

Culture Builds Community! **Engage**

WINTER/SPRING 2015

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

What's Inside:

Train Tour Takes Ogema on a
Heritage Journey

Saskatchewanwanderer's Top Ten
Saskatchewan Destinations

Favourite Saskatchewan Spots

Studio Tour Draws an Audience



Sask **Culture**

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ON THE COVER: The town of Ogema attracts many tourists thanks to its Southern Prairie Railway tours. Photo courtesy of Melira Photography + Design.

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President's Message

Culture creates tourism



Cultural tourism is not a new feature, however, more and more non-profit groups are investing time and energy into providing tourists with cultural options. Visitors are responding by choosing their holiday destinations based on the variety and quality of the cultural products.

I am part of an artist studio tour in Shellbrook, and I have experienced this growing interest first hand. The Parkland Artisan Studio Tour attracts visitors from across the prairies. They come to interact with the artists in their studios, taking away a greater appreciation of the artistry and the province. Most visitors comment that they arrange holidays around tour weekends. Art tours have become a tourist destination.

Part of the *Parkland Artisan Tour* is the *Honeywood Provincial Heritage Site*. Sites that commemorate the history of our province offer visitors a living museum of early life. Organizations dedicated to heritage preservation are found throughout our province. Most of us are familiar with the wonderful exhibits at Saskatchewan's major museums, but we should not ignore some of the splendid smaller museums that offer diverse education and learning opportunities.

Down the road from my hometown is the *Batoche National Historic Site*, and the location of *Back to Batoche Days*. Here, one can roam the hills where battles raged, then after a short drive, witness the Métis culture as presented through information booths, food, music and dance. The fast pace of the Métis

fiddle requires fast stepping for the jigs and square dances while the audience accompanies with hand-clapping and foot-stomping.

Many cultural festivals showcase the spirit of Saskatchewan to many tourists. *The Yorkton Film Festival*, the longest-running film festival in North America, attracts visitors from around the world to celebrate film. *Paved Arts and Queer City Cinema* program both media and performance art events in Saskatoon that attract both urban and rural dwellers who enjoy contemporary work, while *Reel Rave*, a fundraiser for the *Mann Art Gallery* in Prince Albert, attracts viewers to Waskesiu during the fall season.

Mispon features the youth and communities of Cumberland House and Cumberland House Cree Nation in its film presentations. The cultural group encourages tourism by sharing Saskatchewan stories of the land to audiences and to others around the world via the Internet.

Diverse cultures make Saskatchewan what it is today. Through celebrations of story, song, dance and festivals, we celebrate our diverse ethnicities, which promote tourism. Some of Saskatchewan's founding cultures have established tourist sites, such as the *Doukhobor Dugout House* near Blaine Lake. Saskatchewan Multicultural Week, celebrated each November, attracts

people from across the province to celebrate the right of every community to retain its identity, language and traditional arts and sciences for the mutual benefit of citizens. Multiculturalism not only promotes interest and tourism, but fosters the economic, cultural and political life of Saskatchewan.

And, of course, Culture Days, held the last weekend of September, is a showcase for Saskatchewan creative talent, and includes opportunities to experience storytelling workshops, archeology, dance classes or crafts – whatever interests you — this is a tourist's dream weekend of culture!

Saskatchewan provides a multitude of grassroots cultural activities for the tourist. One only needs to look at SaskCulture's Events Calender or Tourism Saskatchewan's web site to find many different listings for community events. In villages, towns and cities throughout the province, cultural happenings – many of which are supported by the SaskCulture and Saskatchewan Lotteries - remain key to attracting visitors throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Pat Grayston

*Tourists can take part in a variety of cultural activities that thrive across Saskatchewan.
Photos courtesy of Louis Christ and Kevin Hogarth.*

All Folk'd Up

A unique festival celebrates Montmartre's rural roots

BY SARAH FERGUSON



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRISTALEE FROESE

Many believe the genuine roots of culture stem from music, and for the past five years, a unique music festival has been putting the cultural heritage of one Saskatchewan village on the map.

All Folk'd Up, a yearly one-of-a-kind music festival held in Montmartre, was founded by six sisters: Marie Anne Fournier, her two sisters, and the three Deringer sisters – all of whom have roots in the small prairie town. The idea of bringing a festival to Montmartre evolved during a trip that the two families took to the Winnipeg Folk Festival. Fournier credits her experience there as the inspiration that led the idea of a music festival in her hometown to take shape in her mind. She recalls walking through Kemoka Park, now the venue's location. "I was

living in Alberta, and I came back [to Montmartre] and did a walkabout," says Fournier. "I was blown away at how beautiful it was, and I said to the girls 'When I move back to Montmartre, we're going to have our own music festival.'"

And Fournier kept her promise. One year later, she relocated to Montmartre, called up her travel companions, and began the process of bringing *All Folk'd Up* to life. "We started planning in 2009," she says. "We didn't do anything that year because it was our centennial, and we were expecting 2,500 former residents." Finally, in 2010, it all came together when performers at the three-day festival played to a crowd of almost 400 people. Six years later, Fournier says festival attendance continues to climb,

and last year, *All Folk'd Up* attracted nearly 800 people. "Our considered sellout is 1,000 people, and we're hoping to achieve that this year," she adds.

The family friendly festival has attracted celebrated acts including Captain Tractor, Belle Plain, The Dead South, The True Jive Pluckers and The Pile O' Bones Brass Band, to name a few. Fournier also mentions that First Nations performers are an important part of the festival, and have included the talents of Kurt Ryder and singer-songwriter Carol Morin. "Our mission is to support local Saskatchewan talent," says Fournier. "We've also worked hard to include Carry-The-Kettle Reserve, our First Nations neighbour, in the festival. They supported our ancestors, and play a crucial role in our heritage."

Fournier also owns a boutique and bistro,



and states that the village's population of 500 people triples in the first weekend of July, during festival time, but the festival's economic benefits begin long before performers take the stage. "People start rolling into town long before the festival," she says. "They buy groceries, shop the boutiques, use the laundromat, and purchase gas — all the things that we as business people celebrate."

Sharon May, economic development officer and regional park manager, Montmartre area, has written grants on behalf of the festival and also oversees festival preparations for Kemoka Park. "This event goes back to our community's multicultural background," she says. "There's something at our festival for everyone."

All Folk'd Up has received funding from SaskCulture's Multicultural Initiatives Fund and Capacity Building Grant.



Montmartre, Saskatchewan

Population: 500

Location: 91 kilometres east of Regina on Highway 48

Motto: "Paris of the Prairies"

Year Established: Montmartre's first post office opened in 1894; the village celebrated its centennial in 2009.

Montmartre Fun Facts:

- Montmartre's Eiffel Tower is 30 feet high and was erected during the year of its centennial. It was conceived and built completely by local residents, and is constructed to scale.
- Many of the villages' residents descend from a group of settlers that came to Saskatchewan from Montmartre France.
- In 1964, Montmartre's mayor travelled to Montmartre France, and signed documents which made the district of Paris and Montmartre Saskatchewan "twin cities".
- Exchange students from France who visit Saskatchewan will often travel to Montmartre to get their picture taken with its Eiffel Tower.

All Folk'd Up brings together people from across the province in celebration of music and culture.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHARON MAY



Haunted History and the Darker Side of Heritage

BY KRISTIN CATHERWOOD

The words ‘heritage’ and ‘history’ on their own do not always elicit excitement. But add the word ‘haunted’ and the past takes on a mysterious allure.

In Radville, a town of 900 people located 140 kilometres south of Regina, a haunted history walking tour has presented an alternative interpretation of heritage since the summer of 2012.

The Moose Jaw Trolley Ghost Tour is another tour that has taken tourists for a spookily historical ride for the past five years. These two popular Saskatchewan tours are examples of a growing trend in heritage interpretation.

Candis Kirkpatrick, executive director, Tourism Moose Jaw Inc. (TMJ), recognized the potential of a haunted tour six years ago. TMJ has run a daytime trolley tour for several years, and Kirkpatrick was “looking for something else to offer visitors.” Combining the trolley tour with ghost stories, she created a unique after dark experience.

In Radville, Kristin Catherwood wanted to develop an attraction that simultaneously highlighted Radville’s fascinating past and attract a wide range of people, particularly younger generations. For Catherwood, a casual remark about the “creepiness” of a 100 year old building sparked an idea, and she tracked down every story she could

find about Radville’s “darker side” - those left out of the history books.

A few ghost stories about local buildings evolved into a narrative which interweaves real historical events with reports of the supernatural witnessed by local residents, all laid on the foundation of Radville’s built and cultural heritage. The Moose Jaw tour consists of ghost stories, local and urban legends, and true tales of Moose Jaw murders all set against the backdrop of Moose Jaw’s historic buildings. Both offer an alternative view of the past which appeals to people of all ages and backgrounds.

The product of haunted heritage tours is the stories themselves, and every story needs a good storyteller to bring it to life. The role of the guide as both performer and instructor is integral to

tour success. In Kirkpatrick’s words, “The guides are the tour.” Whether skeptic or believer, paranormal enthusiast or history buff, participants will place their own unique perspective on the stories – it is just important they are told well. The heritage embedded within them speaks for itself.

Stories of murders, hauntings, Ku Klux Klan, and illegal activities are exciting, but they also shed light on a part of the past that is equally as relevant as the more mundane stories told in daytime tours. Such “dark” stories capture a facet of life that reminds us that our prairie ancestors, often idealized as moralistic pioneers, were real people with fascinating tales to be told.

The tours allow participants to see the past in a new light. Kirkpatrick explains,



PHOTO COURTESY KARLA PRATT

Photos Left to Right: Radville’s Haunted History tour guides bring the past to life by wearing vintage-themed costumes. The Moose Jaw Trolley, a replica of a 1911 electric streetcar, has proven to be one of Moose Jaw’s top attractions. The nighttime ghost tour is particularly popular and allows tourists to see Moose Jaw’s historic sites under cover of darkness.



"We have many heritage buildings that take on a completely different significance once a ghost is thought to inhabit it" Radville haunted history tour participant, Jessica, remarks, "Many people don't realize how much history they are standing on, and even fewer care to investigate it further. This [tour] makes the town's history accessible to more people in a fun and exciting way." Kirkpatrick summarizes, "As we say on the tour... 'urban legend? Fact, or fiction? Or a little bit of both?'" Participants may come for the ghosts, but they leave with a new perspective of heritage.

Ghost tours are an idea to help highlight a community's heritage and increase tourism opportunities. Many communities are highlighting cultural assets as part of their informal or formal municipal cultural planning. SaskCulture offers the Municipal Cultural Engagement and Planning Fund

to help support Saskatchewan municipalities and First Nations Bands wanting to explore and plan for the creative and cultural potential of their community. Visit www.saskculture.ca for more information about this funding program.

Photos from Left to Right:

The former Radville Marian Health Centre, slated for demolition, is another of Radville's most (allegedly) haunted buildings and a highlight of the Haunted History tour. Photo courtesy of Kristin Catherwood.

The Moose Jaw Trolley tours take tourists down the historic streets of Moose Jaw. Heritage buildings, like the century old City Hall, take on a different meaning at night. Photo courtesy of Tourism Moose Jaw Inc.

Radville's Empire Hotel, now the Long Creek Saloon, has a reputation as one of the most haunted buildings in town. As one of its original structures, the building has borne witness to more than a century of history. It is one of the favourite spots on the tour, though the street bands of the 1920s and '30s are a thing of the past. Photo courtesy Tourism Radville Inc.

Supernatural Saskatchewan:

Ghost Tours

Fort Battleford National Historic Site Ghost Walk

May-August. Dates TBD.
www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/sk/battleford

Moose Jaw Trolley Ghost Tours

May-August, Friday and Saturday nights.
www.tourismmoosejaw.ca

Radville Haunted History Tour

June-September, 2015. Dates TBD.
www.radville.ca

Ghost Tours of Regina

October, 2015. Dates TBD.
www.ecoparty.ca

Saskatoon's Haunted Humorous and Historic Tour

May 15-October 30, 2015.
Contact John Lynch: 306-491-6655

Keep your eyes open for ghost tours in your community!

Moving Forward, Never Forgetting

Encouraging intercultural dialogue and empathy through art

BY SARAH FERGUSON

SKEENA REECE, TOUCH ME, 2013, HDV, 13:40 MIN, STEREO, A/P. PHOTO COURTESY OF PETE HAGGE & SKEENA REECE.



It has been said that art has the capacity to express the inexpressible, and a new exhibition at the Mackenzie Art Gallery (MAG) hopes to give a voice to what often goes unsaid, and attract a large audience in doing so.

Moving Forward, Never Forgetting aims to encourage intercultural dialogue between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples through the transformative power of art, according to the exhibition's co-curators David Garneau and Michelle LaVallee.

Moving Forward, Never Forgetting, which runs from February 28 to April 19, 2015, features new artwork and performances, works from the MacKenzie's permanent collection, public workshops, and residencies with artists Cheryl L'Hirondelle, Adrian Stimson and Peter Morin. Additionally, the exhibition's artworks and performances will be accompanied by living speakers. "We're calling them Story Keepers," Michelle LaVallee, co-curator, explains. "Their job will be to talk to visitors about the work and the exhibition."

The exhibition is only one aspect of the project. Besides the static work in the gallery and the three significant performances, a space will be set up where people will make art or do beading and other activities. David Garneau, co-curator, adds that within that space, there will be opportunities for public dialogue. "On a human level, there will be many things that viewers will be able to engage with."

Garneau, associate professor and head of visual art, University of Regina, is Métis, while LaVallee, who has curated at MAG for seven years, and explores colonial relations through her exhibitions, is Ojibway. Both hope the exhibition

provides a space to stimulate conversation about issues surrounding personal experiences in public schools, out-of-culture adoption, land loss, language loss and residential schools.

LaVallee, however, cautions that these themes are not the exhibit's central focus. "The exhibition is more about the broader experience of colonization on the lives of First Nations and Métis peoples in the area, and we want to create a deeper understanding of what it means to co-reside in these territories as Indigenous and non-Indigenous people," she says. Garneau adds, "We're also emphasizing intercultural aspects within the exhibit. For instance, language loss is a poignant issue for Indigenous people, but there will also be immigrant people who will talk about that tension."

Garneau also explains that art can provide a safe entry point into discussions about difficult cultural topics, such as racism. "It's very difficult to talk face-to-face about these issues, but if two people are

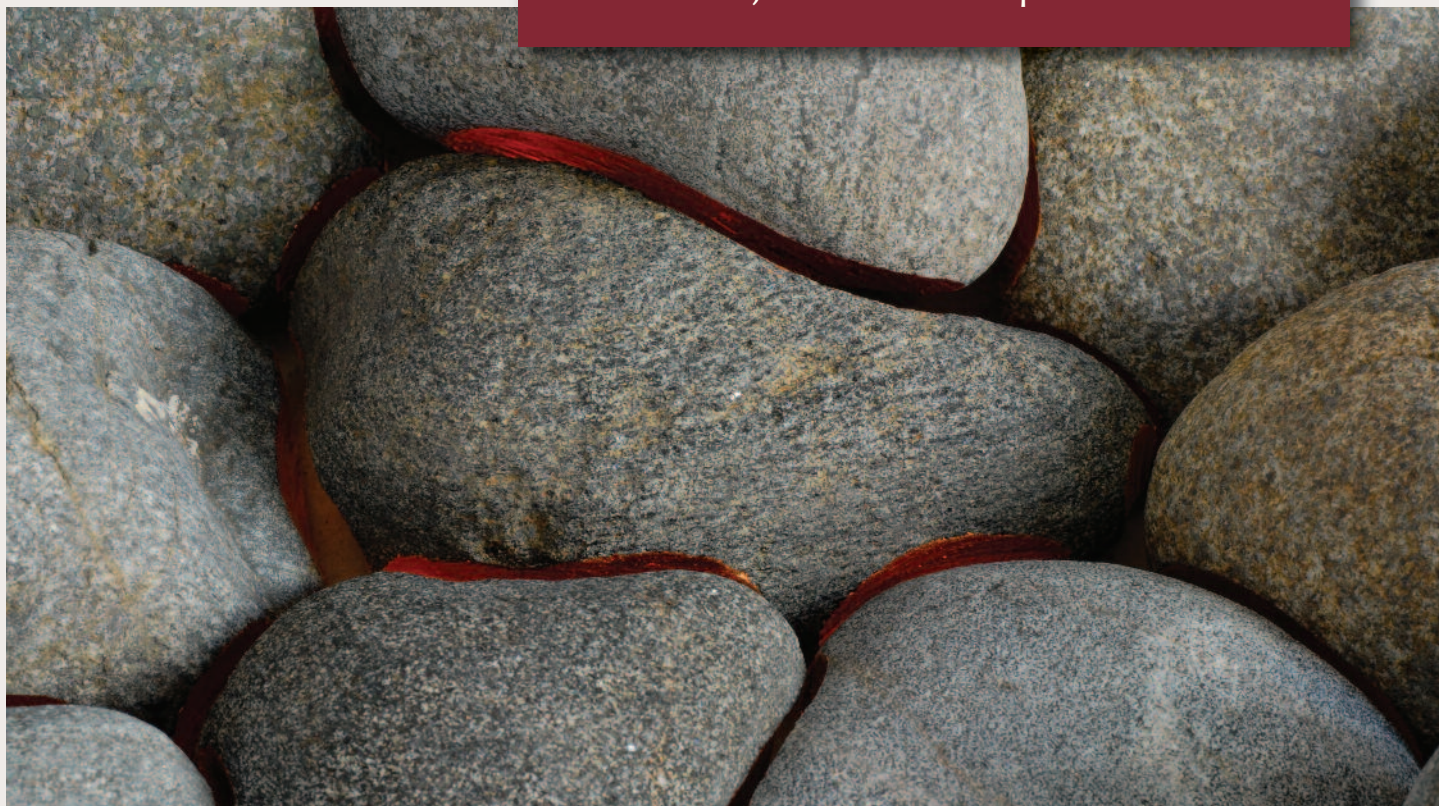
sitting side by side and looking at a third object that is mysterious and creative, art can become an entry point into these conversations," he says. "I find that people are interested in talking about these things, but they don't have a safe venue, and art can help to ease it in."

LaVallee and Garneau say they aim to attract a broad audience, and according to Leah Brodie, director of marketing, MAG, that shouldn't be difficult. "Gallery attendance is on the rise," she says. "Last year we welcomed more than 53,000 gallery visitors, and we have already welcomed nearly 64,000 with three months remaining in our current fiscal year."

To find out the current exhibitions at the MacKenzie Art Gallery in Regina, check out www.mackenzieartgallery.ca.

The MacKenzie Art Gallery received funding from SaskCulture's Aboriginal Arts and Culture Leadership Fund for the exhibition, Moving Forward, Never Forgetting.

"I find that people are interested in talking about these things, but they don't have a safe venue, and art can help to ease it in."



Michael Belmore, *Smoulder*, 2010-2011 (detail), carved stone, gilded copper. MacKenzie Art Gallery, University of Regina Collection, 2013. Photo courtesy of the Artist (stones)

It's Not Baroque and She's Bach this Year: Meet Della Beal

BY FELECHIA BRODIE

PHOTO COURTESY OF LOUIS CHRIST.



“The musicians who perform here cannot believe that volunteers and only four staff members put on a festival of this size!”

This summer will be the 29th SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival and the 24th year that Della Beal has volunteered with the Saskatoon festival. While you might think that she volunteers with the music festival because of her love of music, Beal's real love is the people.

Felechia Brodie: You've volunteered with many other events and organizations. Why did the Saskatchewan Jazz Festival stick?

Della Beal: I guess because it lasts more than just a few days. It takes a lot of work throughout the year. After the first two years of volunteering, I became part of the small volunteer committee as the volunteer coordinator. This year we're

back to just two people on that committee.

I go to very few of the concerts or shows. I'm generally busy throughout the festival. I see people who perform in the Bessborough Gardens because our office is in the hotel. I have seen many performers on their way to being big stars, like Diana Krall, Macy Gray and Nikki Yanofsky. And I've also seen many talented local musicians that have played on the big stages and famous elderly musicians near the end of their careers.

The Jazz Festival attracts people from all over the world. It's an important event for the city and the province. The musicians who perform here cannot believe that volunteers and only four staff members put on a festival of this size!

FB: What does volunteering bring to your life?

Della Beal: It gives me a different perspective from my professional life where I worked in the medical field for 40 years. Music draws people from all walks of life and of every age. People volunteer and you have no idea what they do outside of here – they could be a student or a judge. Volunteering keeps you young and motivated.

Working with people isn't always easy of course, but I guess I've learned how to solve problems.

FB: How do you solve problems?

Della Beal: You listen and you think, “what is going to correct this?” Listening is really important.

FB: What would you say to people to encourage them to volunteer?

Della Beal: Give it a try! You don't have to continue if you don't like it. It may broaden your perspective and you'll meet new people. Everyone volunteering is doing an important job. If you're unemployed or between jobs, volunteering can be a stepping stone to job opportunities.

FB: What are your favourite places in Saskatchewan and things to do?

Della Beal: One of my favourite places is Wanuskewin. When you're out on the paths there, looking out towards both bends in the river it's like time drops away. It's a very calming place. I also like Temple Gardens Mineral Spa in Moose Jaw, the Berry Barn outside of Saskatoon, Martens Lake, Wakaw Lake, the Western Development Museums, the Fort in Battleford, Diefenbaker Centre, the Forestry Farm Park, Table Mountain and Blackstrap.

This will be Della Beal's twenty-fourth year volunteering with the SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival. In 2003, she was selected as the recipient of the Volunteer Saskatoon Award in Arts.

The Saskatchewan Jazz Festival is a SaskCulture member. It is also a funding recipient of funding support from Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.

A Train Trip to the Past and the Future

The inspiring story behind Ogema's railway tour

BY DANICA LORER





The Town of Ogema fought back from rural decline with the development of a railway tour that would help steer the community towards a brighter future.

Cheryl Generous, founding member and CEO of Southern Prairie Railway, says the idea to open a tourist train in the Ogema-area began to take shape in 1998 when a group of residents, who had a strong belief of the importance of heritage preservation, took the initiative to bring the former railway station back to life. The team went on a search and found one that was being used to store grain, and was identical to their former station. While the building's restoration was taking place, people started to imagine operating a tourist train.

The town of Ogema paid to have a feasibility study done and found their dream was possible, but were missing people who knew how to operate trains. Red Coat Road and Rail had saved the rail line but still needed people with specific rail qualifications. When

Generous' family moved to the region, they brought the knowledge and experience required.

Wayne Myren, Ogema mayor, former co-chair of the Southern Prairie Railway, says the Deep South Pioneer Museum, which is supported by SaskCulture's Museum Grant Program, is on the train's route and has seen its attendance quadruple in a season. The tourist train began departing from the station in Ogema in 2012, and has welcomed over 11,000 riders. The train ticket includes admission to the museum, which is home to 30 buildings, artifacts and over 125 pieces of functional equipment. "The Museums Association of Saskatchewan and the province were looking at it and saying 'these have got to be the wrong numbers, how come you've got that many people?'" he adds.

Trains run Saturdays and Sundays from May to October. The tours include daytime trips to neighbouring communities, and special occasion and late afternoon trips with meals and

entertainment. Visitors from all across Saskatchewan, Canada and the world, have come to Ogema to ride the train.

A popular tour of the past year was the Rum Runners Special where visitors were encouraged to dress up as gangsters and flappers. Dancers also performed the Charleston and a band that plays music from the roaring 1920s were featured, as the guests were served Italian food, which was introduced to Canada during that time period.

Generous believes the tours' appeal is that they incorporate history lessons in an interactive environment. "When we offer a dress-up train we get so many people coming dressed up because they want to interact, they want to touch, they want to be involved," she adds.

Local businesses and the community are also reaping benefits of the train tours. "We have witnessed two businesses open, one is a caterer and the other is an ice cream parlour. The museum has the ability to hire employees and the two

Interesting Train Tidbits



The Southern Prairie Railway's passenger car was built in 1922 by Pullman Coach for the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railway of New England. The passenger car was originally self-propelled but then refurbished as a commuter coach. When it arrived in Saskatchewan it was completely restored taking over 3000 hours of volunteer labour. It seats 74 people and has a washroom.

The car is pulled by a General Electric 44 Tonner Center Cab diesel locomotive built for the Maine Central Railway in 1945.

Both of these cars were purchased in 2010 from dealers in the United States. The train can travel at a top speed of 25 miles per hour but travels down the track at 10 miles per hour.

restaurants are doing quite well," says Generous. Plans are being made to do more promotions for the campground and motel, and a new 'bed and breakfast' is also opening. While volunteers maintain, rebuild and do the work on the equipment and sit on the board of the Southern Prairie Railway, there are eight, part-time, summer employees and one full-time employee hired from May to October.

"A lot of people look at small communities and just write them off as dying," says Myren. "Our community, the town of Ogema, opted to buy-out of rural decline 20 years ago, and we won't take 'no' for an answer. The tourism has just been another part of saying 'we can do it here'."

The Deep South Pioneer Museum has seen its attendance quadruple since the Southern Prairie Railway came into operation.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MELIRA PHOTOGRAPHY • DESIGN



Harvesting the Wind

How the SaskPower Windscape Kite Festival generates imagination on the prairies

BY M. E. POWELL

For some, wind can be a problem, but Swift Current has learned to harness it for the SaskPower Windscape Kite Festival.

Shann Gowan, artist director and coordinator, Windscape, says the windiest hill in Swift Current was chosen as the festival site location. "It's perfect for a kite," she adds. "Wind is the only thing that matters."

Too much of a good thing can be challenging. One year three tents blew away, and another year 45 feet of metal fence blew over just before the festival. In another year, an 800-square-foot teddy bear broke the line and flew two to three miles, before organizers fished it out of the creek.

But the festival has always been a success, Gowan adds, with about 300 volunteers and business community support. It makes over \$1-million in tourism spending in Swift Current over the festival weekend, which is scheduled

this year on June 20 and 21. Last year, some 9,000 people attended its 10th anniversary, and about half come from Swift Current, 39 percent from other areas of Saskatchewan, and 11 percent from such international destinations as Thailand and Germany.

"We get interest from all over the world," she says.

Audience members travel from across North America, Europe and Australia for the chance to see a variety of kites in action.

For instance, dual-line 'delta' kites sound like airplanes and perform tricks for their controllers. Revolution or Rev Kites have four lines, allowing controllers to hold them in mid-air, or tap the top of a sign.

"They can stop a kite on top of your head and make it hover there," Gowan says. "We've had teams of upwards of eight people perform together, all choreographed to music. They're pretty spectacular."

The festival offers international celebrity kite flyers such as Quebec kite artist Normand Girard, Holland's Jan and Jolanda van Leeuwen with kites shaped like school buses and tennis shoes, and the acrobatic 180Go team.

As well, the festival features a kinetic wind sculpture garden, along with multi-generational family activities. Before the festival, the group hosts weekend 'kite flies' from April to September, as well as kite-making workshops.

"And we have a huge field that's just for the public, and it's always full," Gowan says. Teens tend to be experts at it. "The same kinds of controls that they use for computer games actually control Rev Kites," she adds.

The Festival's funding has included the SaskFestivals program, administered by the Saskatchewan Arts Board through a partnership with SaskCulture Inc., and the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.



SaskScapes

Check out Kevin Power's podcast of the Windscape Kite Festival, and some great videos of the event on saskculture.ca/engage.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DARLA LINDJBERG AND JESSIE GOWAN



The SaskPower Windscape Kite Festival generates over \$1-million in tourism spending in Swift Current.



"We're better known nationally by readers than we are even recognized by Moose-Javians," says Donna Lee Howes.

COURTESY OF DANIEL HOWES OF CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHICS

Literary Acclaim Meets Small-City Charm

A look into the Saskatchewan Festival of Words

BY M. E. POWELL

The Saskatchewan Festival of Words in Moose Jaw strikes the right balance each year between nationally acclaimed authors and literary figures, as well as small-city perks such as green space and historic charm.

Part of the festival's mandate from the beginning has been to add 'zing' to the traditional literary festival, and its diverse programming includes literacy, lifelong reading, creative writing and film. The festival attracts some 4,000 people to the city throughout four days in mid-July, with about 60 per cent making the journey from outside Moose Jaw (pop. 34,000). Audience surveys show participants coming from across the prairie provinces, Victoria, the Maritimes, Montreal, Washington State, Montana, and even as far away as Australia.

According to Donna Lee Howes, executive director, Saskatchewan Festival of Words, the festival began in 1996 as a dream of Moose Jaw poet and high school English teacher Gary Hyland after he attended other literary festivals. "He knew Moose Jaw's reputation as the 'friendly city' made it the perfect spot to host a literary festival," she says.

The city's historical buildings and tunnels, the 26-acre Crescent Park with library and art museum, as well as the close proximity of venues make Moose Jaw a prime location for this type of festival. The author readings, book launches, panel discussions, and other programs each have 50 to 400 people in attendance, with up to four events occurring simultaneously throughout the four days.

"The audience has come to expect us to deliver a balanced program of authors they've heard of before, and want to meet," Howes says, "and others they take at face value."

The program team receives about 150 pitches from authors each year. Of the 24-36 authors chosen each year, 20-25 per cent come from Saskatchewan, and for example, last year's presenters included award-winning Saskatchewan authors Gail Bowen and Anthony Bidukla, as well as nationally acclaimed authors Stephen Galloway, Wayne Grady and Miriam Toews. As well, storytellers, illustrators, book designers, graphic novelists, journalists, editors, singer-songwriters, filmmakers, dramatists and actors round out the festival mix.

It takes about 150 volunteers to run the various events, such as the Performer's Café, at the festival. Activities like the Poetry Slam attract younger audiences, with the 417-seat Mae Wilson Theatre auditorium at half capacity for this one event.

Some festival highlights repeat each year, such as the opening *Readception*, which includes short samples of work from several authors, or the trivia night and book launches. The organizers also try to make changes that will help the program. In 2014, a Saskatchewan-themed breakfast replaced the Sunday farewell brunch.

The Saskatchewan Festival of Words has received funding in part from the SaskFestivals program, administered by the Saskatchewan Arts Board, with funds provided by SaskCulture Inc., and the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.



Kevin Power's features the Festival of Words in one of this latest podcasts, which can be found at saskculture.ca/engage.

Moose Jaw's Crescent Park and Public Library provide thoughtful settings for Saskatchewan's literary festival audiences.

TOP 10

(Off the Beaten Path)

Places to Go and Things to Do in Saskatchewan

BY FELECHIA BRODIE



“...rushing through Saskatchewan to get to the Rocky Mountains is like rushing down the Louvre to get to the Mona Lisa.”

Being the Saskatchewaner is kind of like being the Prime Minister. There can only be one of you at a time; a lot of people would like the job; you attend a great many events, and you have your own YouTube channel.

Having ‘Prime Minister’ as your job title would make your life easier as far as spelling goes, and the job does come with staff.

As the 2014 Saskatchewaner, Caitlin Taylor was on her own – writing about, videoing and Instagramming her travels to as many festivals, parks, events, art galleries, nooks and crannies of the province as she could manage.

All this experience makes Taylor the person to answer questions about where to go in Saskatchewan and what to do, so we asked her a few.

Felechia Brodie: Why should people visit Saskatchewan?

Caitlin Taylor: Saskatchewan is a hidden gem, with so many things to do and so many beautiful areas to see. The province is unique and untouched. It’s underappreciated. If all you do is travel through on the TransCanada Highway you don’t see much. Yann Martel (author of *Life of Pi*) has lived here for years and he says rushing through Saskatchewan to get to the Rocky Mountains is like rushing down the Louvre to get to the Mona Lisa.

FB: Where did you have the most fun?

Caitlin Taylor: The Northern Blue Grass and Old Tyme Music Festival had a great

atmosphere. Everyone was really friendly. There’s a music camp held the week before the festival and the performers arrive a week early in order to teach it. Then the kids who were at the camp give the opening performance for the festival. It’s fantastic.

FB: What did you find to be most unique or surprising?

Caitlin Taylor: I had never been to the Cypress Hills and I was blown away when I got there. I was expecting hills obviously, but the hills are covered with huge pine trees! I went to the west block that borders Alberta. It’s become one of my favourite places in the province. If you haven’t been, you have to go!

In the past years, previous Saskatchewaners have also visited a range of great places – many of which are part and supported by Saskatchewan’s diverse cultural community. Some of these places include:

1. Government House in Regina.
2. PotashCorp Fringe Theatre Festival in Saskatoon, to be held July 30 – Aug. 8, 2015.
3. Ness Creek Music Festival, near Big River, held this year on July 11 – 20.
4. Yorkton Film Festival, runs this year on May 21 – 24.
5. Historic Bell Barn in Indian Head.

So, in no particular order, here is Caitlin’s list of Top Ten Places to Go and Things to Do in Saskatchewan:

1. Wanuskewin Heritage Park, 5 km north of Saskatoon.
2. Shurniak Art Gallery in Assiniboia.
3. Northern Lights Blue Grass and Old Tyme Music Festival, this year held August 14 – 16.
4. Saskatoon Comic and Entertainment Expo, to be held September 19 – 20.
5. Saskatchewan Fashion Week, Regina, May 7 – 9.
6. Lloydminster Downtown Summer StreetFest, June 13.
7. Athabasca Sand Dunes Provincial Park.
8. Boreal Trail in Meadow Lake Provincial Park.
9. Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park.
10. T-Rex Discovery Museum in Eastend.

Caitlin Taylor has returned to being a student at the University of Saskatchewan and a new Saskatchewaner will be exploring the province in 2015.

The Saskatchewaner is a partnership between the Ministries of Parks, Culture and Sport; Agriculture; Economy; and Tourism Saskatchewan.



Caitlin Taylor discovers all that Saskatchewan has to offer during her term as the Saskatchewaner.



Check out **Engage** online at www.saskculture.ca to view some of the videos Caitlin Taylor made of her Saskatchewan adventures.

Saskatchewan Museum Sampling

Small towns and cities in Saskatchewan offers a vast array of hidden gems offering curiosities, artifacts and pieces of history to those who wish to stop and experience all that prairie life has to offer. Small, often volunteer-run, museums make their home in many Saskatchewan communities, both large and small, and all offers its guests a unique window into our province's rich heritage and culture. Here is a small sampling of museums to discover when you plan to make your next road trip:



Notukeu Heritage Museum

110 Railway Ave., Ponteix. Open year round.

Located approximately an hour south of Swift Current, the Notukeu Heritage Museum in Ponteix houses one of the largest collections of Aboriginal

artifacts in the region, some dating back to over 10,000 years. The museum is also home to a paleontological collection, including a fossil of a 75-million-year-old plesiosaur – a carnivorous underwater reptile known to the locals as 'Mo'.



Soo Line Historical Museum

411 Industrial Lane, Weyburn. Open year round.

View the world's largest private collection of silver (over 5,000 items) at Weyburn's Soo Line Historical Museum. Also on display are artifacts and archives from the Saskatchewan Mental Hospital, various Weyburn memorabilia, and much more. Audio tours handset are available for visitors to enjoy a personal tour through the museum at their pace.





Powerhouse Museum

**Centennial Park, Kamsack
Open May to September.**

Located in the former Power Building on the outskirts of Kamsack (one hour north of Yorkton), the Powerhouse Museum is a former power plant, and was a source of the town's electricity from 1915-1960. Built in

1914 using brick manufactured in the area, the building now houses handcrafted blacksmith tools, artifacts from the first hospital, a collection of barber's artifacts, bedrooms and kitchens.



Nokomis District Museum & Heritage Co-op

**Corner of Queen St. and 3rd Ave.,
Nokomis.**

Open June to September.

Nicknamed 'Junction City 1907', the Nokomis District Museum and Heritage Co-op is located about one hour and 30 minutes from Regina, and includes an extensive

collection of buildings and artifacts on a town block with different rooms dedicated to different themes. Check out a 1930 Chevrolet, a store, school room, chapel, library and more. A wildlife display, and information on family histories and area pioneers are also available to the public.



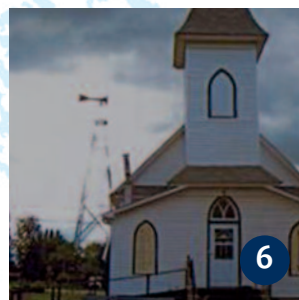
Ancient Echoes Interpretive Centre

West St., Herschel

Open May to end August.

Nestled in a valley on the edge of a natural coulee, Herschel's Ancient Echoes Interpretive Centre (located just over an hour away from Kindersley) offers visitors a guided hike to

petroglyphs and fossil beds. Displays, artifacts and videos showcasing First Nation's history are also for viewing, along with paintings depicting the disappearance and resurgence of the Plains buffalo.



Star City Heritage Museum

**217 5th St., Star City
Open June to August.**

Town of Star City, located east of Melfort, is home to a museum filled to the brim with local history. The Star City Heritage Museum is home to WWI and WWII memorabilia, archive of historical photographs, farm

machinery and a collection of various local items that celebrate the area's history.



The Northern Gateway Museum

**Moody Drive, Denare Beach
Open July and August.**

The Northern Gateway Museum in Denare Beach is one of the oldest museums in the province. It features fur trading, mining and First Nations artifacts. Guests can also view birch bark bitings by

Angelique Merasty, furnishings dating back from the 1950s, and articles found in 1983 by Henry Moody at Fort Henry Site at Amisk Lake.

These museums are several of the over 100 community museums that receive funding from SaskCulture's Museum Grant Program, supported by Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.



Adventures in Archaeology

On tour with the Saskatchewan Archaeology Society

BY DANICA LORER

Some people simply enjoy sitting back while enjoying the view, while others prefer to dig it up. The Saskatchewan Archaeological Society (SAS) gives people a chance to experience getting their hands dirty while learning history through their Annual SAS Bus Tour.

The idea of the annual bus tour came from Dr. Ian Dyck, an archaeologist on the SAS board and with the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, over 30 years ago. It was his idea that SAS should get involved in an opportunity for their members and the public to visit archaeological sites with expert interpretation.

In recent years, the tours have sometimes expanded from two to three nights to reach sites further away. In previous years, the tours have reached destinations not only in Saskatchewan, but also in Alberta, Montana and North Dakota. They run in the fall, often over the Thanksgiving weekend. Numbers vary from 20 to 46 participants, and most are SAS members, however, the tours are also open to all interested. In September of 2015, the SAS plans to travel through the Quill Lakes area and into Riding Mountain National Park.

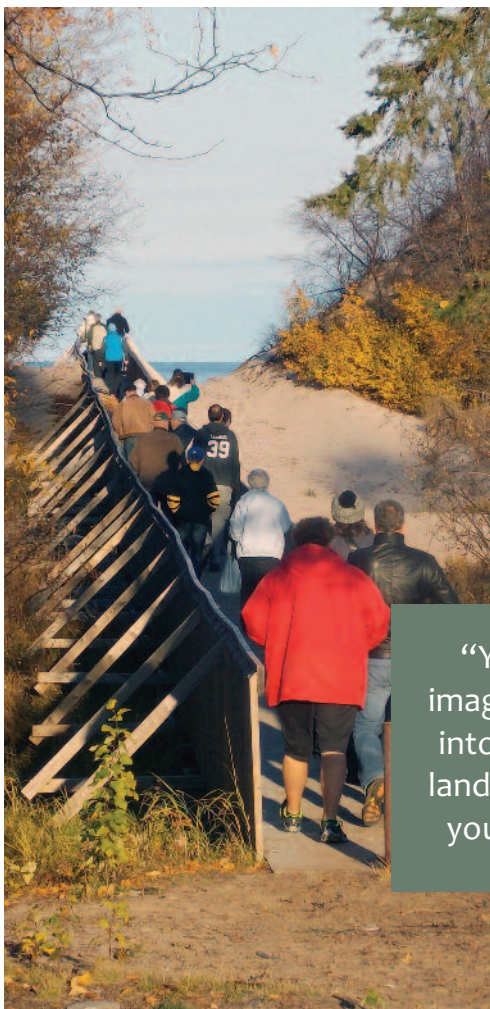
Karin Steuber, SAS member and employee, believes archaeology shouldn't be limited to ancient temples and the Pyramids, and that people here often miss that we have

over 10,000 years of history in our own backyards. "Exposing people to that history, and having them think about it is our goal — to educate," she says.

Tomasin Playford, executive director, SAS, says these tours are important for not just the guests, but also for everyone involved. She adds the tours also benefit those in the regions they visit by demonstrating that people are interested in the area's history. "There are still people who want to get on a bus and go and see and feel and touch these things, and learn the stories first hand from the people who tell them," she explains.

Playford adds that what she really likes about the tours is that it's not always about the destination. "There is the understanding that we will be late, we might not get to everything on our list, it's fluid, we try to have speakers lined up, we have a banquet with a guest speaker, other than that it is fairly flexible."

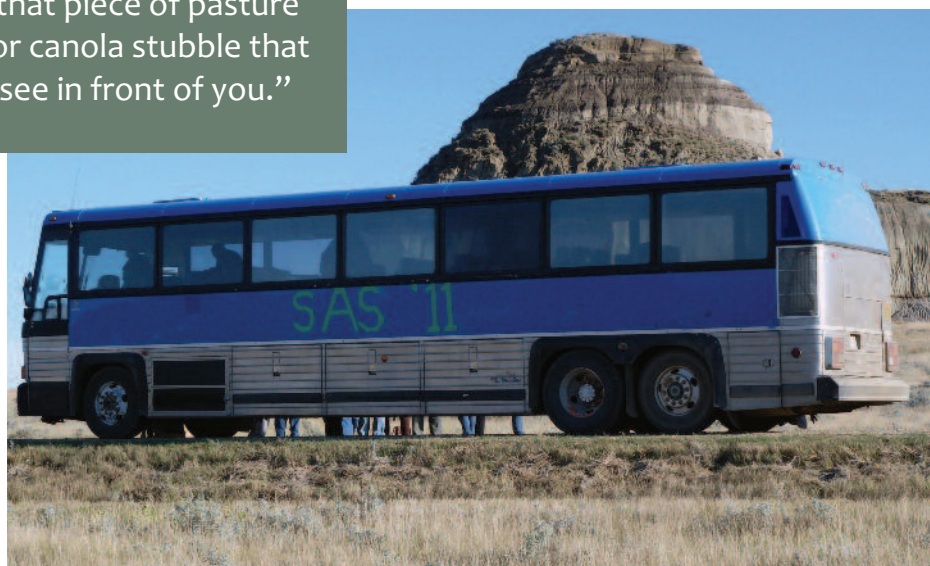
Robert Clipperton, member and past president, Saskatchewan Archaeological Society (SAS), says the Annual SAS Bus Tour can open participants to a different kind of learning experience.



“You need to use your imagination to fit the story into that piece of pasture land or canola stubble that you see in front of you.”

“The bus tours are an odd sort of adventure,” says Clipperton. He describes the typical experience as the bus stopping on a grid road at what appears to be the middle of nowhere, and all of the passengers get out while the tour leader points to a spot on the other side of the ditch. The guide relates a story of a person, building or event from long ago, and perhaps, tells a more recent story of an archaeological survey or an excavation in decades past. “You need to use your imagination to fit the story into that piece of pasture land or canola stubble that you see in front of you.”

The advantage of taking ones of these tours, according Clipperton, is uncovering what makes a spot interesting with a group of people. “There are always surprises, bones sticking out of a cut bank at the side of the road, a small town museum that has an artifact that is a real rarity, an impromptu meeting with a local resident with a story to tell,” he adds.



The SAS Annual Bus Tour participants engage in the history and heritage across Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHAUNNA GRANDISH

Touring Through a Cultural Landscape

Highway 1 Studio Tour brings local artists out into the limelight

BY SHAUNNA GRANDISH

The rolling hills of Southwest Saskatchewan gently give way to a hidden trove of artist studios, which dot the Trans-Canada Highway in and around the Herbert area. If you blink, you run the chance of missing them completely.

For the past six years at the end of September, artists have opened their studio doors for the Highway 1 Studio Tour to visitors who are interested in taking in the cultural offerings the area has to offer. Potters, photographers, quilters, painters and jewelers were some of the talent showing off their creations to an eager crowd of over 200 people during last year's two day event.

Hedi Gossweiler is a local alpaca fibre artist and one of the founding members of the self-guided studio tour. Gossweiler and her husband moved from Switzerland to the Herbert-area in the early 1980s after purchasing the local motel and establishing an alpaca farm. Over the years, she has watched the tour change and grow into an event that attracts people from all across the province, and even from across the Alberta border.

Audiences are continually amazed of the area's creative talent, says Gossweiler, and hosting an artist studio tour is a great way to showcase a community. "A lot of people don't know all of what is happening in their own community and all of the talent that lives there," she adds. "A lot of artists also don't know of the talent they have, and for some it's a really great place to get exposed and show people what they do."

Maria Enns is a mixed media and artful 'upcycling' (repurposing old material into new objects) artist who has participated in the tour for the past three years, and for the first time last year, opened up her personal studio space for visitors. A diverse group of people made the 14.5 km trek from Herbert out to Enn's studio, which is located on her and her husband's farm, to check out her one-of-a-kind notebooks, and to take a look at the work of a couple of other artists who set-up shop in Enns tiny workspace for the weekend. Enns says many people in her community don't know of the creative-side of Herbert residents, and the tour gives people a chance to peer into their world.

"It's a fun way to see the art in the area - being able to drive, see where people work and find out what they are doing," she says. "My favourite part is speaking to the people who stop by."

Gossweiler says artists who previously have been hidden from view now have a captive audience because of the tour.

"People are always very surprised by what they see on the tour," she explains. "Often when passing through little towns, people blink and don't see what's there. But when they stop, they find there is more than they ever imagined."

The Highway 1 Studio Tour took place during the Culture Days weekend on Sept. 27 & 28, 2014, and has received Culture Days Funding Assistance from SaskCulture to help support the event.



"It's a fun way to see the art in the area - being able to drive, see where people work and find out what they are doing."



Our Favourite Saskatchewan Spots

AS TOLD BY SASKCULTURE STAFF AND BOARD

Many places in Saskatchewan are waiting to be discovered by you and others alike. A bountiful selection of fantastic options await those who want to hit one of the many highways that criss-cross this landscape, and explore this culturally vibrant province we call home. Several SaskCulture staff and board members share their favourite Saskatchewan destinations, along with photos from their own personal albums. Enjoy!



“The Crooked Trees are an intriguing cluster of Aspen near in a field near Hafford, which is located about 45 minutes from North Battleford.

The trees are gnarled and bent, none taller than eight feet or so. And one or two large ones snake like a contorted sine wave along the ground. They are beautiful in their difference, and are claimed to be the result of a genetic mutation, contaminated soil, or even aliens from the sky. What really makes the crooked trees striking is a similar patch of Aspen that grow straight and tall, maybe thirty feet away across a thin gravel road.”

– Shawn Bauche, Creative Kids Program Coordinator



“This photo is of a small church located in Lebret, which is located in the Qu’Appelle Valley near Mission Lake.

I have some great childhood memories of exploring this area and learning about its rich history. As an adult, I still enjoy going on weekend afternoon road trips to the valley when I feel like ‘getting away from it all’.”

– Shaunna Grandish, Communications Assistant





“Treaty 4 was signed in the beautiful valley at Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan in 1874.

The historical grounds where the signing took place remain significant to the Treaty 4 First Nations. Each year in mid-September, people gather on the Treaty 4 grounds to mark the occasion of treaty signing.”

– Lori Whiteman, SaskCulture Board Member



“This is one of the bays at Nemeiben Lake, just North of La Ronge.

It is a quiet lake in that there are not a lot of campgrounds. Good boat launch and fishing, and great campsites.”

– Pat Grayston, SaskCulture President



“This is McPhee Lake, just south of Waskesiu near Prince Albert National Park.

McPhee is a small, narrow lake that is very well treed so it is always calm. The water is crystal clear and you can always count on seeing some amazing wild life; eagles especially love this lake. It's very peaceful and my favorite little unknown piece of Saskatchewan.”

– Christie Nenson, Creative Kids Fund Development



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*The Windscape Kite Festival in Swift Current is one of many events tourists flock to every year in Saskatchewan.
Photo courtesy of Jessi Gowan.*

