

Culture Builds Community!

Engage

SPRING 2013 VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2



Sask
Culture

- Everett Baker Photo Collection
- Centennial Celebration Brings Communities Together
- Main Street Program continues to revitalize Saskatchewan Communities
- Culture Days Q & A with the Museum of Antiquities *and more!*

Table of Contents

SPRING 2013 VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

Engage

published by

SaskCulture Inc.,

is designed to

highlight

the work of
cultural leaders,
volunteers

and the

diversity of
activities

supported by the

Culture Section of
Saskatchewan Lotteries
Trust Fund for Sport,
Culture and Recreation.



Borden Threshermen celebrate their agricultural heritage annually.

Photo courtesy of the Borden and District Threshermen's Club.



President's Message 3

Everett Baker Photo Collection

brings Saskatchewan's history to life 4

Yanessa Days celebrating past and modern culture . . . 6

Centennial Celebration

brings communities together 8

Saving PAVED's Video History from the

disintegration of time 11

Saskatoon's Heritage in the palm of your hand. . . . 12

Main Street Program

continues to revitalize
Saskatchewan Communities 14

Culture Days Q & A with the

Museum of Antiquities 16

Saskatchewan Genealogical Society

preserving the province's past 18

Students Recognize

First Nations and Métis Leaders 19

John Lamodigiere: Aboriginal Myth Buster 21

Borden Threshermen bringing history to life 22



Direct Inquires to:

Diane Ell, Editor
dell@saskculture.sk.ca

Michelle Brownridge, Publishing Coordinator
mbrownridge@saskculture.sk.ca

404, 2125 11th Avenue, Regina SK S4P 3X3
Tel: (306) 780.9453
www.saskculture.sk.ca

Graphic Design:

J. Lauder Publishing & Design
jlauder@accesscomm.ca

Contributing Writers:

Michelle Brownridge, Sarah Ferguson,
Shaunna Grandish, Miriam Köner, Danica Lorier
and Paul Spasoff.

Print copies of this publication are circulated for free to SaskCulture members, partners and through community outreach activities as determined by SaskCulture Inc. **Engage** is also available in PDF version on the SaskCulture web site at www.saskculture.sk.ca. **Engage** is published thanks to financial support from Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation. The publication does not currently accept paid advertising. Article ideas for future publications can be submitted to saskculture.info@saskculture.sk.ca or by calling (306) 780.9289. Published March 2013. Articles may be reprinted with permission.



President's Message

With spring right around the corner, my mind has been turning to the interconnection of heritage and renewal. The histories of our peoples weave their way into the fabric of our experiences and further shape the way we, as individuals, will interpret those happenings. There is currently no shortages of new and exciting experiences.

The Idle No More movement is perhaps one of the most exciting current intersections of heritage and social interaction. We are privileged to live in a time that allows us to witness and participate in such an engaging social action. Heritage is at the heart of this movement. The history of law and diplomacy between Canadian government and Canada's First Nations is being analyzed and discussed in the general populace that has often in the past forgotten or glossed over the importance of the treaties and of equity between, and within, Canada's peoples. The interaction between activists and allies is creating a great venue for productive intercultural conversations and experiences.

An authentic understanding of one's heritage is one of the prime factors in creating significant intercultural experiences. Language, history and personal story sharing all help one to make sense of the world in which they are living and their particular place therein. In my own experience in learning one of my family's heritage languages – (German) found most success and fulfillment when I shifted mindsets of learning from one of academics to one more experiential and social. As I learned the language, I also connected with the culture and

experienced further shaping of my self-identity; one that valued the role of culture in my life.

One of SaskCulture's current strategic priorities is growth of the public's awareness and perceived value of culture in their lives. This is supported in part by the important ongoing work of supporting cultural organizations in delivering meaningful cultural programming. Additionally, we will soon begin new research and a public survey to gauge the current levels of awareness and valuation of cultural and cultural activity in the province. This research will aid in the development of a campaign to raise awareness of culture in Saskatchewan's communities.

Such work is achievable thanks to the support of the Saskatchewan Lotteries. In 2014, the current licence agreement with the government of Saskatchewan will be up for renewal. SaskCulture and its lottery partners have begun the work and conversations with the government to continue and strengthen this vital partnership that delivers so much value to the people of Saskatchewan.

With that, I look forward to the rest of 2013, a year of living heritage and of renewal; just as I look forward to spring who inherits from fall's seeds and winter's snows to create fresh waters and new life.

Respectfully yours,

James Ingold
President

“An authentic understanding of one's heritage is one of the prime factors in creating significant intercultural experiences.”



Everett Baker

Photo collection brings Saskatchewan's history to life

BY SARAH FERGUSON



Photo courtesy of the Saskatchewan History and Folklore Society

“The slides are a looking lens into the history of Saskatchewan.”

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the worth of the Everett Baker photo collection is priceless.

The collection features 10,000 colour images of Saskatchewan residents' lives between 1940 and 1957. Now the impressive group of photos can be viewed online, at the Saskatchewan History and Folklore Society's website: <http://shfs.ca/>

“What makes the images valuable is the fact that they are in colour—most images from that era are in black and white or

sepia,” says Finn Anderson, executive director of Saskatchewan's History and Folklore Society (SHFS).

The man behind the camera had a fascinating past. Everett Baker was a transplanted American book salesman who fell in love with Saskatchewan's landscape and its people.

According to Anderson, while working as a fieldman for the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, Baker bought a Leica camera for \$100 from a German immigrant. The rest became history.

As Baker travelled across Saskatchewan, he used Kodachrome film to capture the lives of the people he met: farmers, families, and everyday people.

“Part of the fieldman’s job was to promote the area, and attract people to come to their meetings,” Anderson says. “They would have movies with them... and a generator in their car to power it all,” he added. “They would run one to attract the public, and then do their sales pitch.”

Anderson says Baker used his camera as a promotional tool. “He would show his movie, and do a colour slide presentation afterward,” he explains.

Baker died in 1981, and his images were forgotten. In 1997 Anderson stumbled across a newspaper article that claimed that Baker’s historic collection had been forwarded to the Co-operative archives in London Ontario. “I phoned them and was told that 37 binders of slides were sitting there,” Anderson says. “They told me ‘If you can promise you will do something with them, we’ll give them to you,’ he adds.

Anderson acquired the slides in 1998 and began making presentations in the community. They became an important educational tool. “Word got around, and people wanted to use them in various projects,” he says.

In the early 2000s, the Moose Jaw Art Gallery curated an exhibit featuring 60 of Baker’s images that continues to tour across Canada. “The exhibit was created so viewers could spend more time with the photos, because slide presentations are so fast,” says Heather Smith, curator of the gallery.

Then the Western Development Museum became interested in the slides, and partnered with the SHFS to digitize the entire collection - a process that took three years.

Finally, in 2012, 12 teachers from Saskatchewan and Alberta who were



Photo courtesy of the Saskatchewan History and Folklore Society

taking part in the University of Saskatchewan’s Educational Design and Technology course partnered with the SHFS to bring the Everett Baker Collection to the world- a project that took the group just 13 weeks to complete.

According to JR Dingwall, project operations manager “It came out amazing, and I am really proud of our team.”

“The slides are a looking lens into the history of Saskatchewan... they connect everyone with what it means to be from this province.”

“As Baker travelled across Saskatchewan, he used Kodachrome film to capture the lives of the people he met.”



Photo courtesy of the Saskatchewan History and Folklore Society

A few examples of the photos taken by Baker across the province in the 1940's and 50's.

Yanessa Days

Celebrating past and present

BY MIRIAM KÖRNER



In the 1980's, Sam Herman, then Mayor of La Loche, encouraged community members to dress up in old-time clothing for a culture day celebration at the local elementary school. Thus, the Yanessa Days were born.

Thirty years later, Yanessa Days has grown far beyond the idyllic gathering in the schoolyard. In 2012, the cultural gathering attracted more than 1,000 visitors daily. "The Olden Days" are once more present. The smell of bannock and dry fish hangs over the festival grounds. The beat of traditional drums mixes with children's laughter as they play around proudly erected tipi frames. Plywood skiffs and birch bark canoes are crafted by skillful hands. People still dress up in old-time costumes; children with dresses carry dolls in beautifully decorated moss bags.

Yanessa Days is not only about celebrating past traditions. "Our culture changes with time," says Leonard Montgrand, executive director of the La Loche Friendship Center and co-ordinator of the event. Next to voyageur canoe races, king and queen trapper events and horse shoe tournaments, modern competitions, such as quad poker rallies, monster truck mud bogs and high-impact wrestling,

Children have an opportunity to experience fashion and other cultural customs of the past, including learning from elders in the community about activities like traditional arts and food.

Days

and modern culture

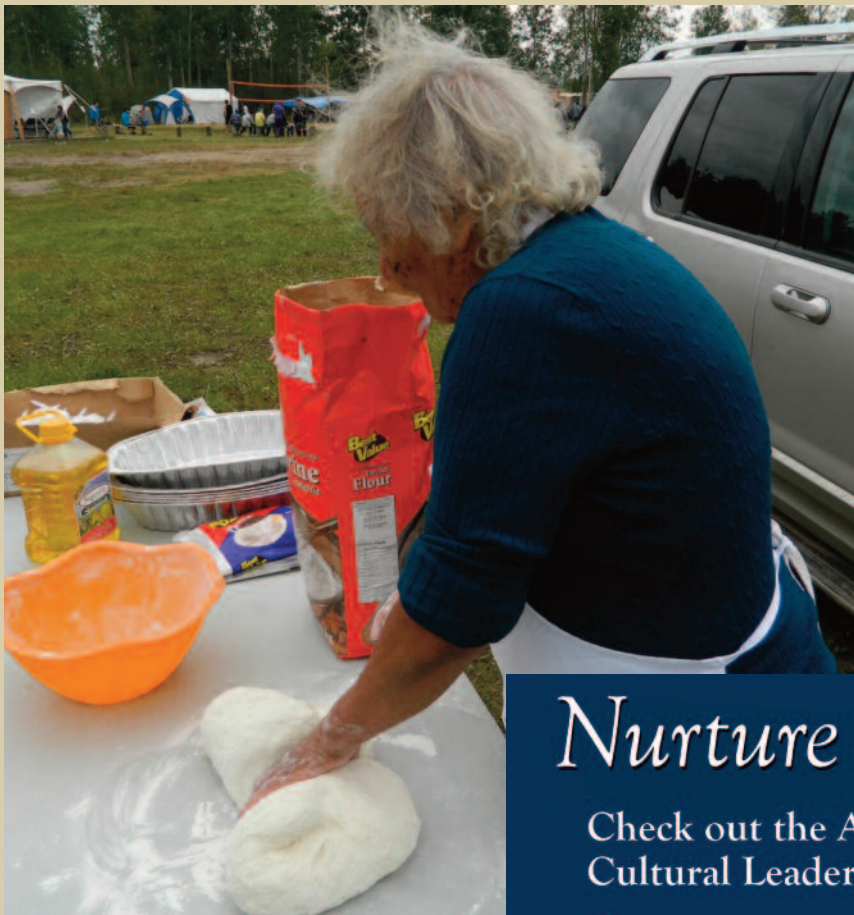


Photo courtesy of Leonard Montgrand

have found their way into the festival. While the Elders enjoy the old time dance, the youth are gathered under the big video screens of a video dance party.

The gathering offers sports, arts, cultural events and workshops, traditional and modern entertainment as well as community feasts. "There's so much going on. We've been building on [expanding the festival] every year," says Montgrand.

Thanks to funding from SaskCulture, Saskatchewan Lotteries, Heritage Canada, the National Association of Friendship

Centers, as well as local support, Yanessa Days continues to grow. "SaskCulture is our biggest funder. They really understand how important our culture is to us." Montgrand worked with eight staff, 13 summer students and nearly 40 volunteers to prepare the gathering. "We start meeting about two months before the event. There's so much to do."

Is it worth the effort? "It's amazing. It's like seeing a young baby grow into adulthood. I take pride in that. There would be a lot of disappointed people if there wasn't another Yanessa Days."

Preparations for Yanessa Days 2013 are already under way. "Last year we had the Black Lake Dene drummers join us. This year, we hope that Navaho from Arizona will come up. Many people don't realize how many Dene speaking cultures there are and how we got separated through history. We like to re-connect with them. Our culture is an important part of our life here."

Nurture Young Leaders!

Check out the Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Leadership Grant.

This grant supports community or cultural groups looking to support opportunities for Aboriginal youth to demonstrate their leadership skills through mentorships with qualified Aboriginal arts and cultural leaders.

Annual deadlines: October 15, April 15

For more information visit www.saskculture.sk.ca
call (306) 780-9284 or Toll-free: 1-866-476-6830.

Sask **Culture**

Saskatchewan
LOTTERIES

Centennial celebration brings communities together

BY DANICA LORER



Photo courtesy of Marina Roy

The village of Lestock is moving into the future using music and dance to celebrate differences and bring diverse cultures together.

In 100 years there have been many changes in the village of Lestock and there is hope for an even brighter future. The community has a current population of about 138, and although they no longer support a school, there are successful businesses operating and anticipation that the community will grow when a new potash mine opens just a few kilometres away. The community is diverse. Many of the original settlers were Métis and Hungarian. Today First Nations people, Ukrainians and others have joined them.

On August 31st, September 1st and 2nd 2012, cultures converged to celebrate the village's centennial.

Highlighting Métis culture was an important part of the celebration. At the end of March, Jerome Cartworks from Anola, Manitoba came to the community to teach participants how to build a Red River Cart. As the cart was put together, history was shared. Marina Roy, the representative of Lestock Métis local #8 on the centennial planning committee, explains, "It was made of oak, there isn't a screw or nail and it was made with the tools of the time. To grind down the axel they used a great big file. It was a long, cumbersome job. They used dowels and the rack was tied together with

hemp rope." The Red River Cart was featured in the centennial parade and made the front page of local newspapers. It has been put away for the winter, but will be on display in the community during the summer months.

The centennial was a homecoming with over 1,000 people of all ages in attendance. Guests from across Canada and into the states enjoyed a weekend of meals, entertainment and visiting. There were historical walking tours, souvenir sales and fireworks. The parade drew 58 entries, many historical, including flag bearers on horseback and five entries from the Muskowekwan First Nation. The Northern Prairie Dancers, a group of Métis

Cont'd.



Preserve Your Culture!

Check out the Métis Cultural Development Fund.

This fund, offered in partnership with Gabriel Dumont Institute, is aimed at supporting activity that helps preserve and pass on Métis culture and traditions.

NEW DEADLINES: April 30, October 31

For more information visit www.saskculture.sk.ca
call (306) 780-9284 or Toll-free: 1-866-476-6830.

Sask **Culture**

Saskatchewan **LOTTERIES**

New Deadlines!

Community members enjoy a wagon train during the Lestock centennial celebrations.



square dancers from Prince Albert, were featured in the parade and on the stage, along with a fiddler and guitar player from Saskatoon. The tent was filled with spectators as music filled the air and brightly coloured costumes swirled. There were also Hungarian dancers from Regina and RCMP in uniforms from the past and the present.

The village of Lestock is already planning another cultural event at the end of August 2013 involving Métis, First Nations, Hungarian and Ukrainian groups. The weekend will be another opportunity to celebrate the richness of the region's people and to launch a new community history book. "People want the Métis dancers back. The response they got was just amazing. Lestock citizens had never seen Métis people in that way," says Roy. "It is a slow process, but community attitudes are changing. These cultural events are helping the change," says Roy.

Highlighting Métis culture and other community traditions of the past was an important part of the centennial celebration.



Saving PAVED's video history from the disintegration of time

BY SHAUNNA GRANDISH



Photos courtesy of Biliana Velkova

PAVED Arts has preserved an often overlooked part of Saskatchewan's cultural history.

Last summer, Saskatoon's PAVED Arts centre and gallery embarked on a preservation project in an effort to save 30 years of video and audio work, many of which represent experimental art activity in Saskatchewan. The collection includes tapes of experimental video and performance art from emerging Saskatchewan artists, many who are now well established in their fields. Most of the collection was made up of analog tapes (Beta and VHS) that equaled to 250 hours of material in need of archiving up to today's digital and viewing standards.

"A lot of the collection was in danger of disintegrating because tapes only have a lifespan of 20-25 years. It was very important project in order to save this material," explains Biliana Velkova, executive director, PAVED Arts, adding she has wanted to tackle this preservation project since she came to the arts centre a year and a half ago.

With help from a successful application to SaskCulture's Capacity Building Grant,

PAVED Arts was able to obtain sufficient funding to hire an archivist last summer to sort, catalogue, index, and digitally archive the analog collection, which was completed in October 2012.

According to Velkova, preservation of video and audio art is as important as saving paintings and other tactile art forms from the disintegration of time.

"Video art is part of our heritage and part of our identity," explains Velkova. "It's important to have that voice and identity from 25 or 30 years ago with us now because we learn from this history and from each other. This collection tells a story of how rich the art history was and still is in Saskatchewan. It's piece of a puzzle in a larger cultural picture."

The digital collection is now available for viewing at PAVED Arts and can be accessed by PAVED Arts staff and members, and by the outside public for research purposes. The original analog

tapes are now stored safely away in archive boxes at the centre.

PAVED Arts is also curating selected video and audio from the collection in July 2013 as part of their annual Sounds Like... Video Art Festival, which will be held at the Roxy Theatre in Saskatoon.

Velkova says that while attending an arts conference last year, she listened to people who run other media centres from across Canada expressing concern over the disintegration and eventual disappearance of their analogue video collections in part due to lack of financial resources available for preservation projects.

"A lot of people at the conference were surprised and impressed with what PAVED Arts was doing with the help of SaskCulture funding. There's a lot of interest from other centres in what we did with our collection," adds Velkova.

Visit PAVED Arts at www.pavedarts.ca.

Build Your Capacity!

Check out the Capacity Building Grant Program.

This grant provides funding to new and existing cultural organizations looking to support activities that build their capacity or partnerships with others.

NEW DEADLINES: October 15, May 7

For more information visit www.saskculture.sk.ca
call (306) 780-9284 or Toll-free: 1-866-476-6830.

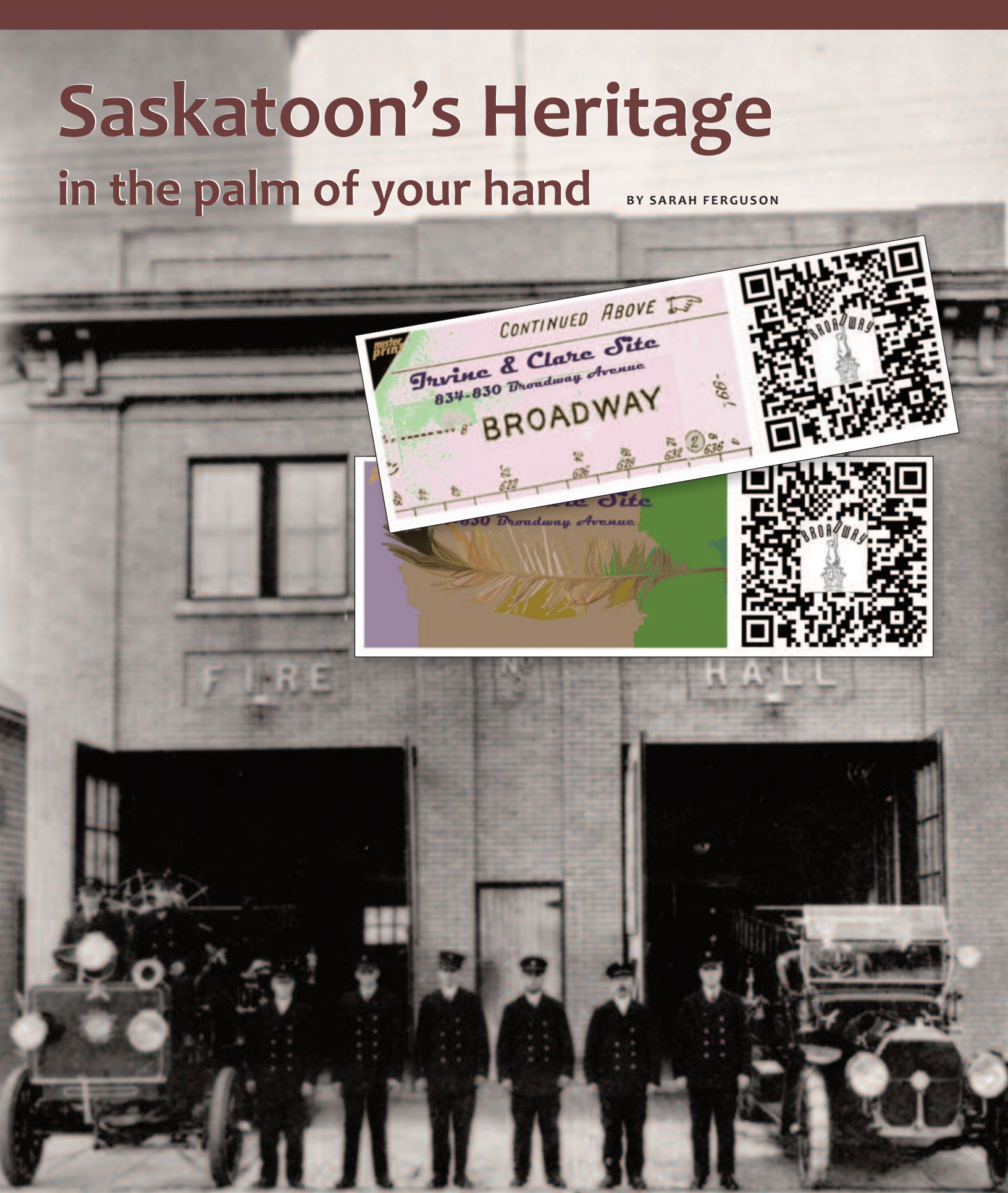
Sask
Culture

Saskatchewan
LOTTERIES

New Deadlines!

Saskatoon's Heritage in the palm of your hand

BY SARAH FERGUSON



An archival photo of Saskatoon's fire hall provide a glimpse into the city's past.

A University of Saskatchewan student is rewriting Saskatoon's history—and now that history fits in the palm of your hand.

Shawn Storry, a Fine Arts student at the University of Saskatchewan, has revitalized the city's Broadway District with the help of modern technology. This past spring, he took part in a newly developed cultural heritage and mapping course on campus, developed by the university's Interdisciplinary Centre for Creativity and Culture (ICCC).

"I thought it sounded perfect because I love mapping and I love heritage," Storry says. "Plus, I'm an art student, so why not?"

Keith Carlson, ICCC director explains, "The class enabled Shawn to do both art and urban planning, he'd tried other classes, but he wasn't able to use both parts of himself."

Storry's passion led to a paid internship with the City of Saskatoon, where he created Saskatoon's first heritage smartphone application.

Now, Saskatoon residents and tourists have a historical glimpse of the Broadway District at their fingertips, with the simple touch of a screen.

Andrew Dunlop, course instructor, says "Shawn's project is all about preserving the history of the Broadway District in a new creative way."

Storry adds, "It's almost like a piece of installation art. The Broadway area of Saskatoon is steeped in historic tradition."

The project uses smartphone Quick Response (QR) codes to inform the public about Broadway's historical building sites. Residents and shoppers can scan the codes with their smartphones, and partake in a walkabout tour of the area— at their own pace.

The tour features 30 of Broadway's most popular businesses, and highlights the buildings in which they are housed. Sarah Marchildon, director of the Broadway Business Improvement District (BBID) explains, "It's not so much about the business as it is about the site that a business is located on."

Saskatoon's Broadway District extends from 8th-12th street, and houses some of the region's oldest buildings. "Broadway was the original downtown of Saskatoon," says Marchildon.

The tour also includes six photo essays constructed by Storry. "They lead the

viewer through the evolution of a building, from the time it was built to how it is being used today," he adds.

To take part, participants need to download a QR scanning application to their phones. Marchildon says, "There are many versions and some are free... if you've got an app and it doesn't work, just download another app- all types of smartphones work on the tour."

Storry's project was made possible through a three way partnership between the University of Saskatchewan, the BBID and the city itself. Kevin Kitchen, community initiatives manager, City of Saskatoon, adds, "Shawn's heritage tour project is part of a cultural mapping plan aimed to better understand the importance of arts and culture in our city."

Marchildon says, "Standing on Broadway, seeing the building in front of you, you get more of an experience by following the QR codes than you would by simply reading about it."

"Shawn took the project and ran with it, and we are very happy with the results."

"The project is all about preserving the history of the Broadway District in a new, creative way."

Andrew Dunlop



A view of Saskatoon's historic Broadway district.

Build Community with Culture!

Check out the Municipal Cultural Planning and Engagement Grant.

This grant supports municipalities undertaking cultural engagement and planning initiatives. Municipalities can apply for funding to assist them with cultural planning projects that explore and plan for the creative and cultural potential of a community. Project ideas include: inventory of cultural assets, facilitated community consultations on culture, municipal cultural planning or cultural mapping.

Deadline: February 15

For more information visit www.saskculture.sk.ca
call (306) 780-9284 or Toll-free: 1-866-476-6830.

Sask **Culture**

Saskatchewan
LOTTERIES

New Deadline!

Main Street Program

continues to revitalize Saskatchewan Communities

BY PAUL SPASOFF

Traditionally, Main Street has been the hub of the community for towns and villages throughout the province. Four Saskatchewan communities are now taking steps to ensure it remains that way for years to come.

In 2011, the communities of Indian Head, Maple Creek, Prince Albert and Wolseley were selected to participate in the Main Street Saskatchewan program. The program uses heritage conservation to deliver economic development and economic revitalization while supporting arts, culture and heritage in Saskatchewan.

Tara-Leigh Heslip, Main Street program coordinator for Indian Head, says, “One of the strongest things that I think will come out of the Main Street program is a strong regional tourism plan that’s focused on culture and heritage.”

Eighteen Saskatchewan communities initially submitted proposals to participate in the three-year pilot project, which is funded by the Saskatchewan Ministry of

Parks, Culture and Sport. A competitive process narrowed the applicants down to the final four based on community readiness, community capacity, community support, historic buildings and the potential for growth.

Like the Saskatchewan communities involved in the program, the Main Street program has a proud history. Heritage agencies in Canada and the United States developed programs in the 1970s to encourage the sustainability of traditional commercial districts.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation administers the Main Street Program in the United States, supporting programs in more than 1,600 communities. In Canada, Heritage Canada Foundation’s Main Street Program sponsors economic development and heritage building conservation efforts in dozens of communities.

In Wolseley, the Main Street program is already having an impact.

“What has happened in Wolseley is extraordinary,” said Wolseley Main Street coordinator Ed Attridge. “We have something special going on here. We have taken more than \$120,000 in provincial funding and used that as an incentive to encourage a reinvestment in heritage buildings of \$1.1 million.”

As a result of the success of the program in Saskatchewan, Heslip and Attridge were invited to present at the Heritage Canada Foundation summit in Montreal.

“We went there thinking we were spokes in the wheel of heritage,” Attridge suggested, “but what we learned was that we’re really where the rubber meets the road.”





“One of the strongest things that I think will come out of the Main Street program is a strong regional tourism plan that's focused on culture and heritage.”

Tara-Leigh Heslip

Some of the Saskatchewan communities participating in the Main Street program have taken it beyond an economic outlook, blending it with cultural planning, which is funded through SaskCulture.

Heslip adds, “We’re hoping to see some long-term benefits for the community as a result of doing this because the official community plan will now have a real strong cultural component to it.”

“For example, we have a theatre in our community that is the original opera house that was built in 1904. It’s one of the small theatres facing closure in the digital age, so we’re working to save the theatre and develop further potential out of that venue – a cultural centre for the region.”

Through the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, the Main Street Program provides matching funding to help cover operating costs and capital expenses. In turn, it is creating an environment for businesses to grow while maintaining heritage conservation in each community.



Citizens from Wolseley participate in Main Street program community consultations and restoration projects.

Culture Days

Q & A with the Museum of Antiquities

BY MICHELLE BROWNRIDGE

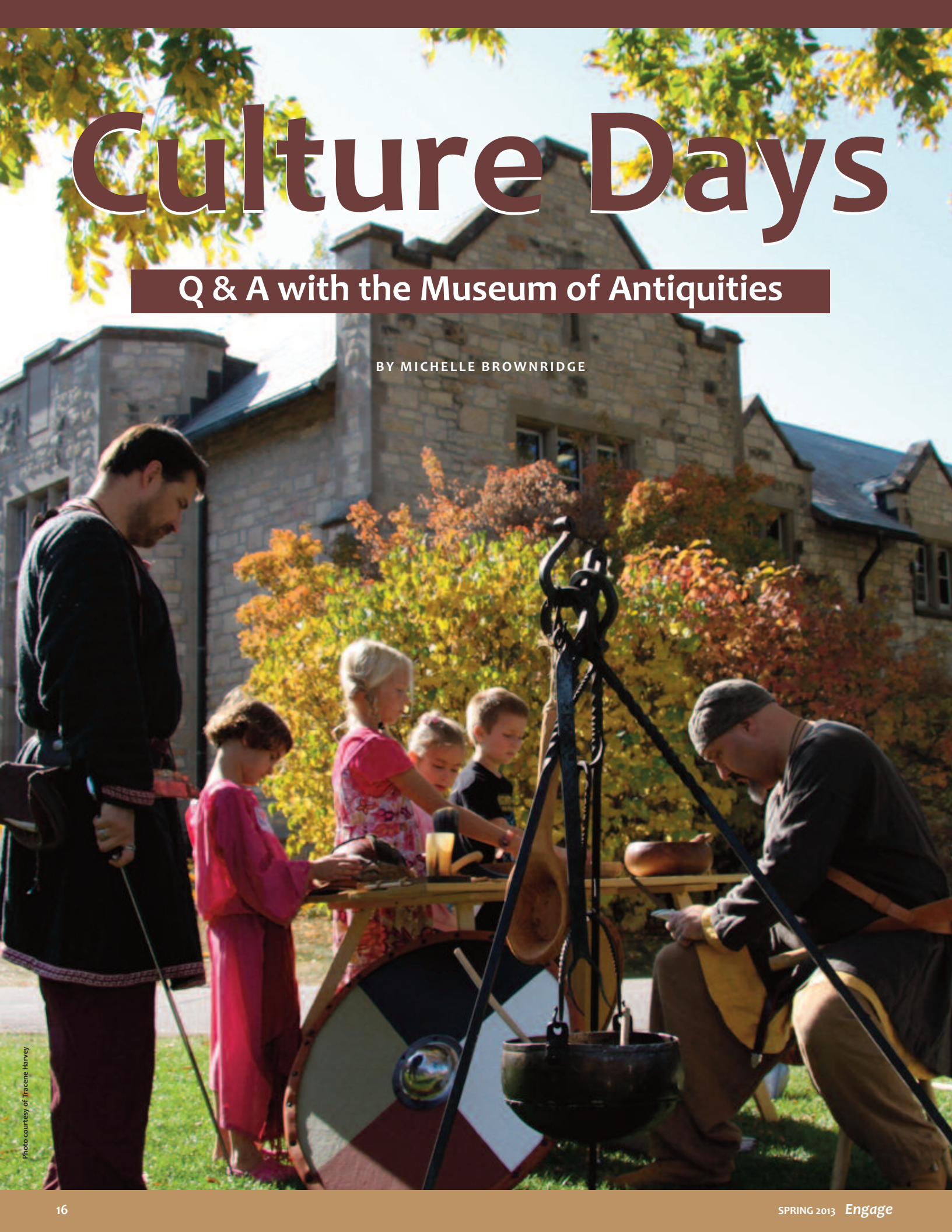


Photo courtesy of Tracene Harvey



Photo courtesy of Tracene Harvey

The Museum of Antiquities at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon was a first-time Culture Days activity organizer in 2012. Michelle Brownridge had the opportunity to speak with Tracene Harvey, the director/curator at the museum about their Culture Days experience.

MB: Can you tell me a little about the museum and what sort collections you have?

TH: The primary purpose of the Museum is to foster awareness of the larger fabric of civilization into which our Canadian and provincial heritage is woven. The Museum is primarily concerned with the collection and exhibition of artifacts pertaining to Western civilization between 3000 BCE and 1500 CE.

MB: What would a visitor experience when they visited the Museum during Culture Days?

TH: The theme for our Culture Days event was “Weapons and Warriors”. Volunteers dressed up in costumes and armor related to each specific culture and were part of displays in the Museum’s gallery. Visitors could take part in chainmail-making demonstrations and could try on chainmail tunics and headgear. On the lawn in front of the Museum, a Viking camp was set up where participants learned about the daily life of medieval Vikings. The highlight of the event was a Viking combat demonstration, which showed visitors the different kinds of weapons and fighting techniques used by Vikings. Another popular activity was the children’s helmet-making craft station, where kids could choose one of three types of helmets to make: Samurai, Corinthian, and Viking. The helmet craft was so popular with the kids that we nearly ran out of supplies!

MB: Do you consider your Culture Days experience a success?

TH: Given that it was the first time doing the event, we were not sure as to the kind of response we would get. We were pleasantly surprised and very impressed by the number of people who came to our event. We had nearly 300 visitors pass through the Museum that day, which was a record for us.

MB: What about Culture Days was valuable or positive for your organization?

TH: The turnout and response we received

from visitors was very encouraging. The event helped us to target and bring in a new audience who had not heard of the Museum of Antiquities before.

MB: Do you have any advice for first time activity organizers?

TH: Because this was our time doing Culture Days, we planned something on a fairly small scale, yet with diverse displays and activities. As a result, we were able to determine which types of activities or combinations of activities were most engaging for visitors.

MB: Do you plan to participate in Culture Days next year?

TH: We will most certainly be taking part in Culture Days next year. We plan to expand on this past year’s event by having a medieval camp set up in front of the Museum made up of several tents with various activities related to daily life in the middle ages. We plan to include the weapons demonstrations as well, since these were very popular last year. We hope to continue to build on the event and eventually host it as an annual medieval festival.

MB: Is there anything else you would like tell our readers?

TH: The Culture Days weekend is a great outreach opportunity, which is of great benefit to a small museum such as ours. I strongly encourage other museums to take part in Culture Days if they have not already done so.



Photo courtesy of Tracene Harvey

Saskatchewan Genealogical Society

Preserving the Province's Past

BY PAUL SPASOFF

With the province turning 108 years old in 2013, residents of Saskatchewan and its many communities are accustomed to celebrating centennials.

Through programs such as the Saskatchewan Residents Index and the Saskatchewan Obituary Index, the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (SGS) is helping preserve the province's past. To date, the Residents Index includes more than 3.8 million names, while the Obituary Index has more than 750,000 obituaries on file.

"The goal of the Saskatchewan Residents Index is to have a list of everyone who's lived in the province," says Linda Dunsmore-Porter, executive director of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society. "We've gone through history books, directories, maps and various other yearbooks and types of books to index the names."

Established in 1969, the mandate of the SGS is to conserve and preserve information relating to individuals and families in Saskatchewan. During that time

its grown from a few books in the corner of the library at the University of Regina into a library of its own with several thousand books.

In fact, the library is one of the main programs for the SGS.

"We're always bringing in new resources that will help genealogists," she says. "We have history books of Saskatchewan, we have family history books and we also have a collection of information from other countries. We focus on Saskatchewan, but we have information from around the world."

Although the library has grown in recent years, membership has remained constant. Former members filter out and new members join the organization, but membership remains consistent at over 1,000 members.

"We have people who are interested in doing genealogy in Saskatchewan because they have family here," she explains. "A lot of those people would be from Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia and of course our own people in Saskatchewan."

"We also have people who live in Saskatchewan but are interested in doing genealogy in Ontario or Eastern Europe or England. So, we have two different streams of users."

Although membership has remained somewhat static, the benefits for members continue to grow.

In addition to the resources in the library, members now have access to subscription databases and more than 100 journals that are exchanged with other societies.

"We pretty much have access to anything that is out there and people can access it through a membership with SGS," she says. "Members will have 24/7 access to things like ancestry.com or world vital records. We think this will help grow our membership."

In Saskatchewan, important elements of the province's past are found above and below the earth's surface. For that reason, the Saskatchewan Cemetery Index is one of the bigger programs for the SGS.

For more than 40 years, volunteers have been recording headstones in the cemeteries in Saskatchewan. More than 3,500 cemeteries have been discovered to date – ranging from one person to 22,000. As a result, over 500,000 names have been recorded of people buried in these cemeteries.

"We're still discovering burial sites and cemeteries all the time," Dunsmore-Porter says. "People are phoning in and telling us they know where someone is buried or where there is a cemetery in the bush. What we do then is record any headstones, and if there are no headstones we investigate who owned the land and where we might find records."

To help ensure these cemeteries and their histories survive, the SGS launched a pilot program last year on the care and maintenance of abandoned cemeteries.

Through these efforts and others, the SGS and its dedicated members are working to preserve Saskatchewan's rich heritage for future generations.

Visit www.saskgenealogy.com to find out more.

Share Your Culture!

Check out the Multicultural Initiatives Fund.

This grant supports cultural organizations interested in hosting cultural activities, events or projects designed to enhance multicultural, ethno-cultural or cross-culturalism in Saskatchewan.

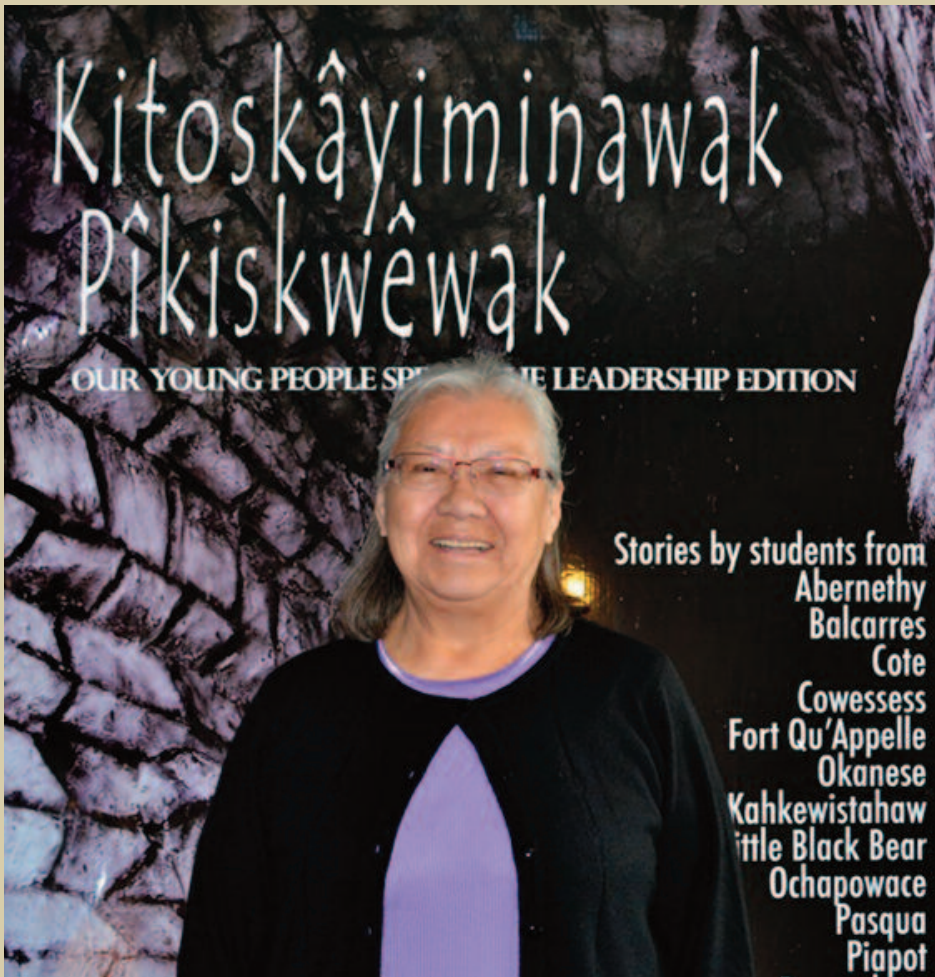
NEW DEADLINES: January 31 (Annual),
March 15 & September 30 (Projects)

For more information visit www.saskculture.sk.ca
call (306) 780-9284 or Toll-free: 1-866-476-6830.

Sask
Culture

Saskatchewan
LOTTERIES

New Deadlines!



“Taking on the roles of interviewers, photographers, researchers and writers gave the students a chance to see a different side of themselves...”

Rhonda McAlpine

Students recognize First Nations & Métis leaders

BY MIRIAM KÖRNER

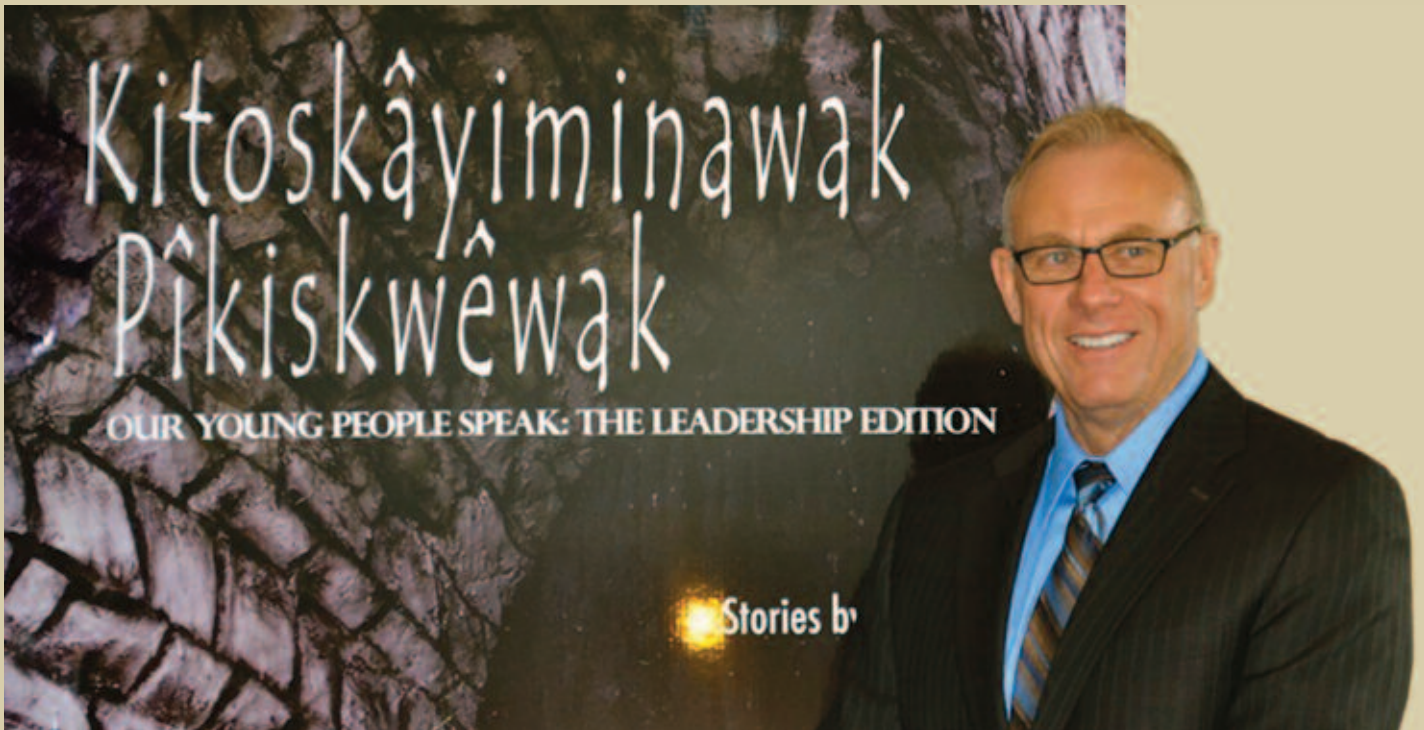
Building community ties and connections is challenging for large, rural school divisions. However, some divisions make these connections a vital part of their students' education.

In 2010/11 Prairie Valley School Division (PVSD) challenged students to explore the different connections people have with the land and their views of the Treaties. Incorporating photography, video, audio and storytelling students created 12 films that are now part of the ongoing Treaty education in the division.

Hoping to improve literacy amongst their students, the Prairie Valley School District (PVSD) engaged 200 Grade 10 students from eight schools including three First Nations schools through a Creative Partnerships grant.

Through the grant, supported by the Ministry of Education (First Nations/Métis Achievement Fund), the Saskatchewan Arts Board (Creative Partnership Innovations), SaskCulture and Saskatchewan Lotteries, PVSD hopes to inspire students to capture the teachings from role models and community leaders.





Sandy Pinay-Schindler, First Nations and Métis education coordinator with PVSD explains, “When we say ‘connecting’ we mean meeting and talking with community First Nations and Métis leaders.” She believes restoring these connections has become the goal of several creative projects in the divisions. “There is a natural connection between young and old people in traditional societies.”

Throughout the project, 120 Grade 10 students from Balcarres Community School, Bert Fox Community School, Chief Kahkewistahaw Community School and Cowessess Community Educational Centre visited, interviewed and photographed 50 leaders, amongst them veterans, Elders, chiefs and councillors, educators, business and political leaders, journalists and artists, as well as future leaders - youth who are

committed to culture, education and a healthy lifestyle.

The result of their labour is a professionally designed and edited book. *Kitoskâyiminawak Pîkiskwêwak: Our Young People Speak: The Leadership Edition* was launched on May 23, 2012.

The book launch – complete with red carpet and formal attire – filled students with pride of their achievement and the 50 community leaders presented in the book felt honoured to be part of the project.

“Taking on the roles of interviewers, photographers, researchers and writers gave the students a chance to see a different side of themselves while they were able to have a more intimate view of their leaders,” says Rhonda McAlpine-Haubrich, Kakisiwew School, Ochapowace First Nation.

Kitoskâyiminawak Pîkiskwêwak is becoming another important learning resource for PVSD. But maintaining community ties is a dynamic process and the school division is already in the midst of planning a new project: a book focusing on the students’ artistic response to community member stories of their “healing journeys” after being released from residential schools. Pinay-Schindler knows it’s a delicate topic, but a very important one. “We don’t want to dwell in the past, nor ignore it; we simply want to acknowledge it.”

Partnerships support arts and culture

The Saskatchewan Arts Board is pleased to partner with SaskCulture Inc. and Saskatchewan Lotteries on programs and initiatives that build a strong and vibrant arts and culture sector.

www.artsboard.sk.ca

SaskFestivals Gallery and Media Arts Organizations
 Creative Kids Provincial Cultural Organizations
 Creative Partnerships ArtsSmarts/TreatySmarts

John Lamodigiére: Aboriginal Myth Buster

BY SHAUNNA GRANDISH

John Lagimodiere has been busy myth-busting with his Aboriginal Awareness Training sessions.

With Saskatchewan's resource sector currently booming, Lagimodiere's Aboriginal Consulting Services (ACS) is in high demand.

"The demand far outstrips my ability to service it," says Lagimodiere, who is also President of Aboriginal Consulting Services.

"We are finding right now the biggest growth is with resource-based companies. For them to do good business, which is to extract resources and make a profit, their best bet is to engage the Aboriginal community, whether it is through partnerships, employment, business opportunities and/or donations to the community through economic development," adds Lagimodiere.

According to him, the lack of education over the years about First Nations and Métis issues and history has led to what he believes is an information gap in our province. ACS came into existence about 16 years ago after the realization of the need to narrow this gap.

Lagimodiere explains the opportunity and need to educate people on their lack of understanding of this growing demographic presented itself at this time.

Shortly before ACS came into existence, a study was commissioned by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations called *Aboriginal Peoples in the 21st Century*. The study looked at the projection of birth and death rates in the province and concluded that by the year 2045 people who are a descendant of someone with Aboriginal ancestry will make up a third of the population in Saskatchewan.

It was also at this time that many businesses started expressing interest in engaging with the Aboriginal community.

"How do companies go about doing this?" asked Lagimodiere, who has been involved with ACS almost from its

inception. "Well, you have to understand the Aboriginal community."

If you were to attend one Lagimodiere's Aboriginal Awareness Training sessions, you can expect to gain more of an understanding of what Treaties are and what benefits they include. Lagimodiere explains that this lack of awareness of Treaties has led to much ignorance of the realities of Aboriginal people in this province.

However, according to Lagimodiere, the biggest myth and misconception is that Aboriginal people do not pay taxes. In his sessions, Lagimodiere clears the confusion about this false belief.

"A lot of resentment people have is because of money," he explains. "So, we talk about what the realities are and the underfunding of reserve services, such as education. This way, the session participants get an idea of the big picture. We break it down economically and people are grateful for that."

Most of the sessions' participants, even those who Lagimodiere would call "Anti-Indian," are thankful for the information.

"People want to understand how everything works and why it isn't working. It's confusing and people haven't been taught," he says. "A lot of people are grateful that we've finally explained the situation to them in a way they can understand, so that the issues become very clear to them."

John Lagimodiere presented his "Aboriginal myth busting" session at the 2012 SaskCulture Gathering. Besides being the President of ACS, he is also the

publisher of *Eagle Feather News* and has also hosted the award winning, national radio show "As If" on CBC Radio. John has delivered Aboriginal awareness training to clients ranging from the Saskatoon Police Service, Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan, Provincial Court Judges, Cameco Corporation and the University of Saskatchewan. John is a recipient of the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal and was honoured with a Living in Harmony Award from the City of Saskatoon in 2006. ACS received the ABEX award for Aboriginal Business in 2009.



Borden Threshermen Bringing history to life

BY DANICA LORER



Photo courtesy of the Borden and District Threshermen's Club.

Borden's annual Threshing Day, this year held in conjunction with Culture Days, offers guests an opportunity to leave their cars behind and ride a wagon into the past.

The Borden and District Threshermen's club has been holding the event on the last Saturday in September for the past 26 years. Stew Walton, who has been a member of the club for 13 years explains, "Cyril Golding founded it because he wanted to preserve a way of life from the past." Many of the members are farmers and retired farmers.

The group demonstrates agricultural methods of the past, but likes to keep the event fresh and interesting. "It's nice to have something new or different every year," says Walton. In 2012, the group registered the event with Culture Days and received a grant allowing them to bring in a steam engine from the Western Development Museum. It was a highlight for organizers and guests. The group owns their own threshing machine and the land that was donated by John Newbold, a 99 year-old who rode in a horse drawn buggy in last summer's Threshing Day parade.

Cyril Saunders, current chairman, says, "I think our event is unique in that spectators can interact with the demos." The grounds offer wood outhouses, a cook cart from the 1920's providing homemade bread and borscht, and old-time fiddle music. More than 400 people signed the registration log in 2012. The event draws families, seniors, horse people and seemingly more urban dwellers than rural. "There aren't many places you can take your whole family and participate in a celebration like this for free," says Walton. 4-H members on horseback lead guests to their parking



The group demonstrates agricultural methods of the past, and aims to keep the event fresh and interesting.

spots and women in period costumes welcome them to the event.

Saunders explained a little more about the era when family farms were much smaller. "Different farms had threshing outfits and went around helping other farms. By the 1930s, most had their own equipment as combines took over from threshing machines," he says. "Most of the old equipment was sold as scrap in the 1940s for the war effort so there are not as many pieces from that time."

There are threshing demonstrations, horse competitions, equipment displays, races and plenty of time for stories. "I just missed that era. I was too young. There is a certain draw for people who lived through it. They love the horses and to reminisce. Modern machinery has made many tasks easier but guests still enjoy the chance to watch and try their hand at the old methods. "We always have more pitchforks than volunteers," adds Saunders encouraging anyone interested to join them in September.





Saskatchewan
LOTTERIES 



Sask **Culture**

404 - 2125 11th Avenue
Regina SK S4P 3X3
saskculture.info@saskculture.sk.ca
www.saskculture.sk.ca

Publication Mail Agreement #40063014

Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to:
Administration Centre Printing Services
111-2001 Cornwall Street
Regina, SK S4P 3X9
Email: adminprint@sasktel.net