

Udder News

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80 Gallons & 2 Half Pints

Congratulations to Martin Hamming of Martiann Holsteins (Delta, BC), who celebrated his 80th birthday on August 16, 2026! Martin was surrounded by family and friends who helped make his day extra special. We are so thankful to be able to farm with our dad, grandpa and great grandpa every day! Best wishes Martin!

Happy 90th Barb!

We offer our heartfelt congratulations to Barb Souter who celebrated her 90th birthday with her children Anne, Grant and Karen (all past 4-H members) as they hosted the annual neighbourhood BBQ on Pender Island, BC. Barb owned, operated and developed the BC Holstein News publication from 1980 to 1996.

Anne and her husband Barry Wasko ranch at Eastend, SK. Grant and his husband Grant Catt live in Calgary, AB. Karen and her husband Tony Legault now live with Barb on Pender Island after farming and operating a commercial greenhouse at Nanton, AB.

Barb's all-year celebration started in May with a bucket list trip with her granddaughter Chantelle, a cruise from Athens to Venice. She has enjoyed visits from grandchildren and all four great grandchildren on Pender. In October she plans to be in Alberta for her youngest grandson Cody's wedding. But there's also a twinge of sadness as the family acknowledged the 10 years since Gordie passed away on August 21, 2016 – just five days after the grand opening of WestGen's new offices, and the dedication of the Gordie Souter Boardroom.

Graciously, Barb caps it off saying, "But I'm so thankful for my family and all our wonderful memories."



Michael and Hannah Haeni of Lone Pine Jerseys and Creamery (Didsbury, AB) are pleased to introduce Thelma Joan Haeni! Thelma was born January 30, 2026, weighing 7lbs 5oz, in a planned birth at Lone Pine, although not in the barn! Thelma is the second grandchild for both Adrian and Vreni Haeni and Lee and Lisa Hammond (Disbury, AB).



Congratulations to Nick and Jenn Isenschmid on the birth of their third child, Luke Urs Isenschmid, on May 11, 2026. Weighing 9lbs 5oz, Luke is welcomed by big siblings Jace (3.5yrs) and Elyse (1.5yrs). Proud grandparents include Ernie and Keri Podschadly of Chadview Farms (Armstrong, BC), and Urs and Marianne Isenschmid of Sunny Dairy Farm (Grunthal, MB).

Annie June Haeni was born May 19, 2026, weighing 7lbs 7oz. She is welcomed by parents Jonas and Tay Haeni of Lone Pine Jerseys (Didsbury, AB), along with her big brother Jack (age 2) who is over the moon about his little sister, referring to her as "my Annie." Annie is the third grandchild for Adrian and Vreni Haeni of Lone Pine Jerseys and Creamery.



Congratulations to Jordan and Rachel Vaandrager of Craila Dairy (Langham, SK), on the arrival of their first child, Kasen Daniel Vaandrager. Kasen was born May 24, 2026, weighing 6lbs 11oz. He is the fifth grandchild for Calvin and Diane Vaandrager of Craila Dairy, and the first grandchild for Rachel's parents Darren and Natasha Diehl, and Erin and Andrew Metz.

Tanner Todd Gietema made a dramatic entrance into the world via emergency c-section on July 2, 2026, weighing 9lbs 1oz. He was greeted by his parents, Andrew and Amy Gietema of Whatcom Acres Farm (Abbotsford, BC), not long after the couple tied the knot in an intimate wedding ceremony on the farm in June. Proud grandparents are Harvey and Brigitte Gietema of Whatcom Acres, and Todd and Colleen Balaban (Maple Ridge, BC).



Cameron and Samantha Groenendijk are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their daughter Elianna Jolyn, born July 28, 2026. Proud grandparents are Chris and Henrietta Groenendijk of Greendike Farms (Chemainus, BC), and Chris and Jennifer Becker (Woodstock, ON).

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Congratulations to Kristy and James Wierenga as they welcomed their first child, Chloe Elizabeth, on August 12, 2026, weighing 7lbs 2oz and measuring 19 inches long. Chloe is the 21st grandchild for Wim and Hennie van de Brake of Thornspyc Dairy (Lacombe, AB), and the 35th grandchild for Jim and Elly Wierenga (Lacombe, AB).

Congratulations to Robby Bachmann and Jillian Severinski (Pitt Meadows, BC) on their engagement! Robby proposed in the new cow barn at Bachmann Farms Ltd., with a hand-painted sign in John Deere green. The high school sweethearts have been together for seven years and have plans to get married on the Bachmann family farm in August 2027. Sharing in the joy are proud parents: Andy and Anke Bachmann of Bachmann Farms, and Rodney and Christine Severinski.

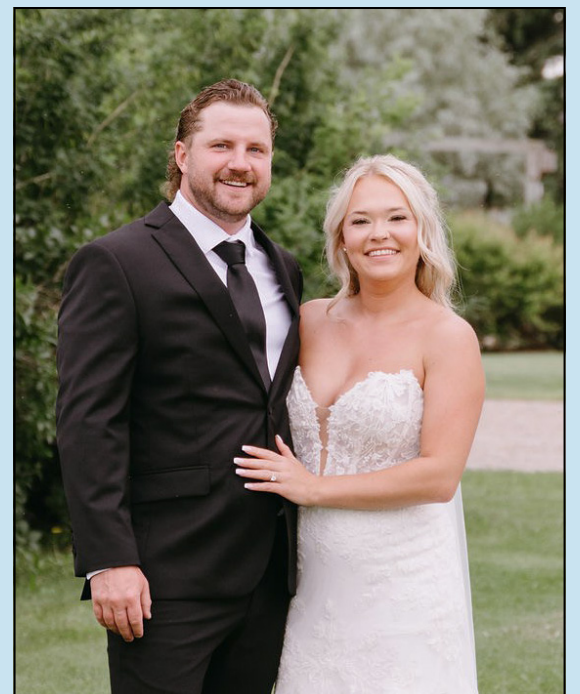


Malachi Gossen and Jaida Orchard were married on the Gossen family farm (MorningGlory Farm) May 9, 2026. Proud parents are Jeff and Lexi Gossen (nee DeWitt) of Sicamous, BC, and Brandon and Alisha Orchard of Salmon Arm, BC. Malachi and Jaida met in Grade 4 at King's Christian School...and the rest, as they say, is history! Malachi is pursuing a career in dentistry, while Jaida will complete her ECE Certificate. They are thrilled to begin this new chapter!

Forever started for Travis Wikkerink and Emily Unger on June 6, 2026, in southwestern Ontario. Close family and friends traveled from near and far to share their sunny and warm early summer wedding. The happy couple is proudly raised by Betty Ann and Andy Wikkerink of WestWikk Farms (Laird, SK), and Rica and Pat Unger (Belmont, ON). After their big day, the newlyweds drove across the country from Ontario to Saskatchewan, to settle into their home in Laird.



Patrick Hylkema of Hyljon Holsteins (Hague, SK) married Kassidy Plunkett (Saskatoon, SK) on July 11, 2026. The wedding took place on a beautiful day in the pasture at Hyljon, in front of family and friends. The happy couple is excited to be taking on the next generation of Hyljon from Patrick's parents, John and Susan Hylkema (Chilliwack, BC). Patrick and Kassidy opted for a winter honeymoon to escape snowy Saskatchewan later this year. Congratulations!



MNP Consultant, Steve Saccomano, along with wife Antoinette (Chilliwack, BC) are proud to announce news of their daughter Kayla's marriage to Brayden White-Halverson, who's guardians, Jeff and Brenda Soetisna, also share the excitement! The wedding took place on July 17, 2026, at the couple's home in the beautiful Glen Valley where they plan to reside, followed by a reception at the Kleingeltink family barn – a fitting setting for the country-style festivities. The happy couple spent their honeymoon in Cancun, Mexico, before settling into married life in Glen Valley, where Brayden is employed by McElhanney and as a certified fabricator, while Kayla works at Ridgecrest Dairies Ltd., and is also a certified welder! Best wishes to a long and happy life together Kayla and Brayden!

Congratulations to Janessa Vaandrager and Mattais Koster on their wedding August 1, 2026. The couple was married at Living Hope CRC in Abbotsford, BC, and despite a rainy morning, the weather turned beautiful in the evening in time for their reception at Marion Estates. Proud parents are D.R. and Angela Vaandrager of Lavender Farms (Enderby, BC) and Anthony and Sherilyn Koster (Abbotsford, BC). After a honeymoon to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, the newlyweds are now making their home in Chilliwack, BC.



Sam Haeni and Marie-Ève Longchamps tied the knot on August 8, 2026, in a beautiful wedding at Lone Pine Jerseys (Didsbury, AB). Surrounded by family and friends, the newlyweds enjoyed the celebrations into the early hours! Proud parents include Adrian and Vreni Haeni of Lone Pine Jerseys and Creamery (Didsbury, AB) and Pierre Longchamps and Hélène Légaré (Revelstoke, BC).

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Udder News *CONTINUED*



Levi DeWitt and Grace Richmond were married on August 15, 2026, at Dari Delite Farm. Levi is the son of Nic and Lindy DeWitt of Dairy Delite (Sicamous, BC) and Grace is the daughter of Kyle and Elisabeth Richmond (Sicamous, BC). It was a beautiful day shared with family and friends. Levi and Grace will be settling down on the farm and look forward to becoming part of “The Farm Team.” Congratulations!

Ron Youell

January 19, 1936 – May 10, 2026

Ron Youell passed away in Victoria with family by his side on May 10, 2026. Ron was an integral part of Youelldene Farm (Victoria, BC) for nearly 50 years, working alongside his parents and brothers Barry and Burt. While Ron was not seen at the shows or sales, he was always part of the milking team and was responsible for fieldwork and equipment on the two-time Master Breeder farm.

The brothers grew up farming on Glanford Ave. on the edge of the city. Their Willowdene Jerseys provided milk for their home delivery routes from 1933 to 1971. In 1957, the cows and dairy equipment moved to the new farm on Hunt Road. Here they began using the Youelldene prefix for both the Jersey and Holstein cows, because the Willowdene name was unavailable through Holstein Canada.

All of their Willowdene milk was retailed through home delivery until 1962 when they began shipping some surplus milk to Island Farms Dairy in Victoria. Ron assisted with milk processing until their retail business concluded in 1971. Holsteins gradually entered the herd in the 1960s and slowly replaced the Jerseys by the early '70s.

While farm work dominated his life, Ron loved playing hockey, remaining active on the ice until 80 years old! A special memory was being picked to play against the Montreal Oldtimers (Mahovich, Pocket Rocket and others). Ron proudly had a goal and an assist. After the herd was sold, he played in the Snoopy Oldtimers charity tournaments for 10 years in Santa Rosa, California.

Ron worked his whole life with brothers Barry and Burt and families. He took many trips with them until his wife Ruth passed in 2007.

Ron was pre-deceased by his parents Tom and Evelyn, wife Ruth, sister Joy and son-in-law John. He is survived by son Don (Shannon – daughter Deb and son Ken), six grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, brothers Barry and Burt (Sharon), sister Joan (Paul) and many nieces and nephews.



Alice (Akke) Bremer

January 6, 1940 – July 21, 2026

On July 21, 2026, our mother, grandmother, and great grandmother passed away peacefully with family at her side. We are comforted that she is now in heaven with her beloved husband, August Bremer, who passed in January 2021.

Alice (nee Reitsma) was born in Kollumerzwaag, Friesland, The Netherlands in 1940. She trained and worked as a seamstress as a young adult. In 1958, she followed her sweetheart, August, to Victoria, BC, where he had been rooming with her brothers. They were married on November 28, 1958. They soon started their family, Jennie was born in 1960, followed by Eric in 1962, Henry in 1963, and Irene in 1967. They had a small chicken farm in Brentwood Bay and Alice graded the eggs. They later moved to Matsqui/Abbotsford, where August raised calves. Alice was always involved helping feed and milk the cattle and growing a large garden. In April 1972, they moved to Armstrong so August could start a dairy farm full-time. Their fifth and final child, Jim, was born in July 1972. They moved the dairy to Enderby in 1974, where their grandsons still run the farm today. August and Alice eventually moved off the dairy, though August still raised cattle, grew silage and hay, and started a trucking operation.

A creative person, Alice was involved in volunteering with the church and community, helping make crafts. She submitted several photographs to the Salmon Arm fair and Armstrong IPE throughout the years. Her grandkids have fond memories of making crafts with Alice as children. She loved spending time with the grandkids as they grew, sharing a cup of tea with friends, and joining family gatherings. She is remembered fondly for how she always smiled with her whole face with a twinkle in her eye or a gently teasing comment to share.

Alice had a strong faith in God and regularly attended Cornerstone CRC in Salmon Arm, where she and August were involved in the church life from the time it was started. She is survived by her five children and their spouses: Jennie (Jim), Eric (Gloria), Henry (Henrietta), Irene (David), and Jim (Olivia); nine grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; a brother and a sister; and numerous siblings-in-law, nieces, and nephews. She is predeceased by her husband, parents, and other siblings.



Evelyn Vermeer

June 27, 1962 – July 20, 2026

Evelyn was born June 27, 1962, in Abbotsford, BC, to parents Peter and Herta Schmitt. She was the sixth of seven children on the family farm on Nicomen Island. She spent her younger years learning all there was to know about growing a garden, preserving the bounty, cooking from scratch, and letting nothing go to waste. Evelyn met Fred in her later high school years, fell in love, and the two were married September 7, 1984. She was an amazing mom of three children and had an overflowing heart for her 13 grandchildren. She loved nature, spending endless hours outside gardening and hiking. Her hands were always busy creating, and she was quick to offer up her fruits of labour.

Evelyn worked harder than most people could imagine. She was a homemaker, but that title hardly captures everything she did. She milked cows every day at Marlena Farms (Dewdney, BC), often twice a day while raising three children and supporting her husband in

all his endeavors. She spent countless hours tending her gardens, creating beauty wherever she went. She somehow managed to keep the busy family moving in every direction, driving her children to competitive sports and making sure they had every opportunity to pursue their dreams.

Evelyn was only 64 years old when she passed away after a courageous battle with brain cancer. While her time with us feels far too short, the impact she had on our family and so many others will last for generations. On July 20, 2026, she left with Jesus to join her parents and two of her older brothers. She will be greatly missed by her husband Fred, her children and their spouses: Angelina and Brian, Tanya and Mike, and Jeremy and Helene, her grandchildren: Kacey, Tiara, Zoe, Romeo, Ani, Bella, Blakeli, Van, Weston, Kai, Victoria, Timothy, and Ronin, her three sisters and brother, and many friends.

Evelyn will forever be missed: her smile, her laugh, feeling instantly welcomed upon walking into her home, her wisdom, her strength, and the quiet way she made life better for everyone around her.



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David Janssens

February 15, 1959 –
July 21, 2026

David Adrian Janssens passed away unexpectedly on July 21, 2026. He suffered a heart attack while doing what he loved – cycling through farmland, this time in the Peace River region of northern Alberta.

David was born on February 15, 1959, to Frank and Wilhelmiën Janssens in Surrey, BC. He grew up on the family

dairy farm (Nicomekl Farms) in Cloverdale where he developed a passion for agriculture and an immeasurable work ethic. He attended UBC where he met his wife, Sandy, and earned a BSc in Animal Sciences ('81) and an MBA ('83). After working in the ag banking sector for a short time, they moved to the farm, had four children, and spent the next 40+ years operating and growing the business.

David was an engaged and valued member of the agricultural community, serving on many boards including BC Holstein Branch, WestGen, BC Dairy and the BC Milk Marketing Board. David gave vigorously to his industry roles with a personal commitment that ensured his legacy was beneficial. Wherever he went, David loved connecting with people and was known for his intelligence, generosity, humour, and kindness.

Over the last 15 years, he would take breaks from the farm by driving or flying his bike to places where he could explore the countryside – he was proud to have traveled through more than 27 states and 14 countries. He enjoyed his travels and made sure to send updates and photos to friends and family along the way. He was loved by many and will be deeply missed.

David was predeceased by his father and mentor, Frank, and his beautiful daughter, Christina. He is survived by his mother, Wilhelmiën; wife, Sandy; and children: Nick (Gabrielle, with children William and Alexandra), Natalie (Oleg, with son Luka), and Hillary (husband Conlin).



Piet Thibaudier

January 13, 1935 –
August 4, 2026

Piet Thibaudier passed away peacefully in the presence of his family on August 4, 2026. Piet is lovingly remembered by his wife of 66 years, Mickey; daughter Annette (Alex); son Harold (Krista); nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and two step-grandsons and families. Piet was predeceased by his infant son, Harry, in 1961.

Piet was born in Harich, Friesland, the Netherlands, and immigrated to Canada in the spring of 1957. Upon his arrival, he stayed with his cousin Tina and Steve DeJong in Port Kells and worked various odd jobs. In 1959, Mickey vacationed in Canada and met Piet. They met again in 1960 in the Netherlands when Piet returned to visit his parents and shortly after married and returned to Canada. In 1963, Piet and Mickey began farming, and in 1988 they formed the company **Pickmick Dairy Farm Ltd., (Delta, BC)**, combining each of their first names. Through hard work, teamwork, exceptional animal care, and Piet's keen eye for a good Holstein Friesian cow, they slowly but surely built their herd and land base.

Piet greatly enjoyed his involvement with the BC Holstein Association, particularly during the National Holstein Convention held in Vancouver in 1983. He served on the P.R. Committee, and he and Mickey welcomed many visitors at the airport and accompanied them by bus to their hotels. Another fond memory for Piet was organizing a salmon BBQ at National Director Gordon McKay's farm in Richmond in 1980; a successful event with hundreds attending.

Piet's two greatest loves were his farm and his family. In his later years, he and Mickey enjoyed travelling internationally, and also with their motorhome, often travelling through farming areas, where he could not resist offering his observations: *"That grass should be cut,"* and, simply, *"Good crop."*

As mobility and health became more challenging, Piet loved having visitors and enjoyed watching and hearing about the bustle of the farm from his home on the farm. He was grateful to witness firsthand the second, third, and up-and-coming fourth generations working together merrily, responsibly caring for the land and animals he loved so deeply.

Herman Houweling

August 26, 1938 –
August 15, 2026

The Lord called home Herman Houweling on August 15, 2026, at 10:40am. Herman was born on August 26, 1938, in Cappelle ade Yssel, Netherlands, the 11th child of Hester and Cor Houweling.

In 1957, at age 18, Herman immigrated to Canada on his own and found work up North in the oil rigs, where he worked for five winters. He started farming in 1963 and met Mattie at New Westminster church the same year. They were married on June 6, 1964, and started their life together in Cloverdale and then in Langley. He and Mattie welcomed four children: Clifford (1965), Bill (1967), Hester (1970), and Sandra (1974).

Herman worked hard to support his family – in construction during the day, while farming at the same time. In 1971, they moved to Abbotsford and started Hermatt Dairy Farm on Harris Road. Herman loved farming and continued to expand the farm through the years.

In 1997, they moved off the farm and semi-retired, while enjoying trips to see family in Holland, and many different countries. Herman really liked Mexico and enjoyed two different family trips to Holland with all the kids, which he talked about often.

In 2020, he started to get sick and had lots of ups and downs but always kept a positive attitude. He continued to go to the farm every day to see what was going on and help where he could. Despite several surgeries, Herman always bounced back and continued playing hockey in a city league until he was 82.

Herman leaves behind his forever love Mattie, two sisters, four kids, four in-laws, 15 grandkids and 17 great grandkids, with whom he was a big hit.

"Take me back to the place, where I first received you,

Take me back to where I first believed.

I tried so hard to make it alone,

I need your help to make it home."

Herman was a member of Living Hope Church since 1971. He will be remembered for his faith in God, his sense of humour, and for always having a positive outlook on life and circumstances.



Peter Frederick Christopher White

May 21, 1937 – July 24, 2026

It is with deep sadness that we say goodbye to our beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle and friend, Peter F.C. White, who passed peacefully at Vernon Jubilee Hospital at age 89, with his four children by his side. Predeceased by his wife, Tina (Unrau), in 2023, Peter is survived by his children Janice (Doug), Angie (Kyle), Chris (Darlene) and Allison (Mike); grandchildren Kyle (Laurin), Cara (Shaun), Victoria, Owen, Thomas and Averi; and great-grandchildren Charlotte and Violet.

Peter was born May 21, 1937, to Frederick and Ida White in Ilkley, West Yorkshire, England. The youngest of three children, he grew up on Swindon Grange Farm in Kirkby Overblow and attended school in Harewood. He played cricket for Harrogate Cricket Club, earning recognition as a bowler. Following his father's accidental death in 1955, Peter immigrated to Canada at 20, arriving in St. John, New Brunswick in December 1957 before travelling by train to Vancouver. He worked on farms in South Surrey and Bradner, where he met Tina at Krentz's Chicken Farm. They married March 19, 1965.

Peter and Tina began dairy farming with his brother George and sister-in-law June in Aldergrove. In 1975, they established Whitegrove Farm in Matsqui Prairie, raising Guernseys and Holsteins, before moving to Townshipline Road in 1978. Peter devoted countless hours to agriculture and his community. He was a 4-H leader, volunteered with Agrifair, served as President of the BC and Canadian Guernsey Associations, represented Canada at the World Guernsey Conference, mentored UFV agriculture students, and exhibited cattle at fairs. He bred a Guernsey Junior Champion at Toronto's Royal Winter Fair and established the popular PNE Moo-ternity pen. In 1994, Peter and Tina moved Whitegrove Farm to Armstrong where Peter designed and built the new farm facilities. He remained active with the IPE, agricultural displays and the World Guernsey Conference.

Peter loved farming, animals, travel and the friendships he made throughout his life.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the SPCA and Canadian National Institute for the Blind.



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