

Suddenly Saskatchewan

MAGAZINE | SPRING-SUMMER 2020

Ducks Unlimited

Wetlands to the
Rescue!

Health Benefits of Golf

Visit Big Muddy and
the Outlaw Caves

Saskatoon's Low
Emissions Plan

Electric Bikes

Suddenly
homeschooling?
Flex-ED, distance
learning at it's best!



"We Bring People and Nature Together"



At Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop we're dedicated to helping you turn your yard into a habitat that not only benefits wild birds and the environment, but also brings song, color and life to your home. Our staff are well trained to answer your backyard bird questions. We are a locally owned, family run business.

Products Designed by Experts

More than 30 years of knowledge helps make our products the highest quality bird feeding supplies on the market.

Trusted Local Advice

Our goal is to help you better enjoy this wonderful hobby by providing the best local advice and bird feeding products to meet your needs. We want you to have the best bird feeding experience possible. After all, it's the most relaxing, fulfilling, educational and exciting hobby that anyone, young or old, can enjoy.

The Best Bird Food In Town



Regardless of the season, birds need foods high in protein and fat. These provide extra energy and help birds during nesting, raising their young and molting their feathers in the spring and summer. These foods, along with stored body fat, are the primary energy supply that fuels a bird throughout fall migration and during long, cold winter nights. We can help you attract the most variety of birds with our



No-mess Blends. Our exclusive 'BIRDA-CIOUS BARK BUTTER' has attracted 127 different bird species and is also available in bricks, bits and plugs. We also have a large selection of tidy and convenient bird seed cylinders and suet.

The Largest Selection of Bird Feeders

We offer 'Lifetime Guarantee' Tube Feeders, Finch Feeders, Hopper Feeders, Fly-Thru Feeders, Platform Feeders, Window Feeders, Eco-Clean Feeders, Dinner Bell Feeders, Cylinder Feeders, High Perch Hummingbird Nectar Feeders, Oriole Feeders, Suet Feeders, Tail Prop Feeders, Chickadee Only Feeders, Squirrel Proof Feeders and cages to allow small birds.

The Advanced Pole System (APS)

Our Patented Advanced Pole System (APS) is the foundation for successfully attracting birds to your backyard. Comprised of interchangeable hardware, the APS lets you create and change your customized setup in minutes. All parts are powder-coated to prevent rusting and



it's hot, birds will use birdbaths to keep cool and replenish fluids. In winter, clean feathers help birds stay warm. We offer a variety of bird baths for all seasons.

We also specialize in the following Nature products

- Window Alerts (prevent bird collisions)
- Bat Houses
- Garden Accents
- Great selection of Nature Books and Field Guides including local authors
- Butterfly Feeders and Houses
- Solitary Bee Houses
- Vortex, Eagle, Steiner, Zeiss and Swarovsky Binoculars and scopes
- Squirrel Solutions
- Bird and Trail Cams
- Hand-tuned Quality Chimes
- Unique Gifts and Cards
- Local Art and Photography

Guest Speakers and Animal Guests

We regularly sponsor FREE presentations in the store for all ages of nature lovers.



can also be used for bird houses, hanging plants and more.

All Around Nesting Care

WBU Nesting boxes are designed to have the dimensions and features that appeal to specific bird species. Many of our bird houses are locally made with recycled wood materials.

The Importance of Water

Whether they're feeder visitors or not, birds need water. Offering a reliable source of water is probably the simplest and most important step you can take to increase the number of birds in your yard. Birds need water for drinking and also keeping their feathers clean. When



Cover photo courtesy: Ducks Unlimited

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Tel. 306-230-1621
replay@sasktel.net
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Ducks Unlimited Canada has strong roots in Saskatchewan

Ducks Unlimited Canada has strong roots in Saskatchewan, stretching back to the beginning of the organization in the dustbowl era of the 1930s. Today our more than 3,100 Saskatchewan projects provide habitat for wildlife and recreation areas for people.

Saskatchewan is renowned for having some of the most abundant and productive waterfowl habitat in North America. Situated within the pond-rich Prairie Pot-hole Region, ducks hatched and raised in our province disperse throughout the entire continent and beyond. Located along a major flyway, close to 70% of the continent's waterfowl migrate through Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan's wetlands and associated upland areas provide other far-reaching natural values too, supporting biodiversity



Close to 70% of the continent's waterfowl migrate through Saskatchewan.



Species such as the endangered whooping crane use Saskatchewan wetlands during migration.

— including species at risk — and storing carbon, preserving water quality in lakes and rivers, and buffering against floods and droughts.



It takes a collaborative approach to conserve these critical wetland habitats, and DUC's work here builds on the spirit of community embodied by the people of Saskatchewan. Working alongside agricultural producers, industry groups, governments, and the public, we strive to ensure wetland values are appreciated and accounted for, and support our partners in achieving a sustainable balance between conservation and development.

Save Our Summers!

By Suzanne Joyce, Communications Specialist, DUC Saskatchewan

After a long prairie winter, Saskatchewan residents often can't wait to get out and enjoy one of our Hundred Thousand Lakes. And enjoy we do!

In the 2012 Canadian Nature Survey, in the prior 12-month period, nearly half of Saskatchewan people reported non-motorized water vehicle and beach use, and one third reported fishing.

In recent summers, harmful algae blooms (HABs) have increasingly threatened Saskatchewan residents' enjoyment of freshwater resources for recreation. One of the main culprits: blue-green algae or cyanobacteria.

Blue-green algae can sometimes take on the appearance of foamy pea soup, and at its worst can smell like rotten eggs. Most troubling, it can produce a toxin called microcystin that can pose a threat to drinking water supplies, and can be harmful to humans, pets, and wildlife.

In the summer of 2019, the Government of Saskatchewan launched its new Healthy Beach Program, designed to keep the public aware of water quality issues at 67 public swimming areas— and serving as a harbinger of declining water quality across the province.

Development of HABs in waters used for recreation is dependent on many factors that can be difficult to predict. Blooms are more likely to occur during hot, sunny weather, in calm water that

is rich in nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen.

“In the summer of 2019, the Government of Saskatchewan launched its new Healthy Beach Program.”

Here on the Prairies, much of the soil has naturally high levels of phosphorus; lakes tend to be shallow and warmer and naturally nutrient-rich or eutrophic. Add to the mix hotter summers, sporadic rainfall events, and excess nutrients introduced via runoff, and the incidence of HABs is increasing, particularly in southern lakes. Reducing inputs of nitrogen and phosphorus to aquatic systems is believed to be the most effective option for managing toxic blue-green algae blooms.



Wetlands to the rescue

Across the country, Ducks Unlimited Canada is involved in research on the role wetlands play in improving water quality. While there is more work to be done, the science so far is telling the story of wetland processes that work in concert to absorb and breakdown nutrients, resulting in water that is cleaner leaving than entering a wetland basin. In some study areas, such as the eutrophic lakes of the Pembina Valley in Manitoba, wetland restoration has been shown to help improve water quality and reduce algae blooms downstream.

The message is clear: Saskatchewan needs its wetlands now more than ever. For more information on wetlands, water quality, and how you can help Save Our Summers, please visit www.facebook.com/DUCSaskatchewan/.





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FEDERATION



For more information and to become a member,
email riverscitywildlifefederation@gmail.com
or visit www.swf.sk.ca

- The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation is a non-profit, non-government, charitable organization of over 33,000 members in 123 branches across Saskatchewan, including the River City Wildlife Federation in Saskatoon.
- Established in 1929, the SWF has become an acknowledged leader in the conservation field.
- Every dollar donated toward the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation stays in Saskatchewan to benefit local wildlife, fisheries, and outdoor education programs.
- We administer the Saskatchewan Fish Hatchery.

Protect our waters



saskatchewan.ca/invasive-species

Here's what you can do . . .

- Clean, drain and dry your boat.
- Remove the drain plug while transporting watercraft – it's the law.
- Please report suspect aquatic invasive species by calling the Turn in Poachers and Polluters line.

Call toll-free 1-800-667-7561 or SaskTel Cell #5555.

Saskatchewan

CITY OF SASKATOON'S Low Emissions Community Plan

A 30 year roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

While climate change is a global issue, many of its impacts are felt locally. Cities are responsible for 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions, with Saskatchewan being the highest emitter per capita in Canada. To help be a part of the solution, and not just the problem, on June 26, 2017, **Saskatoon City Council set a GHG emission reduction target of 80% below 2014 levels by 2050.**

If emissions are not reduced on a global scale, Saskatoon's climate future is projected to be warmer, wetter and wilder. In the long term, this means drought, extreme heat and larger pest populations; increased flooding and freezing rain in the place of snow; and intense storms, blizzards, hail and tornadoes, occurring more often and causing damage to public and private property on a regular basis.

To support the City of Saskatoon's emission target and to reduce the risks of a warmer, wetter, wilder future, the *Low Emissions Community* (LEC) plan was developed by the City of Saskatoon. The LEC plan will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions through City operations and in the community as a whole. To be achievable, the plan's 40 actions and their investments need to be implemented over the next 30 years through four

"Not all weather experienced in our city over the next 80 years will be 'on-trend' due to natural climate variability. However, collaborative ideas today can build and improve Saskatoon's resiliency through local actions tomorrow,"— says Jeanna South, Director of Sustainability.

phases. To be successful, phase 1 of the plan needs to be implemented now.

The 40 actions from the LEC plan all support the concept of **"reduce, improve, switch,"** which means all the actions help reduce consumption of resources, improve our city services, buildings and homes, and facilitate the switch to renewable energy sources.

Reducing emissions also provides financial, economic, and social opportunities and benefits, such as:

- 74% of the actions result in financial savings or revenues for the municipality, businesses/industry, or households;
- New revenues for the municipality mean less reliance on property taxes;
- Investments can generate an estimated 100,000 person-years of employment between 2020 – 2050;
- Diversification of our economy can make Saskatoon an even more attractive place to do business;

- Reduction of pollutants can improve air, water and soil quality;
- Careful land use and more walkable communities improves community well-being and quality of life; and
- Social equity is increased by access to renewable energy and moving around the city through active transportation.

The Low Emissions Community plan is the first step to co-creating a healthier, more regenerative, resilient, and equitable City. The plan's actions and investments are a good start, but broad scale community wide efforts are required to tackle this challenge. For more information on the City's Climate Action Planning, to read the full LEC plan or read sources from this article, please visit saskatoon.ca/lowemissions. For advice or ideas on actions your household or business can take to reduce emissions please visit environmentalsociety.ca/category/tips

 **City of
Saskatoon**

saskatoon.ca/climatechange

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Students First Approach

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Teamwork

We pride ourselves on our foundational **students FIRST** approach.

We aim to empower our students so that they can flourish far past their primary, middle, and high school years.



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Flex ED Qualified Independent School was created to provide students and parents with a Ministry-Approved distance learning alternative to traditional education models.

With Saskatchewan certified teachers, Flex ED also provides opportunities for virtual events, activities and clubs as well as Driver Education.



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With Kindergarten through Grade 12, and more available, Flex ED has programs to fit everyone's unique individual needs and lifestyles.



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After enrolment, you'll be able to access your teachers and online courses through Flex ED's unique online learning platform from anywhere.



Book A FREE One On One Virtual Tour Today

In this free virtual tour, we'll show you:

- ✓ A run down on everything you need to know about Flex ED
- ✓ How to submit assignments and other helpful tips
- ✓ How you can interact with other students taking the same courses and with all your teachers
- ✓ Our online platforms and the benefit they can have in your child's education
- ✓ Q & A to help answer anything we don't cover
- ✓ And much more!

www.FlexED.ca/book-a-tour

Thank You!

Frontline workers — The unsung heroes go about discharging their duties daily and no one has time to recognize the contribution they make to the well-functioning society – but NOW is the time to realize and appreciate the work our front-line workers do to keep us safe and healthy, always going above and beyond the expectations, putting their lives at risk for us. It's never too late to say THANK YOU – we truly appreciate the work you do.

We are so proud of the extraordinary courage and commitment shown by CUPE workers on the front line of the coronavirus pandemic.



COMMITMENT.
COURAGE.
THANK YOU,
FRONT-LINE
WORKERS.

CUPE



Alaffia Baskets & Deodorants NEW hand woven African baskets!

These colourful baskets are traditionally used in Togo, West Africa for many reasons like carrying produce to and from farms and markets and to hold coins awarded to ceremonial dancers.

“Members of Alaffia basket cooperatives receive fair wages and health care for their families in return for indigenous skills and knowledge.”

Each basket is woven with sustainable, naturally dyed and undyed savanna grass in a unique pattern and colour scheme to create a beautiful one-of-a-kind design.

Members of Alaffia basket cooperatives receive fair wages and health care for their families in return for indigenous skills and knowledge. This exchange empowers West African communities and preserves cultural heritage.

Alaffia deodorants are chemical and aluminum free, they are not tested on animals and are ethically traded. The deodorants contain charcoal to specifically neutralize odour and are some of the best we have tried! They come in a few different invigorating scents.

THE ALAFFIA FOUNDATION

The Alaffia Foundation (TAF) is a 501(c)3 organization. TAF's mission is to empower African communities through the advancement of Fair Trade, education, sustainable living and gender equality. The Alaffia Foundation executes Alaffia Empowerment Projects in Togo, West Africa that support Fair Trade producer communities. TAF provides a platform for individuals and organizations around the world to partner with Alaffia, by sharing resources, skills, time and money. This public support is critical to Alaffia impacting more lives in Togo. Empowerment Projects are Alaffia's mission in action, funded by the sale of products.



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OBSERVED EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY

- **Greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere are steadily rising.** Three heat trapping gases are of special concern. Carbon dioxide is now 146% above its concentration in the pre-industrial era; methane is 257% above pre-industrial levels; nitrous oxide is 122% above pre-industrial levels. These increases have largely taken place due to human activity, particularly fossil fuel burning. They are the driving force behind climate change.
- The **four hottest years** since worldwide temperature records were first kept are **2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017**. 2018 is on a similar trajectory.
- **Temperatures above 50 degrees Celsius are becoming increasingly common** in nations such as India, Pakistan, Iraq and Kuwait. At 50 degrees Celsius heat becomes toxic. Outdoor work is extremely dangerous.
- Rising greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere are resulting in a sharp increase in extreme weather events. The medical journal, the Lancet, reports a **46% increase in the frequency of extreme weather events** worldwide between 2000 and 2016.
- In western North America the **forest fire season is becoming longer and more dangerous**. California and British Columbia had record wild fire seasons in both 2017 and 2018. California suffered unprecedented loss of life in its 2018 wild fires.
- As greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere rise and trap more heat, the vast majority of that heat is taken up by the oceans. This results in thermal expansion of seawater – causing sea levels to rise. The warmer atmosphere is also melting mountain glaciers and the great ice sheets on Greenland and Antarctica. That meltwater is moving into the oceans, compounding the rise in sea levels. **Rising sea levels are now a threat to the future viability of many coastal communities around the world.**
- **Hurricanes are becoming more powerful and dangerous** due to elevated ocean temperatures, record-high sea levels, and elevated water vapour content (causing heavier rainfall). These are each a product of climate change. The United States has been hit by 5 extremely powerful hurricanes in the last 2 years (2017-18), with devastating consequences.
- **Climate change is having extremely serious ecological costs.** For instance, the geographical **range of bumblebees in North America has shrunk** by 300km, while in Australia, exceptionally warm ocean water temperatures have caused an unprecedented **loss of coral on the Great Barrier Reef**.

Source: "Prairie Resilience" is Not Enough, Peter Prebble, Margret Asmuss, Ann Coxworth and Bob Halliday, Saskatchewan Environmental Society, December 2018.

For further information, refer to the **Saskatchewan Environmental Society's** website at: www.environmentalsociety.ca



Courtesy of the Saskatchewan Environmental Society

DECEMBER 2018



Slow Down and Save Lives

While commuter traffic as a whole is reduced worldwide as a result of COVID-19 mitigation efforts, roadways in Canada continue to be an important part of day-to-day life for a wide variety of people including essential workers getting to and from work, delivery services and emergency responders and vulnerable road users including pedestrians and cyclists.

This year's National Road Safety Week is May 12-18 and the Canada Safety Council wants to remind you that driving requires an absolute focus on safety behind the wheel.

"Driving a vehicle and taking safety precautions go hand in hand," said Gareth Jones, President and CEO of the Canada Safety Council. "A safe driver should be able to avoid a collision in most scenarios, and that begins with a safety-first perspective and a vigilance on road safety that comes with the privilege of driving."

Speed

According to the Traffic Injury Research Foundation, speed is a factor in 800 fatalities and 3,000 serious injuries every year in Canada. At higher speeds, drivers have less time to react to unexpected circumstances and require more distance to come to a full stop.

Evidence across Canada continues to demonstrate a higher incidence of drivers being apprehended for speeding since self-isolation practices went into effect. Saanich Police impounded 16 vehicles in March, compared to only two in February. Toronto Police indicates a 200 per cent increase in stunt

driving in March 2020 compared to the same time period in 2019. Edmonton Police report "significant increases in speeding incidents." Fewer vehicles on the roads does not mean that it is either acceptable or safe to increase your speed — follow the posted limits.

Distraction

Distracted driving continues to be a major cause of collisions in Canada — according to Transport Canada, distracted driving was a factor in 21 per cent of all fatal collisions and 27 per cent of collisions resulting in serious injury in 2016.

There is reason for concern when observing opinion-based surveys, too. According to the Traffic Injury Research Foundation's 2018 Road Safety Monitor survey, more than 75 per cent of respondents reported concern over distracted drivers. And yet, 36 per cent of these same respondents indicated that they often talked on their hands-free phone behind the wheel, with an additional 9.3 per cent indicating they often talked on their handheld phone and 7.5 per cent reporting they send text messages while behind the wheel. So while we recognize the danger, many continue to contribute to the problem.

Distraction is defined as anything that takes a driver's focus off the road. Though the focus tends to be on the use of devices, distraction can also include grooming, adjusting radio or ventilation settings and eating. For more information on distracted driving and its impacts, please see our 2019 National Safe Driving Week campaign.



Source: www.canadasafetycouncil.org
Reprinted with permission from the Canada Safety Council.

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Manitou Beach Golf Club is located at Manitou Beach – 5km North of Watrous on Highway #365 and a pleasant drive South-East of Saskatoon. The Watrous Manitou community includes a variety of attractions nestled on the shores of Little Manitou Lake. Play a round of golf and explore the surrounding sights.

A Beautiful and Challenging Course

Lush irrigated greens and challenging fairways are featured on this 3048 yard, par 36, nine hole golf course. The course has a 119 slop rating for men and a 114 slope rating from the women's tees. The course is dotted with bunkers, water hazards and the tree-lined fairway.

Pro Shop Onsite

The Pro Shop is fully equipped. Full golf services are available at Manitou with power cart, pull cart, and club rentals available. Check our website to see our improved sanitation procedures.

Golf Course Restaurant

Confectionary, cold beer & liquor available.

Membership Pricing and Booking Guidelines available online at www.manitougolf.com. We appreciate your understanding as we navigate new rules and procedures mandated by the Government of Saskatchewan for us to enjoy the game we love while staying safe.



WatrousManitou.com



Health Benefits of Golf

Golfers live longer

According to a study in Sweden, golfers mortality rates are 40 per cent lower than people who don't play the game. The sport increases life expectancy by five years. Aside from adding years to your life, playing the sport can make living more enjoyable.

46 million people currently live with dementia, by the year 2050 the number is expected to reach over 131 million people. According to the World Alzheimer Report printed in 2015, the disease cost \$818 billion USD. That number is expected to reach a trillion dollars by now.

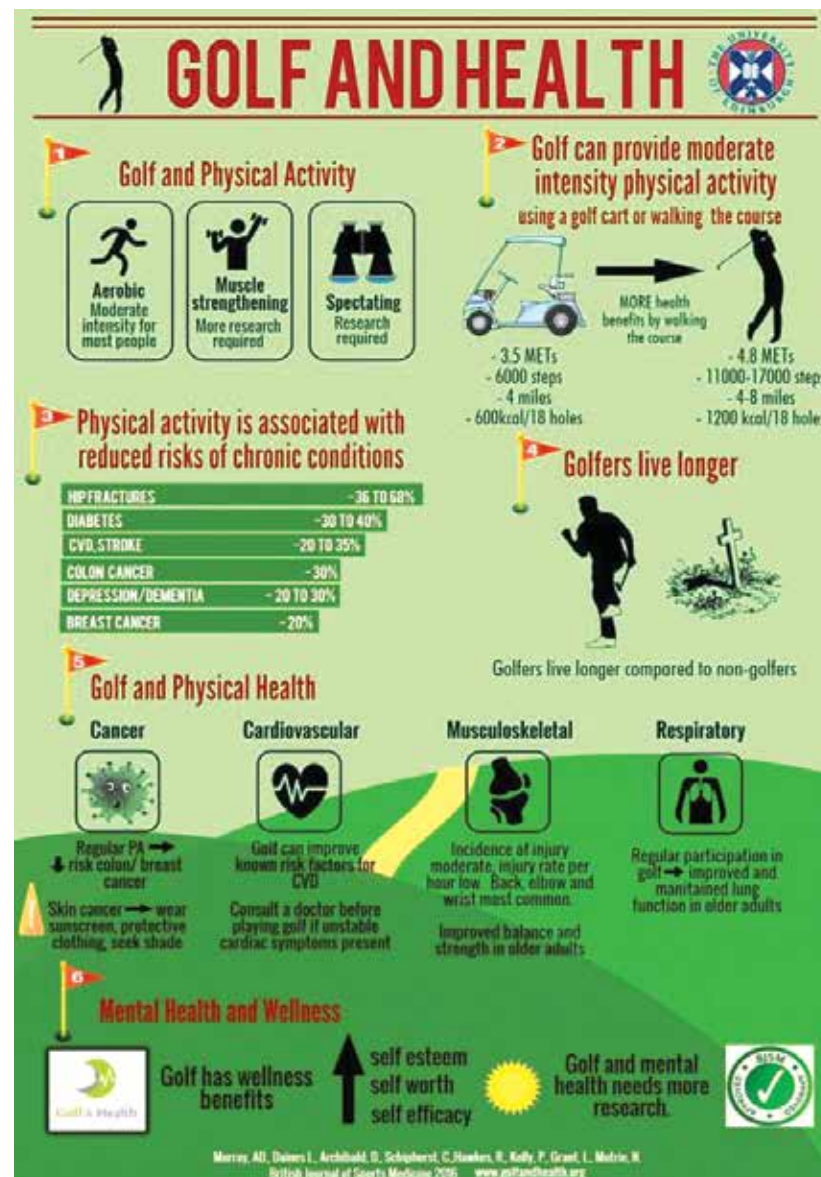
Golf is a moderately intense physical activity and is likely to prevent the onset of cognitive decline and, in those with dementia, can reduce the decline of both mental and physical activity.

For those with dementia, golf has been shown to provide a suitable environment to:

- interact socially
- provide appropriate physical activity-encouraging strength and balance
- to provide respite for careers

For older people, it can provide memories and a focus for social interaction in a community

environment
Other physical benefits come from playing golf. The



combination of walking, muscular workouts, and social interaction improve overall health.

Physical benefits include: improved cardiovascular risk-factor profiles; improved blood-glucose levels; and increased life expectancy

Psychological benefits include: improved self-esteem, improved confidence, and reduced anxiety

Golf also provides a great opportunity for developing interpersonal skills, emotional control, and enhancing social connections

More details on the benefits of golf including health can be found here.

Golf Saskatchewan is working on a series of articles focusing on different health aspects of golf.



PVC Window Jamb Extensions

Flawlessly match your PVC Windows with custom made to fit PVC Window Jamb Extensions made in Saskatoon by TRIM RITE MFG.

PVC is a maintenance-free and durable product which makes it perfect for window jamb extensions used in the bathroom, kitchen and basement where high condensation can exist. These custom made-to-fit extensions are easy to install without the use of nails or screws so you will never need to paint them.



TRIM RITE MFG specializes in custom PVC home products! Check out the Exterior PVC Columns, Tru-Seal Attic Hatch and PVC Window Jamb Extensions. We also do many custom projects out of PVC such as CNC work and PVC Barn Doors.

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Explore the **OUTLAW CAVES** of the **BIG MUDDY**

Think Saskatchewan is flat? Think again! A visit to the Big Muddy Valley will leave you in awe of the rugged beauty surrounding the historic buttes and caves of the badlands. Listen carefully and you might hear echoes of the past...

This summer is the perfect time to visit us and explore the hills, valleys and history offered in the Big Muddy Valley. Come see Saskatchewan's Castle Butte, an age old landmark used from the very earliest settlers and travelers as a directional point. Climb to the top for one of the most fantastic views. Relive the history of cattle rustlers and horse thieves hiding in the caves to dodge the law on both sides of the border. Walk where infamous outlaws like Butch Cassidy, Dutch Henry and Sam Kelly and their men hid their stolen livestock. See the early development of the North West Mounted Police in this area, the location of the first depot in this part of the country. The Buffalo and Turtle effigies, ceremonial circle and tipi rings that were so very sacred to the First Nations tribes that lived in the area. The Big Beaver Nature Center

displays the animals and history of the area in a very unique way, and a stop at Aust's General Store will remind you again of what a general store used to be. We will take you to visit Paisley Brook School, a century-old building. You will see how different it was going to school in the early days.

Spend the night and take in all that our friendly little town has to offer. The Poolside Park is a campground located right in town next to a heated swimming pool, kids spray park, 2 playgrounds, basketball court and a soccer field. One block away is our scenic 9 hole, 3000 yard, grass green golf course which overlooks the Poplar River, rolling hills and grain fields. We also have the Poplar River Community Park campground, 5 kms east of Coronach, located at the Cookson Reservoir. The park offers boat docks, great fishing and powered

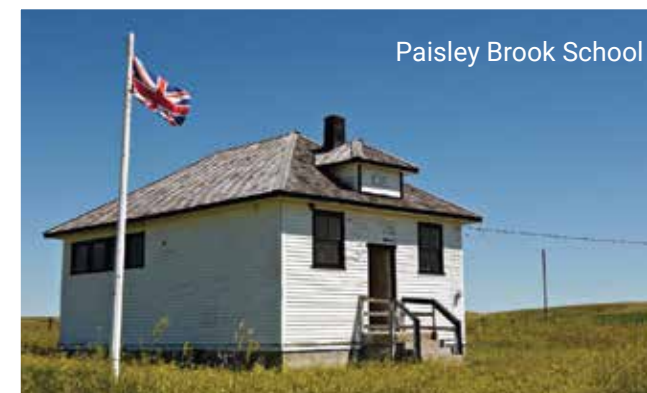
sites. **Plan your trip to coincide with Dam Days held on the last weekend in June 2020 at the Poplar River Community Park campground or with our 1st Annual Street Festival on August 29, 2020.**

Coronach has a motel and hotel in town and a B & B located a few miles outside of town. Some dining options include Deb's Country Kitchen, RC Chinese Restaurant, Coronach Hotel and the Rustic Tavern. Pick up snacks or a lunch at The Nook and stop in at the Mini Mart for some of the best summer treats in the area. Take time to stop at the Coronach District Museum, the site of Coronach's original hospital. You will find local artifacts and history dating back to the 1900's.

For more information visit our website at www.townofcoronach.ca or call 306-267-3312.



Sam Kelly Outlaw Caves



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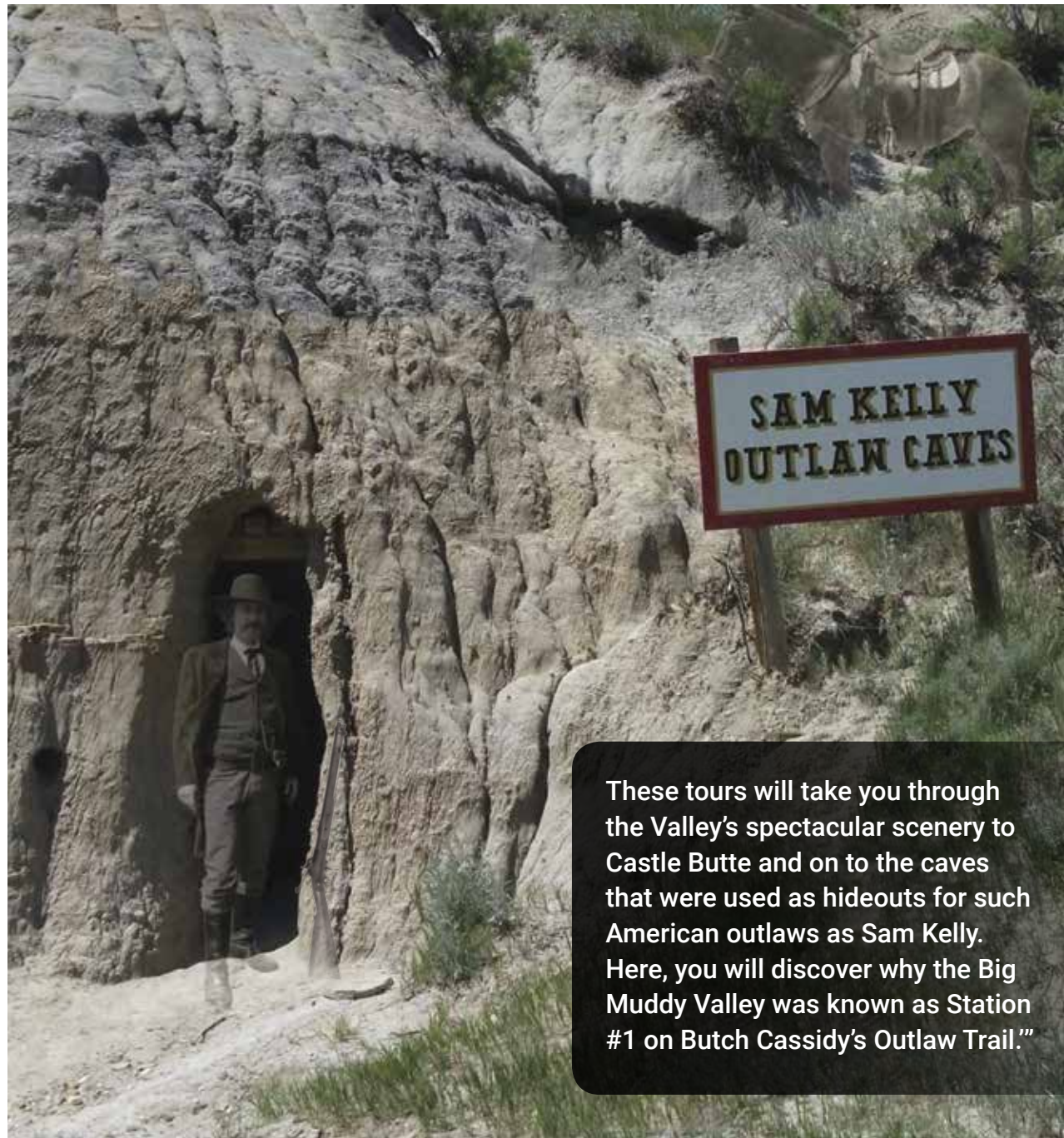
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WWW.ASSINIBOIA.NET Town Office: 306.642.3382



Visit the **OUTLAW CAVES & BIG MUDDY**



These tours will take you through the Valley's spectacular scenery to Castle Butte and on to the caves that were used as hideouts for such American outlaws as Sam Kelly. Here, you will discover why the Big Muddy Valley was known as Station #1 on Butch Cassidy's Outlaw Trail."

Sam Kelly Outlaw Caves

In 1903, outlaw Sam Kelly joined forces with notorious horse thief, Dutch Henry, and outlaws Bloody Knife and Pigeon Toe Kid. Known as the Wild Bunch, they would steal as many as 200 horses on one drive, alter their brands, herd them into Canada, sell them, and then steal them again for resale back in Montana and the Dakotas.

The Big Muddy was an ideal haven for outlaws. Sam Kelly enlarged a weathered wolf den for his living quarters and used a nearby cave to hide his horses.

Take a tour of the Sam Kelly Outlaw caves – they are still very much the same as how he left them..

Looking at locations: Where should a downtown entertainment district go?

by Naomi Zurevinski

In late 2018, City Council decided that if Saskatoon was to get a new arena, it should be downtown, as part of a larger entertainment district that would include a convention centre. Nearly a year and a half later, no definitive location has been announced and many logistical considerations loom, raising questions about where such a building should go.

Here, three locals weigh in on where downtown the arena and entertainment district should be.

For Bertrand Bartake of Kindrachuk Agrey Architecture, the question of where depends on whether the arena would be built together or separate from a convention centre.

"If we're looking at just an arena, my preference is the Toys "R" Us site, because that site is the most accessible for walking," Bartake said. "That site has connections to Nutana, Riversdale and communities south of Riversdale, plus it gives you the opportunity to walk to bars and restaurants in Broadway, Riversdale and downtown."

Bartake said the Toys "R" Us site is not large enough for both an arena and convention centre. When discussing a site that would accommodate both, he says the Midtown parking lot would be an option, and provides access to transit and hotels nearby.

Todd Brandt, the president and

CEO of Tourism Saskatoon agrees with the Midtown as a starting point.

"For us, the nucleus is the Midtown, and then you can build fairly contiguous to that, which allows linkage to existing facilities like the theatre in TCU," Brandt said. "If you look at the area north of Midtown, or immediately south, there's the benefit of linking to other facilities like Persephone Theatre and the Remai Modern, which are things that add interest to conference planners."

He says that an arena and convention centre don't necessarily need to be attached, but that certain criteria needs to be considered.

"A convention centre needs to be a minimum distance from

accommodation facilities and walkability is important. We don't need more accommodations in Saskatoon; we have 5500 hotel rooms now, so we need to utilize that," Brandt said.

Darla Lindbjerg, president and CEO of Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce, says that looking north of Midtown is a good option. She says that Saskatoon's transportation system also needs to grow with such a building. "It is crucial that the city connect an entertainment district to an accessible transportation system – the Bus Rapid Transit for now, but with the capacity as the city grows to adapt into an LRT line," Lindbjerg said. "Although public transportation is key for environmental and parking issues, it is still important that there be extensive parking available."



NORTH OF MIDTOWN, SASKATOON



Bartake notes the downtown is ideal for its proximity to parking.

“The downtown has access to 20,000 parking stalls, and use of those parking stalls is usually during the day when people are working downtown. In evenings there’s free parking and a lot of private paid parking that’s

available,” he said. Either way, Brandt notes that considering the city’s growth, and planning for future needs is key.

“I think we need to say, 40 years from now, what’s a reasonable size for a convention centre? If it’s 2070 and the typical convention sizes are this, what do we need

to be competitive now, and years down the road? It’s been 50 years since the [current] facility was built, and we need to step back and say, okay we need to blow up this area to facilitate economic growth for many years to come,” he said.

Lindbjerg agrees, noting the economic benefits of a downtown location.

“Building a new arena will offer our community a competitive leg up in bringing shows and events to Saskatoon that our current facility cannot support due to its age, layout and load-bearing ability,” she said. “It is much better for our community to have a key piece of entertainment infrastructure in the heart of our city, generating positive economic spinoff for our businesses and the people they employ.”

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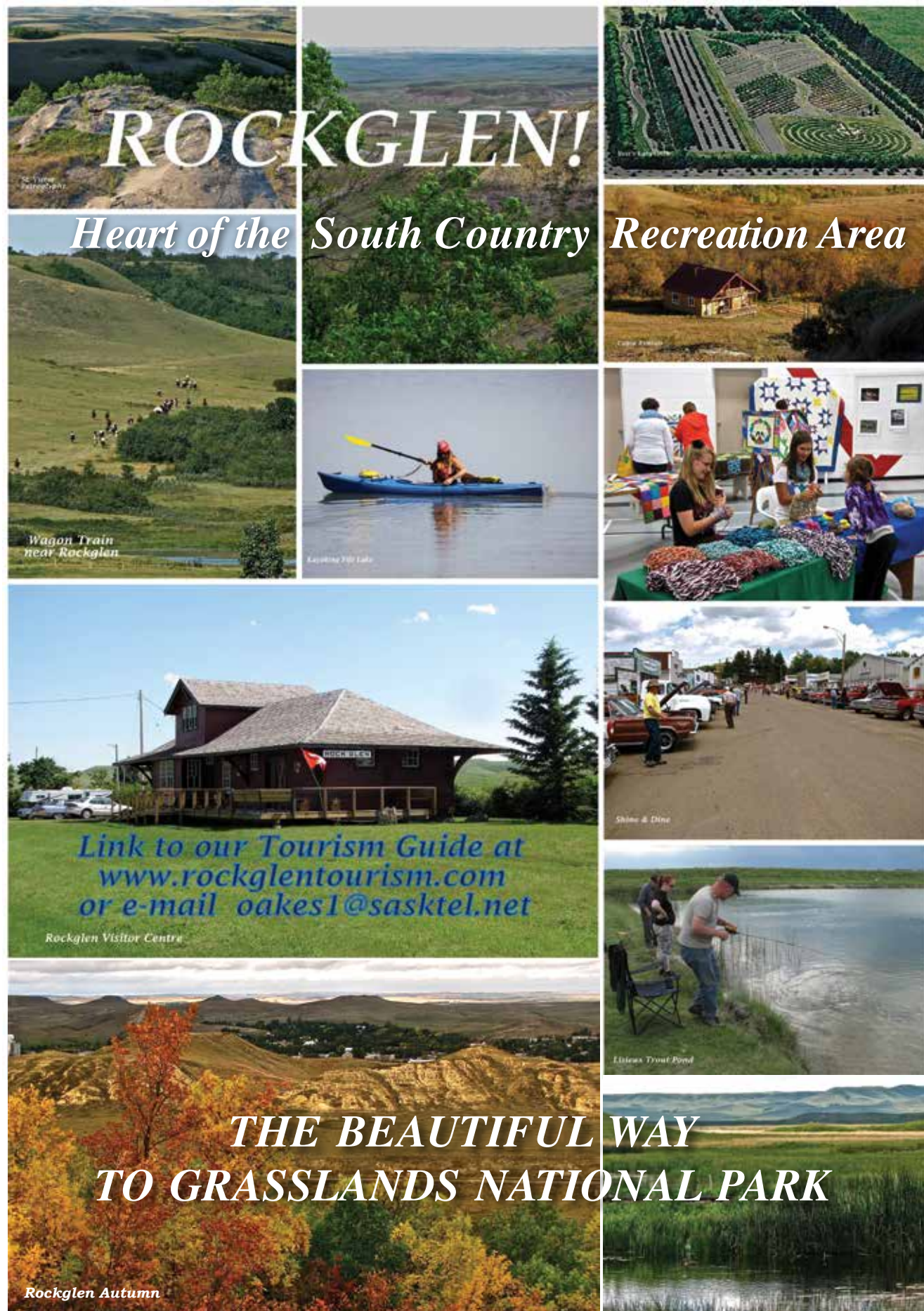
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Covid Confusion became an opportunity to learn!

Many lessons have been dealt to us during this confusion! We were closed March 21 to April 20th. We are not a service that provides life or death care, but if closed too long we are faced with the reality of pets being in dire need. Pet Groomers slip through the cracks. We are not a regulated Government Service, so in Canada there is no qualifying standard for our industry. Anybody can pick up a clipper and take your money; my advice is to seek out a professional Groomer with experience. Organizations throughout North America facilitate groomers to increase their knowledge but are not a government requirement. In Sask. we only had to be closed for 4 days prior to closure in March. The Sask gov. deemed our industry necessary. Some shops opened, some closed.

There are things we have learned during this time: When this started we thought people could look after their dog's needs (ie: Nails, brushing, sanitary trimming etc.). Caring for animals has always been second nature to us and we thought others would adapt easily; we learned otherwise! People need our help with pet care and this makes us very happy for we love caring for people's pets! We also host a Pet Maintenance class where we teach you how to handle your pet through the grooming process.

We have learned our customers missed us as much as we missed them! It is so awesome to see our furry friends and we have changed our procedures for social distancing in order to open for them! People have been kind and accommodating-we are all learning together. Sanitizing and cleanliness have always been our first priority and learning some new procedures to handle clients to keep us all safe has added welcome changes.

I learned our business could withstand closure for a short time. I am so grateful to family, staff and friends for always supporting me in building this dream. We are so thankful for our clients, without them we would not be as passionate about always challenging our knowledge and skill level.

The confusion Covid has created has exploded our brains with a myriad of emotions and challenges.



Our minds are trying to process all this at lightning speed: Fear of economic future, fear of getting sick or making somebody else sick, confusion of what to touch! To top it all off we are still dealing with life before Covid! A customer of mine once told me, we are human BEINGS not human DOINGS. My thought is we are both but have forgotten to just BE! I've decided that I am going to quit thinking all together and implement more being into my doing! What we've learned in 2 months, would have taken us 20 years. If you make the time and use it wisely, you will see this gift as I have. if you don't see it yet, you will.

The universe has handed us a piece of time that has forced us to slow down. I am going to hug my grandchildren, ride my horses at home and afar, lay in the field on a blanket surrounded by nature watching the clouds roll, and sit in the trees close my eyes and just listen, breathe and talk out loud to my Moms Spirit, she lives in the wind! These are things we have always wanted the most.

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