

COMMUNITY *News*

SPRING 2021



“Participants learned Indigenous teachings, stories, songs and made their own rattles with materials found from the land.”

– Rattle Making Class, p. 4



City of
Saskatoon

Working on Inclusion Across Diverse Communities

From working with Saskatoon Inter-Agency Response to COVID-19 in the beginning of the pandemic to shifting back to helping the City of Saskatoon stay connected to the immigrant and refugee communities, this year was a strange, busy and important year for Community Development. This past summer saw thousands march and rally around the Black Lives Matter movement bringing attention to the inequity and racism built into many of our systems. We worked with a small group from different Black communities to talk about and make recommendations on how the City of Saskatoon can do better to serve the Black communities that live here. Informed by these discussions, three broader motions were presented to City Council by Councillor Mairin Loewen and passed unanimously on September 28, 2020:

1. Human Resources: Identify and address systemic barriers in the recruitment and retention of diverse employees.
2. Advisory Committees, Boards, and Commissions: Improve the reach and accessibility of efforts to invite residents to participate on Council-appointed advisory committees, boards and commissions. These actions should have specific emphasis on underserved and underrepresented populations in the community. They should also be based on advice from community organizations with links to underrepresented populations.
3. Community Engagement: Identify and address systemic barriers that prevent residents from accessing, taking part in, and providing feedback within the City's public engagement, with a specific emphasis on underserved and underrepresented populations.

We have since worked closely with the Saskatoon Open Door Society and their Leadership and Community Engagement



(LACE) program to give recent immigrants an opportunity to learn about the civic engagement process and to make space for their voices to be heard. During our discussion, led by Community Engagement Consultant Mandy Fehr, the group gave important and useful feedback on both the City's engagement process and an ongoing project.

We hope to continue reaching out to hear from as many of Saskatoon's diverse voices as possible.

– April Sora, Immigration & Inclusion Consultant



For more information, or if you know of any diverse and inclusive groups that may be interested in community engagement through virtual communication, contact April Sora at april.sora@saskatoon.ca.

What's New?

Saskatoon Pickleball Inc. Receives Grant

Saskatoon Pickleball players have eight new courts to play on, thanks to the Jack Adilman Fund. Saskatoon Pickleball Inc. (SPI) was recently awarded \$138,750 for floor resurfacing to accommodate the new courts at the Saskatoon Kinsmen/Henk Ruys Soccer Centre.

Jack Adilman, 1920-1992, was a prominent businessman, sportsman, and tireless supporter of amateur sports in Saskatoon. The Jack Adilman Fund was established through his estate to support Saskatoon amateur sport organizations, and is administered by the City of Saskatoon.

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The playing fields will be shared with soccer, volleyball and ball hockey. Care has been taken with court layout and the overall colour scheme; each sport will have line contrasts that won't negatively impact the other sports. The project was completed in February, 2021; courts will be available for play as public health orders allow.

SPI have expressed their gratitude to the Jack Adilman Fund and the partnerships that have made this project a success.

"We cannot emphasize enough the cooperation and support we have been given by SSCI (Saskatoon Soccer Center Inc). They have been a critical partner in the selection and planning process, and we have every confidence that this strong relationship will continue as we evolve into operations at their great facility in the Lawson Heights area," said Ray Basler, SPI Project Manager.

– Kathy Allen, Arts & Grants Consultant

New faces with the Local Immigration Partnership

The Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) has some new faces on the team. Please join us in welcoming Jasmine Calix and Debra Kokott.

Jasmine Calix

Jasmine was born in Moose Jaw, and has made the Saskatoon area home for the last 15 years. She has worked at the U of S, for municipal, provincial governments in Saskatchewan, and also the federal government at the Canadian Embassy in Washington D.C. Most recently, she worked for the Saskatoon Police Service as the Crime Free Multi-Housing Coordinator. She brings a Master of Arts degree in Political Studies and International Relations from the U of S, along with 15 years community leadership experience to the position. She is looking forward to building



relationships throughout the community to help develop the Local Immigration Partnership. Jasmine also has 11 years of board experience. She is currently a board member of the Martensville Housing Authority and has been a member of the Saskatchewan Arts Board. Jasmine likes to paint in oils, acrylics and watercolours in her free time.

Debra Kokott



Debra is the new Clerk/Steno for the LIP in Saskatoon. Debra has spent the last 12 years with the City of Saskatoon in Sport and Recreation and is excited to head in a new direction with Community Development. Debra looks forward to supporting the hard and dedicated work of the Saskatoon settlement agencies and to being a part of the Social Development Team.

Rattle Making Class

The City of Saskatoon's Recreation and Community Development Department partnered with the Survivors Circle to offer this two-day free Virtual Teachings and Rattle Making Class. The class was taught by Elder Sanford Strongarm who offered rattle teachings and John Dreaver who assisted Strongarm with the rattle-making process. Alicia Worm, Indigenous Community Programmer, coordinated the event with guidance from the Survivors Circle, Elder Strongarm and Oscapios John Dreaver.

Participants learned Indigenous teachings, stories, songs and made their own rattles with materials found from the land. The Survivors Circle, a group of more than 50 residential school survivors, were joined by youth in an engaging, fun and interactive learning environment.

There will be more Indigenous programming available in 2021 including another Virtual Rattle Making class. Stay tuned!

– Tracey Bert, Indigenous Diversity & Inclusion Consultant



For more information about upcoming Indigenous programming, contact Alicia Worm at 306-975-8486.



Above: More than 50 people took part in the virtual class.



Top: Teyshia Bert participating in the virtual class.

Bottom: Elder Sanford Strongarm (right) offered rattle teachings while John Dreaver (left) assisted in the rattle-making process.

Community Association Services to Residents

With the continued lack of programming space, Community Associations have found creative ways to offer services to their communities. Read on for some examples of how volunteers have been able to offer quality services.

Cross Country Ski Trails

Cross country skiing is a great way to get outside and active during winter. In a typical winter, the City and the Nordic Ski Club groom trails in Holiday Park Golf Course, Meewasin Park, Diefenbaker Park, Forest Park, Wildwood Golf Course and Kinsmen Park. The City's Parks Department will also groom trails in neighbourhood parks if requested by a Community Association. In the past, there has been a handful of Associations who have had this done.

This year with limited indoor programming, volunteers were looking for a way to offer an increase of services to their residents. Volunteers embraced the WintercityYXE Strategy and coordinated trail grooming through the city. With the massive snow storm in November, the ski trails were set and residents were soon enjoying mild weather and a fresh blanket of snow.

This past winter, 19 Community Associations had trails groomed, adding about 25 km of ski trails in neighbourhood parks. These trails were very welcomed by the communities. Since cross country skiing is inherently an individual, physically-distanced sport, many people were able to take advantage of the trails safely. These trails were coordinated between dedicated Community Association volunteers, Community Consultants and the City's Parks Department. Funding was provided by Neighbourhood Services Section and the newly introduced *Take it Outside* Micro Grant. Trails were groomed in the following neighbourhood parks:

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Churchill | Brevoort |
| Donna Birkmaier | Buena Vista |
| Ashworth Holmes | Dr. Gerhard Herzberg |
| James Anderson | Misâskwatômina |
| HS Sears | Henry Kelsey |
| Victoria | G.D. Archibald |
| Weaver | Umea |
| Hyde | WJL Harvey North |
| Harold Tatler | Grosvenor |
| President Murray | Wildwood |



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Seasonal Fun!

Many residents reached out to thank the Community Associations for offering these trails in their parks:

"We want to extend a BIG THANK YOU for the groomed ski trails in the park! We were walking the park when we saw the snowmobile setting the tracks. My husband and I (seniors) enjoyed a trip around the circuit this morning. YEAH!! We can't remember when we skied last, it was an easy trail, fun and oh so convenient!!!"

"I just wanted to let you know how much my family and I appreciate the cross-country ski trails that have recently been put around the perimeter of the park. We have been living here for 15 years and I can't believe nobody thought of doing this sooner! We use them regularly now and I have seen lots of other skiers of all ages using them as well. Saskatoon is a winter city and I think that continuing on with cross-country ski tracks would be a low-cost way to promote outdoor activity for the residents during the winter months. The tracks are great amenity to have and I hope that there is way we can continue to have them set in the future."

"Wonderful to have the groomed tracks again. The double track in the South Park is a great addition. It was awesome. All in all a wonderful addition to our part of the city. Big thanks to the Community Association."

"I love this!!!! Have used the trails often. Great use of funds!!!"

"Yes, I tried out the new tracks tonight in the Wolf Moon Light. Fantastic trails!!!"

"Thanks so much! We were out this afternoon and enjoyed it so much – on both sides. Good work."

Rink Benches

Community Association rink coordinators work hard every year to bring quality ice to the people of their neighbourhood. This year was no exception. With the tightening of COVID-19 restrictions, some rinks did not have their usual warm-up and seating area available, or they chose not to open their area in an effort to keep their community members safe.

The Neighbourhood Services Section was able to offer some funding to Community Associations who wanted to build benches to provide more seating. Not all communities were able to build the benches during skating season, but many took advantage of the nice weather and got the benches built before the cold snap in February. In total, 38 Community Associations built 46 benches for their neighbourhood rinks. These benches were a great added amenity this winter and will continue to be so in the years to come.

– Heidi Estrada, Community Consultant



Pacific Heights rink bench



College Park rink bench



Massey Place rink bench

Garden iMap

In past seasons a list of all community gardens were found on CHEP's website. This map has now been moved to the City of Saskatoon's website at saskatoon.ca. People have appreciated the interactive iMaps found on the City's website and now they are able to have the same experience when looking for a community garden.

Visit saskatoon.ca/communitygardens to find the closest garden to you.

← Stonebridge

Community Garden
Stonebridge

Address
115 Cornishe Road, Saskatoon, SK

Contact Name:
Brittany Davidson

Contact Email Address:
stonebridgecommunitygarden@gmail.com

Viewers can click on community garden locations on iMap and view details including street address and contact information.

Wildwood Moves and Grooves with SHiNE™ Fitness

Penny Fox-Knudtson has been teaching dance fitness since 1980 when jazzercise was all the rage. She became a certified SHiNE™ Dance Fitness instructor three years ago, and has been instructing dance fitness programs for the City of Saskatoon Community Associations for the last nine years. Wildwood Community Association offered the class indoors at the Dance Elements Studio this past season. Many adjustments had to be made to comply with Public Health measures to present this class in a safe way amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. These included wearing masks, keeping participants physically distant, extra sanitization and limitations in class size. The Neighbourhood Services Section rental reimbursement program helped cover facility rental costs during the pandemic, making this class affordable for the Community Association to offer.

SHiNE™ is a workout for all levels, and Penny likes to keep her classes fun. The original choreography, rooted in traditional jazz, ballet and hip hop, provides the perfect balance of cardio, toning, and strength components. Each routine is designed by using the best and most current music. You hardly even notice you are getting a workout as you feel like you are in a dance class.

A typical SHiNE™ class is just under an hour long and includes 16 to 17 routines. After a warm-up, the class increases intensity with routines featuring different movements to offer a total body workout. Penny's expertise allows her to alternate the complexity and intensity of the routines to ensure students' safety and success. The SHiNE™ dance floor is open to EVERYBODY. No dance



experience is necessary. This class is designed for all ages, shapes, sizes and genders.

If you are interested in offering more in-person community programs in your neighbourhood, contact your Community Consultant.

– Mark Planchot, Community Consultant

Nutrien Wonderhub Receives Grant

The City of Saskatoon's one-time *Take It Outside* Grant program saw \$175,000 awarded to support organizations hosting COVID-19 safe outdoor activities. The program was launched in December, 2020 with funding granted to 35 successful applicants.

Nutrien Wonderhub was awarded \$15,000 for its "A Winter Wonderhub – Building Memories Outdoors" project. Children and families played and explored together outside during winter through safe programs. All events were free to the public and included:

- A New Year's Eve outdoor event and virtual countdown, weekly outdoor STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) and movement-based activities in underserved neighbourhood parks throughout Saskatoon;
- Videos and downloadable content to educate and inspire families to learn from and get creative from the outdoors; and,
- Snow sculptures near Wonderhub for families to play on.

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"The *Take it Outside* Program Grant has allowed Wonderhub to find new and exciting ways for families to spend time together outdoors this winter. We know that family connections, exercise and fresh air are all key to our health and wellbeing, and our Take it Outside activities are designed to give children and their adults a variety of ways to meet all of those needs while also staying safe during the pandemic.

With so much beauty around us during the winter season, it is a joy to see children and families coming together and enjoying what Saskatchewan's winter has to offer. Programs like these ensure that children continue to learn through play and maintain strong family connections even during this global crisis. Our kids will always remember the pandemic, but they'll also remember all of the fun things they did together with their families during this time," said Amanda McReynolds Doran, Nutrien Wonderhub CEO.

– Kathy Allen, Arts & Grants Consultant



BECOME A COMMUNITY CHAMPION (A SERIES):

Inclusion Starts by Knowing Yourself

Tuesday, November 30th, 2021

6:30-8:30 p.m. Activities and Session (Microsoft Teams)

In this session you will engage in fun and interactive activities which show that self-awareness is a necessary first step to being comfortable working and communicating with diverse communities and colleagues. You will also have the opportunity to examine your assumptions and learn what to do when you realize your blind spots and biases.

Jeny Mathews-Thusoo will join us from the City of Calgary where she is the Program Lead of Inclusive Futures

with Resilient Calgary. She also is an instructor with the University of Calgary, Faculty of Social Work teaching social policy and social justice.

Her academic background includes a Masters in Community Health Sciences, a Bachelors of Education and a Bachelors of Science in Biology. In her spare time, when she is not watching Star Wars and Supergirl with her daughters and spouse, Jeny facilitates conversations about future thinking, our roles in social change, racism, and internalized racism.

Watch for more information on this virtual session from your Community Consultant.

Fundraising Efforts Prove to Be a Successful Source of Revenue

With interesting times comes creative — and successful — ways to fundraise. The Adelaide Park/Churchill and Brevoort Park Community Associations raised almost \$3,500 through 50/50 draws this past winter; more than enough to replace the funds they would have received through memberships and programs.

The Associations obtained lottery licenses from the Saskatchewan License and Gaming Authority (SLGA). These groups then designed, printed and sold tickets, both in person and on Facebook. The response was incredible for both communities.

After the campaigns were completed, follow up forms were sent to SLGA who paid a grant equal to 25 per cent of the net proceeds back to the communities. Adelaide Park/Churchill raised a total \$1,000 with \$500 going directly back to the Community Association. Brevoort Park's campaign

"Be sure to request more tickets than less on the application form. You don't need to sell the total amount you've requested, and you can't add more later."

was so successful that there was a demand to run a second campaign. Brevoort Park fundraised \$2,470 with half going back to the Community Association.

Adelaide Park/Churchill's advice to groups who may consider this fundraising option is: "Be sure to request more tickets than less on the application form. You don't need to sell the total amount you've requested, and you can't add more later."

Virtual Training Continues

I'm Stressed: Now What? This training couldn't have come at a better time. Stacey Alexandre with Two Roads Therapeutic presented this session, talking about the body's reaction to stress and tools which can be used to manage this reaction.

The Neighbourhood Services Section invited Alexandre to present in this third instalment of the Leadership Series which began in the fall of 2018. Community Consultants were joined by 22 volunteers representing 18 Community Associations at the session on February 25.

We plan to continue with virtual training, including the Community Champion series in the fall which will focus on including diverse groups as participants and volunteers.

We are always accepting ideas as to possible training opportunities. If you have any ideas, please contact your Community Consultant.

Make it Happen!

VOLUNTEER

There are many ways you can volunteer for your Community Association:

- coach soccer
- clean up your park
- help organize special events
- help coordinate recreation programs
- write a newsletter article
- take meeting minutes
- flood the outdoor rink

...and more!

saskatoon.ca/volunteer

 City of Saskatoon

Membership Drives

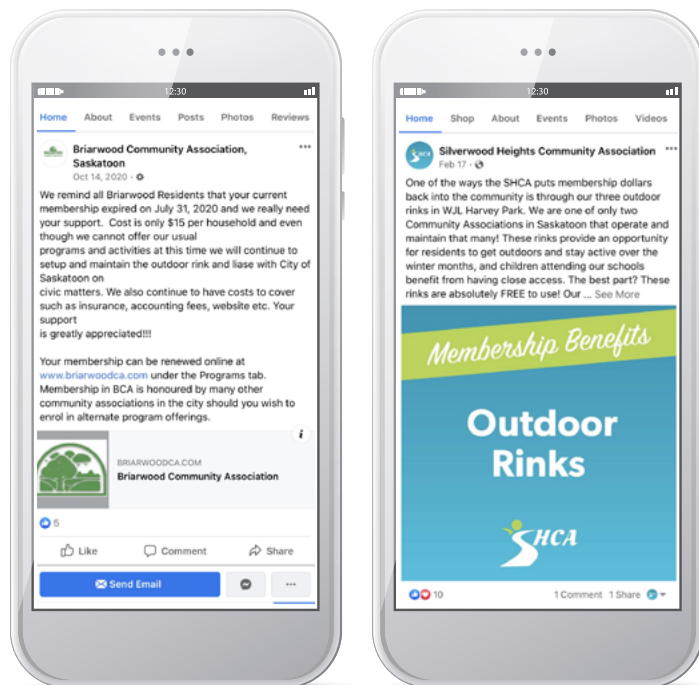
Community Association memberships do so much more than providing programming. Memberships help support operations like printed newsletters, fun days in the park, rink operations, cross country ski trail grooming, playground/park projects and all the other wonderful work the volunteers are doing.

This past year, we heard community members taking notice of the services Community Associations offer and purchasing memberships. Some Community Associations focused on gaining membership through e-mail and social media campaigns or by focusing on the benefits of membership in their newsletters. These efforts resulted in an increase in membership purchases.

"I will be renewing my membership to help support the Community Association initiatives. I appreciate you bringing our attention to who was responsible for the trails, rinks, etc. and the need to extend support. We watch action at the rinks and although we don't venture there it always brings a smile and a good remembrance of days when our son played on the rinks in the park."

"Thanks again for all you do to make this a vibrant community."

"A Community Association received a cheque in the mail addressed to Treasurer/YXE Community Association. Inside was a cheque for \$10 for a membership."

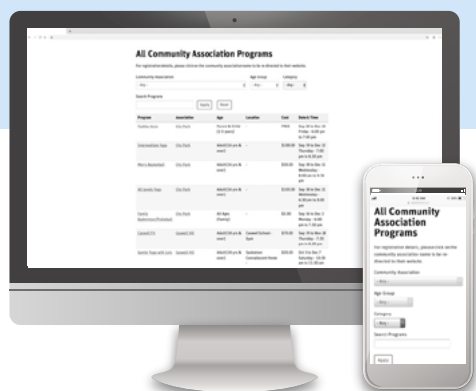


"The treasurer phoned the resident to see if they wanted a card and they told the treasurer; they are 93, still living at home, their family was one of the first homes in the neighbourhood and they just wanted to be a member."

"We are long-term residents. We had lots of involvement with the Community Association when our kids were around. This year we have been using the ski trails in the park and feel like we should have paid our membership!"



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



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.



Who's Who in Community Development

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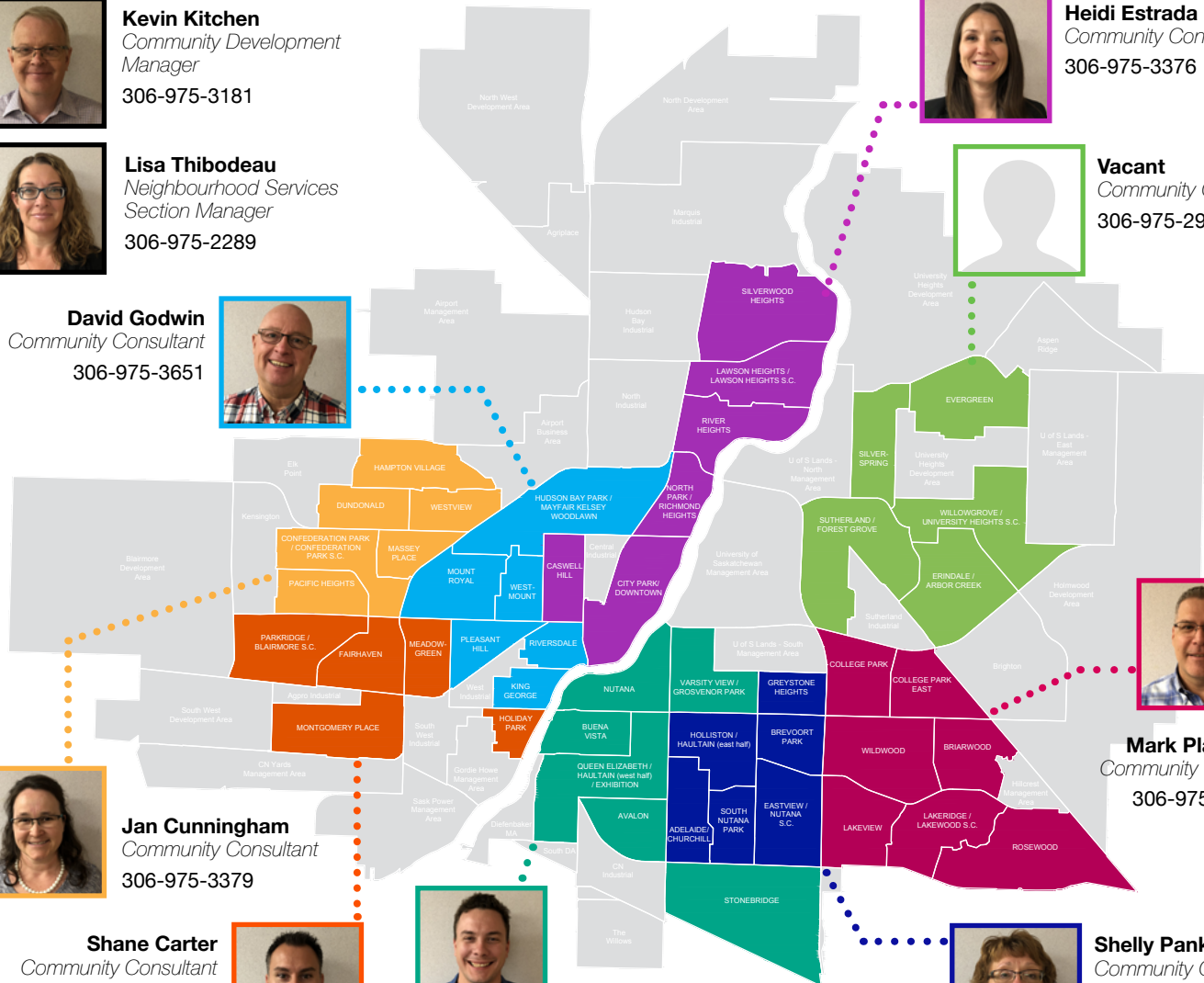
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