

Growing then and now

40th anniversary Wheatland Zone Fall Renewal

By Jean Borchardt
SUBMITTED

On Saturday, Oct. 25, members from Neepawa and Brandon gathered at Christ Lutheran Church to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Wheatland Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) - Canada Inc. Zone Renewal.

On Oct. 27, 1985, the Wheatland Zone came into being, separating from the Winnipeg Area of the Manitoba/Saskatchewan District at that time. At the beginning we had LWML members from Brandon, McCreary, Neepawa, Plumus, Portage-La Prairie and Virden. Now we only have active societies in Neepawa and Neepawa and an inactive society at Plumus.

The morning began with Registration at 10:00 and as ladies were arriving they were offered tea, coffee and dainties to enjoy before the meeting started.

The business meeting began roughly at 10:30 and President Judy Gabler welcomed everyone to the meeting. Eileen Turner from the Neepawa society had the opening devotion. It was a wonderful day as there were three ladies from Brandon, 10 ladies from Neepawa, one guest and one pastor. The business meeting was conducted and at noon a delicious lunch was served by the ladies of Christ Lutheran. A beautiful decorated 40th anniversary cake was served to all in attendance. Someone years ago asked "what does LWML stand for" and my husband responded "Lutheran Ladies Make Lunch. Well, we do more than that. Over the years we have supported various projects with our in gatherings, the women's crisis centres in Brandon and Portage, the University food bank, both of our Seminary guilds and more. With all business being completed, the afternoon began at 1:00

with a Short Anniversary Service followed by a Bible Study conducted by Pastor James Vosper of Plumus. The Bible Study was entitled "Growing Then and Now," 2 Peter 3:18. The ingathering was collected for the seminary guild of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary at St. Catherine's, ON. Closing Devotion was conducted by Brandon society members. Pastor Vosper closed the afternoon with a prayer of thanksgiving for a wonderful day and safe journey to all driving home.

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Empowering Communities Through Financial Literacy:

Stride Credit Union's Commitment

November marks Financial Literacy Month, and at Stride Credit Union, financial education isn't just a seasonal initiative—it's a year-round mission. From classrooms to coffee chats, Stride is helping Manitobans build confidence in their financial decisions, one conversation at a time.

Learning That Lasts a Lifetime

Stride's flagship initiative, **Each One, Teach One**, has already delivered over 17 interactive workshops this year, reaching more than 150 participants. These sessions cover practical topics like Basic Budgeting, Building a Healthy Credit History, and Identity Theft and Fraud Prevention—meeting people where they are and equipping them with tools for everyday financial decisions.

"The workshops are very beneficial. Participants come in with very limited financial literacy but walk out feeling confident and understanding how to be smart with their money," says **Core Pohl** of the Portage Learning and Literacy Centre. "I recommend them 100% and have already been sharing this program with other community partners."

For Stride's team, these sessions are more than presentations—they're opportunities to make a real difference.

"My favorite topic is Identity Theft & Fraud," shares **Kristine Loomis**, Financial Experience Officer in Neepawa. "We've had a lot of fraud in Neepawa this past year, and educating seniors on what to look out for makes me feel good about the career I chose."

Inspiring the Next Generation

Stride also volunteers through **Junior Achievement of Manitoba**, delivering programs like Success Skills, Be Entrepreneurial, and More Than Money to students across the region. This year alone, over 150 students have gained early exposure to financial concepts that set them up for success.

"Facilitating the More Than Money program with Grade 3 and 4 students has been so rewarding," says **Bansri Patel**, Member and Community Engagement Advisor. "Watching their excitement during activities—especially Monopoly-style games—reminds me how fun and powerful early financial learning can be."

From Everyday Conversations to Community Impact

Financial literacy starts at home—and at Stride, that means fostering awareness among staff. Weekly huddles feature real stories of how employees have helped protect members from fraud or supported them through financial challenges. These conversations celebrate vigilance and care while keeping the team informed and inspired.

Stride's commitment extends beyond workshops. A **Fraud Prevention Booklet**, created in partnership with the National Association of Federal Retirees, has reached over 800 seniors, helping them recognize and avoid scams. Online, Stride amplifies its efforts through social media—sharing scam alerts, budgeting tips, and educational resources.

Michelle Gilmore, Manager, Financial Experience, has made visits to a local seniors residence for friendly coffee chats, offering banking advice and helping residents navigate their financial questions with care and understanding. "One of my proudest moments is when kids come in to open a bank account because of what they learned in class," reflects **Michelle Gilmore**, Manager, Financial Experience. "Another was when someone stopped me outside of work to say my presentation was so helpful they shared it with a friend."

Committed to a Financially Confident Future

As Financial Literacy Month unfolds, Stride Credit Union remains steadfast in its mission: empowering communities with knowledge and confidence to make informed financial decisions—one conversation at a time. In reflecting on financial literacy month, Tanya Hewitt - Compliance Officer, emphasized the value of informed members. "We encourage you to explore the tools, resources, and learning opportunities we're offering—designed to help you strengthen your financial knowledge at every stage of life."

For information on Financial Literacy presentation opportunities and what else Stride Credit Union has to offer, please visit stridecu.ca/personal/learn/financial-literacy.