majority of people here act from a place of acceptance and respect. That is why I am even more disappointed to see this kind of widely debunked anti-LGBTQIA+ rhetoric platformed in a local paper without any comment. I've seen many other articles and letters tagged with a note that the writer's opinions are their own and not reflective of the values of the Neepawa Banner and Press; this letter is published without any such comment.

The opinions published last week do not reflect facts and I certainly can hope they don't reflect the true spirit of the majority of the community. And to the writer's initial thoughts about celebrating the Filipino community during Filipino heritage month, I say absolutely! Why not also fly the Filipino flag during June, as well as the Pride flag. Instead of using pretend support for the Filipino community to harm the LGBTQIA+ community members, why not instead reflect how lucky we are to have so much to celebrate in June.

Emma Ball
Neepawa, MB

Additional letters on Page 18

Help Wanted

We are hiring!

We have a new opportunity to highlight:

Purchasing Agent

Finance

Full time, Regular

Brandon, MB

Comp #122-24/25

Salary: \$61,508 to \$75,608 annually
(\$32.63 to \$40.11 hourly)

Reporting to the Purchasing Director, the Purchasing Agent is responsible for ensuring compliance and administration of the procurement function within Assiniboine College. The Purchasing Agent is responsible for the acquisition of goods, supplies, equipment and services necessary for the continuous operation of the College in accordance with established policies and procedures. Responsibilities include reviewing requisitions, processing purchase orders and communications with vendors and internal staff.

For more information, please visit www.assiniboine.net/careers.

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

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

For accommodations or alternative formats, contact careers@assiniboine.net or 204 725 8729.

If you are interested in this career opportunity, please email your resume and cover letter with reference to Competition # 122-24/25 to:

careers@assiniboine.net

We thank you for your interest.

Those selected for further consideration will be contacted.



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The Banner & Press will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion

Tender

HAY FOR TENDER

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is offering hay for tender in the following municipalities:

NORTH	ESTIMATED AC
Clanwilliam-Erickson	Oakview
SW9-17-18 - MACC War 109	SE 1-14-20 - Parr..... 83
Glenella-Lansdowne	SW 16-15-19 - Wilton 32
SE 1-18-11 - Owsiak..... 44	NW 8-14-22 - Darroch 103
SE 2-18-11 - Single..... 130	SW 8-15-19 - Jackson 40
N ½ 1-18-11 - Post N ½ 1 320	Prairie View
SW 2-18-11 - Post E ½ SW2 80	SE 21, SW 22-18-26 - Smith, M 174
Hamiota	SE 33-16-25 - Longreach 23
SE 14-15-23 - McConnell 91	S ½ 15-14-26 - Lelond 90
NE 17-13-24 - Anderson 91	**W80 ac SW27, NW 27-16-25 - Ashcroft 104
Harrison-Park	Riding Mountain West
SW 13-19-22 - Yagilnicki..... 62	NE 16-19-27 - Lidcliff NE16 87
N ½ 12-18-21 - Morton 176	SW 24-19-27 - Tibbatts SW24 64
W ½ 30-17-20 - Koroscil 179	S 13, E 14-19-27 - Tibbatts 90
SE 13-18-20 - Arnold, Larry 70	NE 12-19-27 - Wotton 32
SE 3-18-19 - Byskal 88	NW 16-19-27 - Lidcliff NW16 76
SE 24-17-20 - Ewashko 81	SW 18-19-26 - Lidcliff Stadnyk 104
SE 30-17-20 - Richkoon 80	Riverdale
Minto-Odanah	SE 26-12-20 - McEwing 87
NE 16-15-18 - McNabb 89	Rosburn
SW 23-14-18 - Gomph 90	SW 16-20-24 - Tanasychuk 106
NW 21-13-17 - Harland NW21 120	W80 ac W ½ 31-19-23 - Hedley 93
NW 29-13-17 - Harland NW29 104	Westlake-Gladstone
N ½ 12-14-18 - Musselwhite 161	NW 17-17-10 - Post NW17 60
SW 2-14-18 - Taylor 66	Yellowhead
SE 36-13-18 - Scott, Reg. 56	SE 27-17-23 - Stebnicki 40
N ½ 32-13-18 - Johnson, Barry 174	NE 34-16-24 - Van de Velde 66
SW 5-14-17 - Dorn 89	W ½ 29-18-21 - Michalchuk 198
SW 29-15-17 - Woodcock 72	NW 35-16-24 - Citulski 72
NE 2-14-17 - Hume 78	**E ½ 35-16-24 - Van de Velde RL 203
NE 2-14-18 - Scott, Glenn 95	

** Property is currently listed for sale. Should the sale close before the closing of the tender at noon on June 25th, 2025, the hay tender will be awarded to the purchaser of the land.

- Tenders close at noon on June 25, 2025. Tender to be made on a **PER FIELD** basis, based on a July 15th cutting date. Acres provided are an **estimate only** - bidders are urged to inspect the fields prior to bidding. Foot access only is permitted for field inspection.
- Bid sheets, Special Provisions and detailed ortho images of properties can be found at www.ducks.ca/resources/landowners or through the DUC office in Brandon.
- Producers wishing to submit a sealed bid or fax bid or email bid should complete the Bid Sheet and provide their name, phone number and price **PER FIELD** for the parcel(s) on which they are bidding; use a single form for each bid. Please note: GST is to be included in your bid. Envelope, fax or email subject line should be marked "Tender".
- Highest or any tender may not necessarily be accepted. **Bids under \$500.00 may not be accepted.**
- Payment will be due upon notification of a successful bid. Field access will not be permitted until receipt of payment - NO EXCEPTIONS.**

FOR MORE DETAILS

Phone: Cam OR Shannon at 204 285-9779

Fax: 204 727-6044 Toll-free: 1-866-251-3825

Email: du_brandon@ducks.ca

Unit 2, 545 Conservation Drive Brandon MB R7A 7L8



Letter: Neepawa, a vibrant and diverse community

June has been recognised as Pride month for decades now, a time to celebrate how far the 2SLGBTQIA+ (two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, asexual, and all other sexual and gender diverse people) community has come but also reflect on how far we have left to go for equality. Pride was born out of the need to stand up for ourselves against prejudice, and not let a narrative be written for us by people who know nothing about our lives. Neepawa and Area Pride was formed because Neepawa is, and has always been, home to many members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, some

who are born here and some who choose Neepawa as a place to set down roots. We are people who have been woven into the fabric of this community for as long as it has existed, whether others recognised it at the time or not. We are people who contribute to all aspects of life. The Pride flag itself serves as a beacon for inclusivity and diversity. To have the Pride flag flown in Neepawa shows what many have known, that Neepawa is welcoming, open-minded, and progressive – a home to all. Our differences are our strengths, allowing for growth and diversity among all residents. Flying the Pride flag does change lives in

the most impactful way possible: it shows those who need to see it that they are not alone, that there are allies and people just like them who will keep standing up for them even when it gets difficult.

Last week's letter to the editor shared misinformed and harmful rhetoric regarding 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals' mental health that is too important to overlook. When a group such as the 2SLGBTQIA+ community faces discrimination, prejudice, hate, and violence just for being who we are and going about our lives, the toll on mental health can be great. It is the discrimination that is the problem, not the people being discriminated against.

We have made great strides in recent years towards making this country, this province, and this town a welcoming place for everyone. As a community, let's not take a step back now and in doing so cause the very problem some people claim to be concerned about. June is also recognised as Filipino Heritage Month, and the two designations happily co-exist in our community without any need to compete with one another. The tone in last week's letter to the editor does nothing but try to divide two vibrant and overlapping communities. The author fails to recognise that within the Filipino community there is also

the Bahaghari (meaning rainbow), who are strong and resilient and have sought out Neepawa as their home. They are safe and respected as their true selves here. There is no reason to evoke feelings of 'us versus them.' There is room for everyone at the table. Please take a stroll down to Riverbend Park and see that the national flag of the Philippines is already flying there this month as well as the Pride flag. Feel proud to know that Neepawa values differences and sees the potential in and appreciates the contributions of all people who call this town their home.

The Neepawa and Area Pride Committee

Letter to the Editor: Inclusion over division

I firmly believe that the Town of Neepawa proudly represent all cultures, races, diversity, and unity. It's essential to see both the Pride flag and the Philippine flag flown in Neepawa. As a Filipino-Canadian who proudly identifies with the 2SLGBTQIA+ (Two Spirited-Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender-Queer-Intersex-Asexual-(+)) Other who identify with the range of sexual and gender identity) community, I take great pride in my identity and fully embrace the welcoming and accepting environment Neepawa offers. While I recognize that my authenticity may trigger some anxiety or unresolved issues for others, it's important

to acknowledge that these concerns often stem from misunderstanding and a lack of information. I encourage everyone to broaden their perspectives and engage with the richness that diversity brings to our community. Together, we can cultivate a more inclusive and understanding world.

The assertion that the 2SLGBTQIA+ community experiences elevated rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide serves as an illustration of bias against this population. It is important to acknowledge that mental health issues are pervasive across all demographics and are not contingent upon an individual's sexual orientation.

This topic presents an important opportunity to clarify some concepts related to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community for those who may have misconceptions or limited perspectives.

It is important to distinguish between gender identity and sexual orientation.

Gender identity refers to how individuals perceive themselves in terms of their gender, which can include identifying as a man, woman, boy, girl, or a blend of these identities. Additionally, it can encompass those who identify outside of traditional gender categories or who experience a fluidity in their gender identity.

Sexual orientation de-

scribes the emotional, romantic, and sexual attractions that individuals feel towards others. This orientation exists along a broad spectrum and is a vital component of an individual's overall identity, affecting both their relationships with others and their sense of self. Understanding these distinctions is important for fostering respect and inclusivity within society.

Raising the Pride flag is often misunderstood as promoting a specific ideology;

however, its true purpose is to foster kindness and inclusivity. In a world that can be filled with judgment and negativity, the Pride flag serves as a symbol of acceptance and love. For those who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+ and their many allies in Neepawa, seeing the flag evokes feelings of joy and a sense of belonging, making the community feel like a home away from home.

**Maidyl Abello
Neepawa, MB**

*Would you like to send in a letter to the editor?
Email news@neepawabanner.com to submit yours.
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Community celebrates 127 years of Philippine Independence



PHOTOS BY JON LUIGI AND JOSHUA JACKSON

The fifth annual Filipino Heritage Celebrations took place on June 14, 2025.

Continued from Page 1

During the ceremony, many community figures made speeches including Dan Mazier, Riding Mountain MP; Malaya Marcelino, Notre Dame MLA; Jodie Byram, Agassiz MLA; Ronaldo Opina, the Honorary Consul of Winnipeg; Brian Hedley, Town of Neepawa Mayor; Ilce Pineda Executive Director of Neepawa and Area Immigrant Settlement Services; and Lyle Loewen, Senior VP for

Farms Division- Hylife Foods. According to 2021 Canada Census Data, Neepawa had a total population of 5,685. Among the population, 2,940 were declared as a 'visible minority' which refers to whether a person is a visible minority or not, as defined by the Employment Equity Act, which defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour." Within the 2,940 - 2,600 Neepawa residents

declared Filipino. Afuang said Filipino heritage is the legacy that our ancestors left us, and we want to pass it on to the younger generations "Passing the torch' of culture signifies the transfer of cultural knowledge, traditions, and values from one generation to the next or from one group to another," he said. "It's a process of ensuring culture and heritage are preserved and continue to thrive through ongoing practice and transmission."



Little Valley Jamboree a hit



PHOTO BY LITTLE VALLEY JAMBOREE

(L to R) Brooks Davis, John Jacob Bernardo, and Odin Hebert all received cheques.

Joshua Jackson
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Erickson and area came up big to help out three families during this year's edition of Little Valley Jamboree. The event took place on June 13 and 14 to raise awareness, support, and funds for children living with special needs in the area. Three local children — John Jacob Bernardo, Brooks Davis, and Odin Hebert, and families were each given \$13,000 as part of the fundraising initiative. Many bands volunteered their time to take the stage, a live and silent auction was held, as well as plenty of kids activities going on throughout the day.

Jamboree started in 1998 and has been helping children for nearly 30 years. The weekend includes kids activities, silent auctions, a live auction, and places to

purchase food and drinks. The lineup featured an incredible slate of local talent, including Mitchell Makoons and the Steven Smith Trio.

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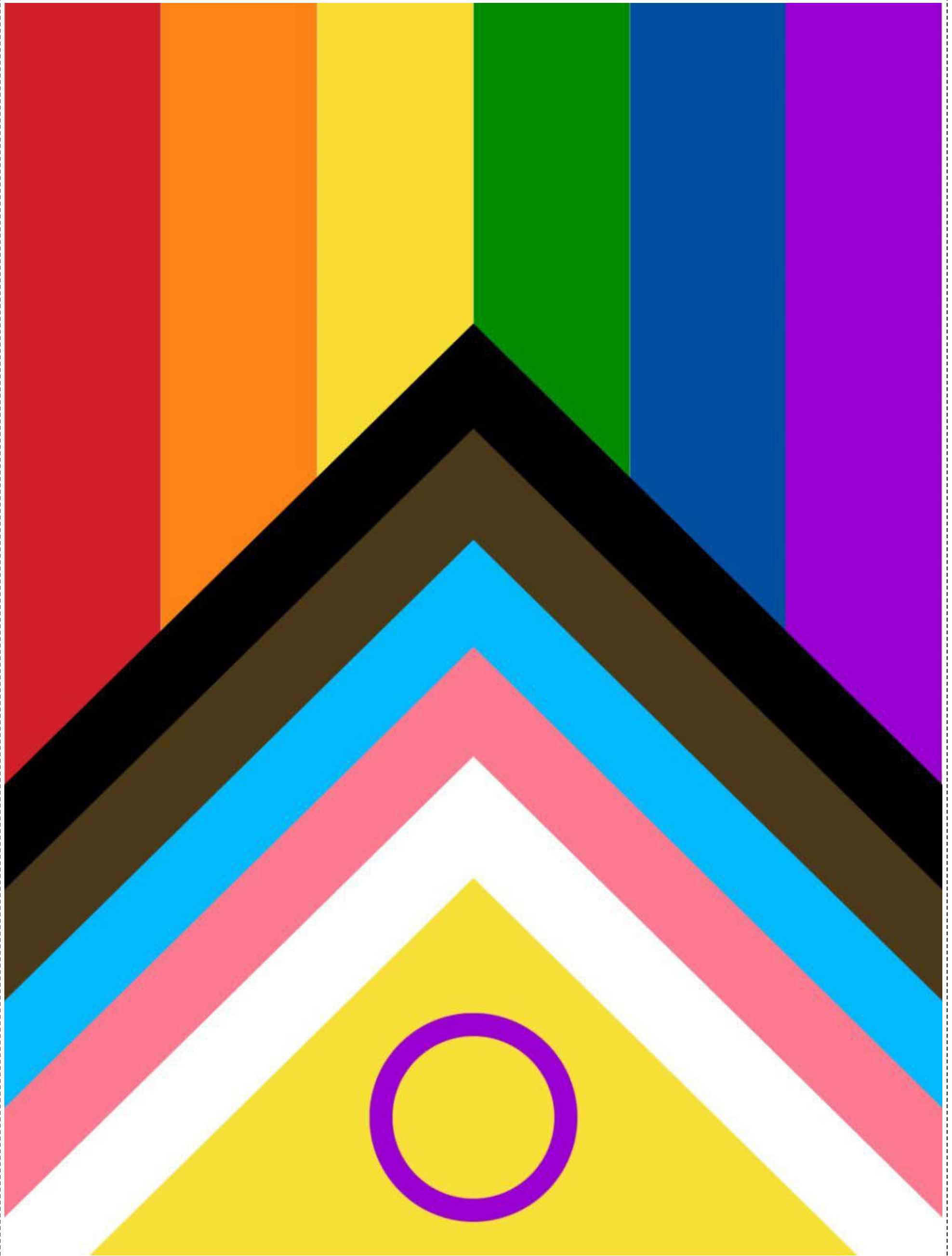
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HAPPY PRIDE MONTH! *With love, Adrienne Mack*