

Leader News

Pedro the pigeon a summer guest for Craik couple



Tim and Pearl Unger of Craik took in an orphaned pigeon over the summer months, nursing the bird back to health. This included feeding him using a syringe (pictured above).

At left, Pedro, as the pigeon became known, perches on Tim's head. The bird gradually became quite comfortable in the Ungers' home, roosting on the heads and shoulders of whoever was around. (Contributed photos)

By Joel van der Veen
CRAIK — For Tim and Pearl Unger, a rescue mission turned into an extended visit with a new feathered friend.

The Ungers, who live in the Eco-Village east of Craik, took on the role of pigeon protectors over the summer, welcoming "Pedro" into their home.

Late this past spring, two sickly, orphaned pigeons were discovered in an old semi trailer at the north yard of Titan Clean Energy Projects, where Tim works.

One of the birds quickly died, but Tim decided to bring the second one home and attempt to nurse him back to health.

"For Tim there was no real hesitation," said Pearl, who herself was a little more reluctant. "This bird needed our help to survive and so we needed to do what we could."

The Ungers began feeding the pigeon JuicePlus Complete shakes mixed with water, using a syringe. He responded well to this and before long, he was beginning to thrive.

Pearl said they named him Pedro, as his plumage seemed to indicate a male

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Pearl Unger

bird. (Others, convinced this was a female bird, chose to call her Lola.)

Next, they set up a food and water station in the wagon in their yard.

Once he was well enough, Pedro spent the nights outside, but was welcome inside the house during the day.

His favourite place to sit was on someone's shoulder or head. Later, he'd ride on the top of vehicles whenever someone drove out of the yard.

Soon, he was comfortable hanging around with whoever dropped by, and vice versa.

"There wasn't a single negative comment from anyone," Pearl said.

Pedro and the Ungers' dogs got quite used to each other, leading to some amusing moments.

Over the summer, the pigeon gained and lost multiple sets of feathers — "each more beautiful than the last," Pearl said.

Gradually, the Ungers noticed Pedro was becoming more aggressive and harder to handle.

"When (he was) let in, it was all about aggressively fluffing and dancing and making an interesting sequence of sounds," Pearl recalled.

Later, he would sometimes peck and pull at people's skin.

The Ungers would shoo him away when he got aggressive, but by late August, Pearl said, this behaviour was wearing thin.

Last week, they released him near Holdfast, on a rural property with lots of other pigeons nearby.

Pearl said they were missing him before long, but knew it was the right thing to do.

"Ultimately we know that our Lord cares for our pigeon and we can't worry or be anxious about where he is," she said, adding, "We do miss him."

Hanley water upgrade moving ahead on schedule

By Joel van der Veen

HANLEY — Town staff was hopeful last week that upgrades to Hanley's water distribution system would soon be complete.

Beginning Monday, Sept. 11, the town was under a precautionary drinking water advisory as crews installed two new distribution pumps at the water plant.

Administrator Darice Carlson said the installation was expected to wrap up on Friday, allowing the pumps to be officially commissioned.

"They're hoping to start the pumps up Friday afternoon and then everything should be complete," she said.

Following this, water samples would be taken to Saskatoon, paving the way for the drinking water advisory to end as early as Monday of this week.

Of course, Carlson added, "They've gotta come back clean."

The town is replacing its water distribution pumps after roughly half a century in service.

The project comes with an approximate price tag of \$102,000. A grant from the federal government is covering half that cost, with the remainder split equally between the province and the town.

Anderson Pump House Ltd., a company based in North Battleford, is installing the pumps. A welder and electrician have also been working on site.

While the drinking water advisory is expected to last one week in total, Carlson said there has been little interruption to the town's water supply.

The water was turned off briefly for less than

half an hour on Monday afternoon while workers hooked up a temporary pump, running at 60 PSI.

"That little pump has just been going hardcore," said Carlson.

Notices were distributed by mail to utility customers and regular updates have been posted on the Hanley website and social media.

Carlson said the town hopes to achieve a greater capacity with the new pumps. They are also touted as more energy-efficient, thus leading to a potential savings in energy costs.

The two pumps are powered using a 7.5 HP variable frequency drive system.

Hanley is connected through the Dundurn Rural Water Utility and has drawn its water from the City of Saskatoon since 2011.

The Davidson Leader
205 Washington Avenue

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