

COMMUNITY *News*

FALL 2022



“Buena Vista Park Art for Kids brought a pop of colour and a sense of community to our neighbourhood after a couple of tough years of pandemic isolation.”

– Buena Vista Park Art for Kids Event, p. 2

Buena Vista Park Art for Kids Event

Buena Vista Park Art for Kids brought a pop of colour and a sense of community to our neighbourhood after a couple of tough years of pandemic isolation. The month-long outdoor art show in Buena Vista Park was celebrated with an official opening party that drew a large crowd.

On March 1, when there was still plenty of snow on the ground, we placed rubbermaid bins on two front steps and encouraged families to pick up a piece of mat board donated by a couple of local framing shops. Mat board of all colours and sizes was picked up very quickly. Although we had many more requests, only 100 pieces were available in order to keep the project manageable.

We asked the neighbourhood artists to drop off their completed art by April 1 into the same rubbermaid bins. We had a tremendous amount of help from Dandelion Art Framing; the owner and one of her employees laminated and framed close to 100 art pieces throughout the month of April. The Buena Vista Community Association (BVCA) paid for the lamination, volunteers collected secondhand frames from thrift shops, friends and art stores and Dandelion Art Framing donated their labour.

Volunteers installed the art show on May 1 by wiring the art to the fence that borders the basketball court and paddling pool. The timing was perfect. It made the park so vibrant and colourful before any of our trees or lilac bushes were in bloom.

To make it feel like a real party, we reached out to a few organizations in the city to join us on May 1 for the opening. We had an excellent response and The Green Mean Ice Cream Machine, Yoko's Creative Face Painting and an outdoor story time by the Saskatoon Public Library were a hit with kids and adults alike. The PunchBuggy Express showed off their new pedal bus and entertained kids with their bubble machine and games. Life Outside Gear Store did a nature craft and BVCA provided lemonade, candy, and chalk for kids to colour the basketball court. BVCA volunteers also decorated the park with homemade decorations. The cost to BVCA was \$350.

Kevin Ariss, our City of Saskatoon Community Consultant, was so supportive of the project. Every question was answered and his enthusiasm made us feel really supported.

At the end of May, children picked up their art to take home and leftover pieces were delivered to Sunnyside Adventist Care Centre for residents to enjoy.

This event was so fun, and we can't wait to do it again in Spring 2023.

– Leisha Grebinski, Buena Vista Community Association



Caswell Special Weather Patrols

About six years ago, Caswell Hill Community Association (CHCA) had a very active citizen patrol where members would walk through the neighbourhood, reporting graffiti and being a presence to discourage crime and other negative activity. However, volunteerism dropped off over time, and the citizen patrol was forced to end.

A few CHCA members and volunteers from the previous citizen patrol wanted to renew their presence and have a positive impact on the community. From this desire, the Special Weather Patrols were born.

The Special Weather Patrols were done in the bitter cold of winter and the blazing heat of summer. During the cold, patrols offered warm beverages and rides to people who appeared to be struggling with the challenging winter weather. During the summer, they offered water and helped those experiencing difficulties to get out of the heat. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, volunteers found they needed to streamline their processes to better serve their community while also considering the volunteers' safety.

Over the past summer, several measures were taken to raise effectiveness of the hot-weather patrol while also keeping volunteers safe, including some patrol members completing first aid and naloxone training. Members also started taking notes of each patrol, including how they were able to help people in their neighbourhood.

They recorded the daily temperature and the number of:

- people who were on each patrol
- water bottles distributed
- interactions they had with community members
- times they exited the vehicle to help someone in need
- interventions where they called in external help.

Over eight patrols, they gave out 100 bottles of water to 81 different people, engaged with 67 people and exited their vehicles to help people eight times. They intervened in two situations where they contacted Sawêyihotân Outreach whose staff and facilities were equipped to better help those folks who needed it. These patrols allowed volunteers to become familiar with neighbourhood residents and to develop relationships with people they met regularly.

Defined protocols and the move towards more in-person interactions will allow more community members to get involved. The hope is to continue these patrols during the winter months.

Thank you to these volunteers for identifying a need in the community and being creative in helping others.

– Heidi Estrada, Community Consultant and
Ian Roach, Caswell Hill Community Association

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Artists in Place: The Bunkhouse Project Expands

Artists in Place: The expanded Bunkhouse Project, which now includes six working studios and a pop-up gallery space, has been home to a group of artists in residence since June 6, 2022. Over the course of their ten-month residencies, these artists will be creating a body of work inspired by their time at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo. Theatre artist Yulissa Campos and visual artists Aarin Rinas, Emilie Neudorf, Jeanette Munroe, Jordan Baraniecki and Kei Tanaka are the 2022-23 artists in residence.

The open house in September was a great opportunity for the public to meet the artists in their studio spaces, view their work and admire the renovated building. More than 60 people attended the event.

The main floor pop-up gallery space is available for local artists to host weekend exhibitions of their work, free of charge. For information or to apply, visit saskatoon.ca/artsandculture.

– Kathy Allen, Arts & Grants Consultant



Aarin Rinas Open House, 2022

Immigration Partnership Saskatoon's Appreciation Event

Members of Immigration Partnership Saskatoon's (IPSK) Immigrant Advisory Table enjoyed their first-ever appreciation event at Forestry Farm Park over the summer. The Immigrant Advisory Table (IAT) is a reference group with lived experience which advises on issues affecting immigrants and increases IPSK's knowledge about newcomer needs, strengths and local support strategies.

To join the Immigrant Advisory Table, please fill in the application form at:

ipsk.ca/join-our-immigrant-advisory-table/

– Jasmine Calix, Social Development Consultant



Back row (L-R): Jasmine Calix, IPSK Coordinator, Kevin Kitchen, City of Saskatoon Community Development Manager, Doha Kharsa, Leslie Tetteh, Renuka Sharma, Palash Sanyal, Tenille Thomson, City of Saskatoon Social Development Manager.

Front row (L-R): Ozra Mohammadi, Shadi Beiki and His Worship Mayor Charlie Clark.

Montgomery Place Celebrates 75 Years, 1946-2021

The Montgomery Place 75 Years celebration was a warm mix of ages and stages, old and new memories and future promise. After a long wait due to COVID-19, the celebration was met with tissues and tears by some, jubilation and joy by others.

Beginning with after-school tours of Montgomery School, the Friday night event featured live music by Back of the Bus and a special intermission performance by the Saskatoon Highland dancers.

Saturday's celebrations began with an opening ceremony at the cairn in Montgomery Park. Five World War II veterans and several widows of veterans who made homes in Montgomery Place were able to attend. It was a thrill and an honour to see so many 90-year-olds come out to join the celebration. Veterans unveiled a Municipal Heritage plaque which honours the neighbourhood milestone of 75 years.

Mr Brad Redekopp, MP for Saskatoon West, Mr Marv Friesen, MLA for Saskatoon Riversdale and City of Saskatoon Councillor Hilary Gough brought greetings at the ceremony. City of Saskatoon staff who created a Walking Tour app of the neighbourhood presented a 75th anniversary gift. We appreciate the City for creating the app and sharing this way to see our community and explore its roots.

Next, almost 70 young bikers strutted their stuff in a bike parade through the park. This old-fashioned pastime provided excitement for today's kids as they biked to the applause of anniversary onlookers.

With a classic car exhibit, caricature artist, face painting and glitter tattoos, inflatables, story time with local author Amber Antymniuk and the Salty Circus troupe performances, there was no shortage of fun activities. Tours of mosaic art installations were held at the nearby St. Dominic School, and a slideshow featuring veterans and displays tracing the 75-year history of Montgomery Place were shown at St. David's Trinity United Church. Food trucks provided options for snacks, lunch and dinner as residents picnicked in the park.

Saturday evening saw actor Julia Mackey delve into the memories and hopes of a Canadian World War II veteran returning to the Normandy Beach in the performance, Jake's Gift. St. David's Trinity United Church welcomed everyone to a service of remembrance, gratitude, and hope on Sunday morning.

Thank you to everyone who attended from near and far and especially to the families who brought their veterans. Residents past and present, newborn to 90, reflected our founders' legacy of Montgomery Place, showing gratitude for the past and anticipation of the future. Sun shone on the 75th anniversary celebration of Montgomery Place.

– Leslee Newman, Montgomery Place Community Association Event Planning Committee



Left: Back view of Opening Ceremony. right: Municipal Heritage Plaque

Poetry Downtown

The Poetry Downtown project features Truth and Reconciliation-themed poems from six local poets displayed on the 3rd Avenue poster directories between 20th Street and 22nd Street in Downtown Saskatoon.



In partnership with Downtown Saskatoon, Poetry Downtown was inspired by a challenge from Parliamentary Poet Laureate of Canada, Louise Halfe, encouraging municipalities to bring poetry to public places.

“In order to walk or run we must first learn to crawl. It is often the first step toward growth. In Cree, pimitācimo, is in itself a loaded word with multiple beginnings. However, simply translated, it means: we crawl into life with our stories,” said Halfe.

“Art uses our physicality, spirituality, intellect, and emotionality to bring forth our visions. It is expressed through literature in poetry, drama, theatre, dance, music, song, and paintings. It is never stagnant. All these enhance and challenge our

perspectives, they guide us into the inner center [sic] of our being, invite us to grow. These are the visions drawn from the artisan well of the artist. In essence we are all artist. It is simply expressed in multiple ways in all disciplines.”

Featured work and poets include *The Colour of Sky* by Robert Benz, *Beside a Residential School* by Lisa Bird-Wilson, *O' Canada* by Lauren Klassen, *Unapologetic* by Mika Lafond, *it's always so sad to see* by Jada Morin and *Sask* by Jenny Ryan. Launched on October 1, 2022 as part of Culture Days, the project will be on display until May 31, 2023.

The goals of the project are to:

- enhance and move forward with Truth and Reconciliation
- provide opportunities for artistic expression in the city centre
- inspire the public through poetry
- connect the work of local poets to the community

The public is encouraged to visit 3rd Avenue and reflect on the poetry.

– Kathy Allen, Arts & Grants Consultant

Cultural Camp

The Cultural Camp program is a one-week event that promotes healthy lifestyles through physical activity, proper nutrition and skill development among Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth. The event is designed to encourage youth, aged 10 to 14 years, to learn new skills and engage facilitators while making new friends and having fun. Youth are encouraged to participate in instructor-led sport, recreation and physical activity throughout the day. Lunch and nutritional snacks are provided, and the camp addresses cost as a barrier.

– Kathleen Stone, Indigenous Recreation Programmer



Volunteer Highlight

As we approach rink season, we wanted to highlight the volunteers who work tirelessly to support their community. This time of year is especially labour intensive for our rink crews. If you would like to recognize a volunteer with your community association, please let your consultant know.

Chris Gillings, Wildwood Community Association

Chris Gillings has been with the Wildwood Community Association for over a decade now, although no one on the board, including Chris, can remember exactly how long! Chris is always willing to help someone in need and never complains about the challenges and work required to run a great community rink. In addition to maintaining an excellent ice surface, Chris is always bringing back corporate deals or savings that he has found on rink equipment or supplies. Chris is a resourceful and valuable member of the WCA team and is one of Saskatoon's volunteer stars. Great job, Chris!



– Mark Planchot, Community Consultant

Ron Zwarich, Silverwood Heights Community Association

Silverwood Heights kids have been learning to skate, shoot, and score on ice created by Ron Zwarich for more than 20 years. Ron has spent countless hours, late in the evenings and early in the mornings, flooding the rink and clearing the snow through all kinds of Saskatchewan winter conditions.

Once the ice is gone, Ron would continue to dedicate his time maintaining the boards, surface and equipment throughout the spring, summer and fall.

On and off the ice, Ron is a model citizen and people like him make Silverwood Heights a fantastic place to live. Even though Ron is moving away from the neighbourhood this year, he has agreed to continue helping with the rink administration work and keeping the rink volunteers organized. Thank you for your continued work, dedication and community service.

– Tyler Rody, Rink Volunteer



St. Angela rink rebuild



Silverwood Heights rink

Welcome Danielle Bird

Community Development would like to introduce Danielle Bird to our team. Danielle has accepted the position of the Indigenous Inclusion Consultant. Ms. Danielle Bird (Nehiyaw) is a member of the Saddle Lake Cree Nation in Alberta and has strong familial ties to the Mistawasis Nehiyawak in Saskatchewan. Danielle holds a Bachelor of Arts in

Sociology and a Master of Arts in Indigenous Studies. Her work has centered Indigenous voices in broader discussions on inclusion, diversity and reconciliation initiatives in Saskatchewan and beyond. Danielle starting working with us on November 1st.

Volunteer Training Survey

The City of Saskatoon Neighbourhood Services Section has developed an excellent series of position-specific and general training sessions to help support community association volunteers.

Position-specific training includes workshops for presidents, indoor coordinators, newsletter coordinators and more. General training includes the Community Champion Series aimed at diversity and inclusion and the Leadership Series which includes sessions such as conversational intelligence and conflict resolution.

The Volunteer Training Committee is looking for feedback on what other kinds of training opportunities community association volunteers would like to see. A survey link will be sent out in the New Year for volunteers to provide feedback.



For more information on upcoming training, or if you have ideas for possible training opportunities, please contact your Community Consultant.

Remembering David Godwin

On April 16, 2022, David Godwin passed away after a brave battle with cancer. Over his 32-year career at the City of Saskatoon, David crossed paths with countless employees.

David will be remembered for his extensive knowledge and advice to both his volunteers and colleagues in Community Development. Many remember going into David's office with a question just to have David pull out a big binder of information and proceed to tell that employee all they needed to know about a given topic; his favourite was park development.

Without fail, David could be found in the Cosmo Civic Centre lunchroom at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., sipping his tea and either looking through flyers or engaging in conversation that always included lots of laughter.

Thank you to everyone who reached out to express sympathy to the Community Development team regarding our loss. We appreciate the kind words and thoughts. We miss David, a man who not only was a co-worker, but also a friend.



New! Search Online for Community Association Programs Across Saskatoon

Check out the City of Saskatoon's new search tool at saskatoon.ca/communityassociations to find the best neighbourhood programs for your interests, age and location.



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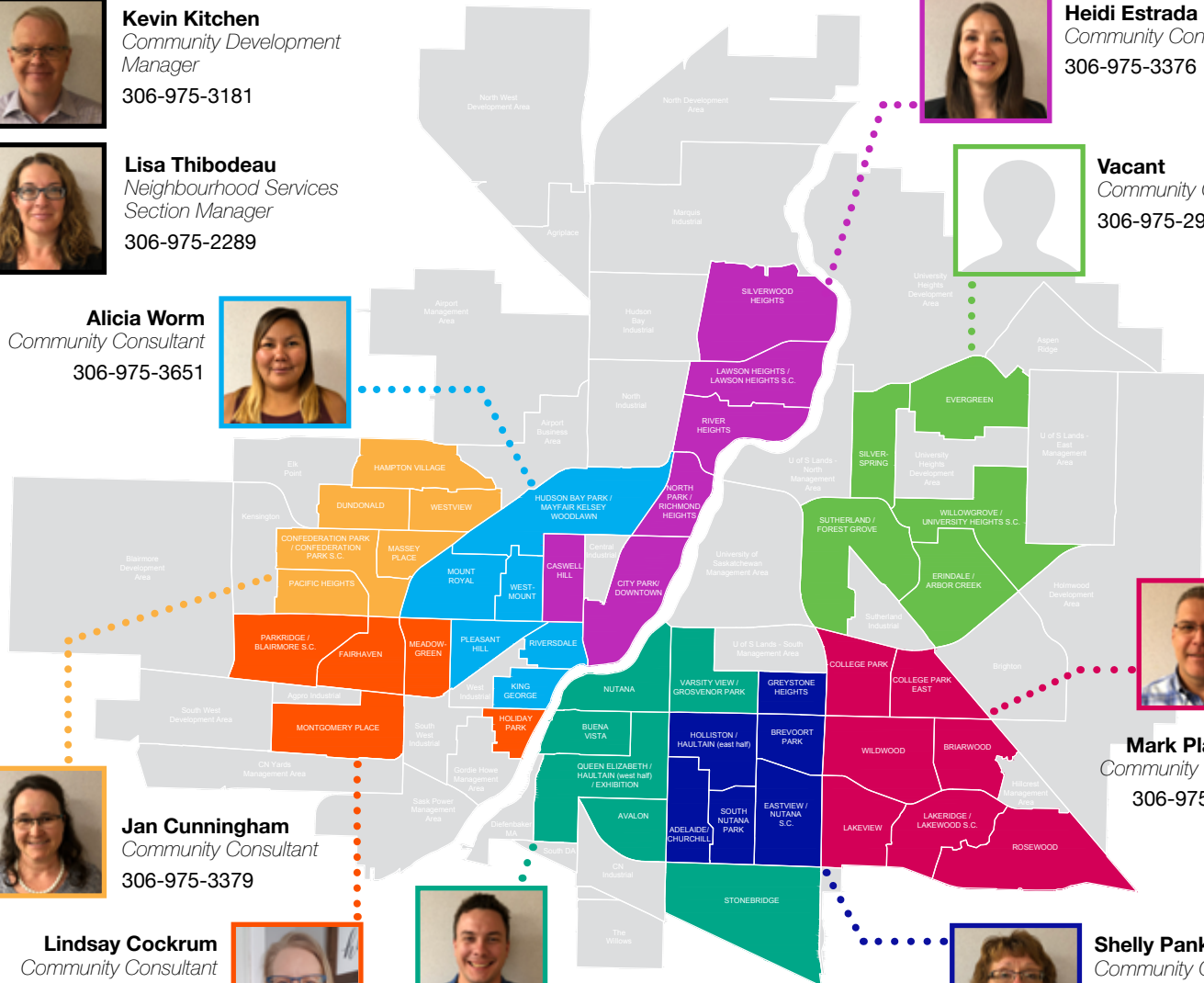
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