



Photo: Abbey ABC Centre



2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

South West District for Culture, Recreation and Sport Inc.

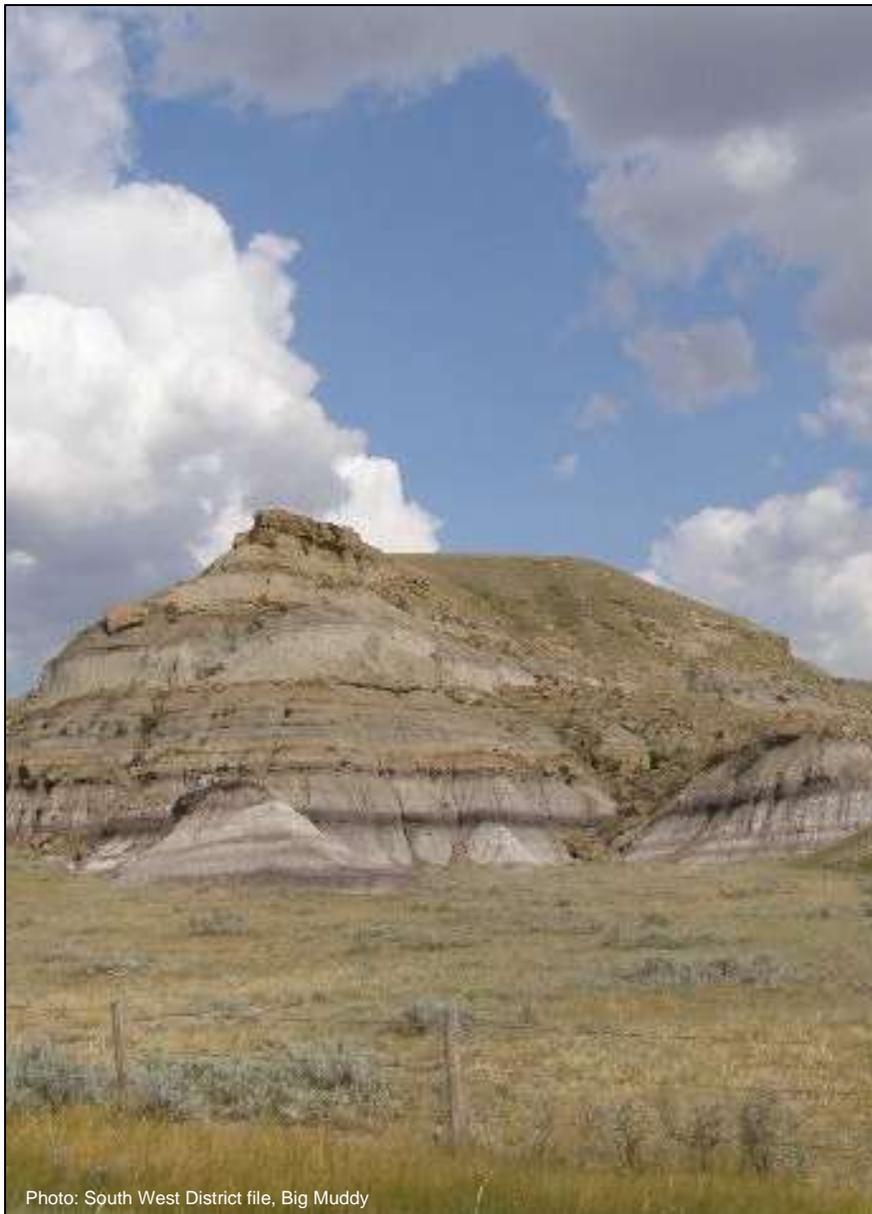


Photo: South West District file, Big Muddy



Photo: Eastend Museum



Photo: Gull Lake

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

South West District for Culture, Recreation and Sport Inc. *Understand. Value. Participate.*

The 2020-2021 year was unlike any other. The global pandemic and COVID health restrictions prevented the District from running in-person programs and services for an entire year. The good news? The South West District staff team has a long history of working remotely and used their knowledge and skill to convert all programs and services to virtual delivery. We presented as strong a line-up of workshops, training, funding, and networking as we would have offered any other year. We did well, and we're very proud.



Photo: Abbey ABC Centre

The South West District works with communities, groups, staff, and volunteers in southwest Saskatchewan to help develop community culture, recreation, and sport.



Photo: South West District Grant Writing Workshop

The most important work we do is supporting you. We want you to succeed. We help you navigate the world of community culture, recreation, and sport. We help you find funding. We suggest programs and partnerships that might be a great fit for your group. We offer the training you need. We are always available to talk.

Communities, recreation boards, and hundreds of community culture/recreation/sport groups are the District's primary users and members.



Photo: Eastend Museum

Community Development

The District supports communities to develop culture/recreation/sport programs and services by providing volunteer and leadership development, opportunities for networking, and reducing barriers to participation.

Community Cultural Gathering

Held virtually on October 27, 2020, the Community Cultural Gathering welcomed 34 people. Presentations and discussions included:

- Meaningful Reconciliation, Swift Current Truth and Reconciliation
- Leaders for Change, Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan
- Future Directions, Saskatchewan Index of Wellbeing
- Programming Collaboration, Town of Shaunavon
- Artists in Communities, Sask Arts
- Implementing a Heritage Project, Saskatchewan History and Folklore Society
- Effects of the Pandemic, Museums Association of Saskatchewan
- Grant Update, SaskCulture
- Understanding Community Generational Shifts, Dr. Dave Manley



Photo: South West District Cultural Gathering Poster

Community Recreation Gathering

Held virtually on March 10, 2021, the Community Recreation Gathering welcomed 25 people. Presentations and discussions included:

- Community Collaboration, Tamarack Institute
- A Quick Look at South West District Programs to Come
- Roundtable on the Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Program
- Spotlight on Community Projects in Gull Lake, Coronach, Maple Creek
- Parks on the Prairies, Dutch Growers

“Hearing what’s going on in other communities has given us the motivation and courage to try new things and expand what we’re offering or how we’re operating.”

Grant Writing Workshops

Grant Writing is one of the District’s most requested workshops, helping to provide essential training community leaders and volunteers need to secure the necessary funding for culture, recreation, and sport programs. Presented virtually in August and again in September, to a total of 31 participants, the training still featured its signature small group instruction and discussion.



Sponsorship Development Workshop

Sponsorship Development is offered as a compliment to Grant Writing to help community leaders fully expand their fundraising efforts. Participants learn to develop sponsorship opportunities, a strong sponsorship proposal, how to identify sponsors, and how to maintain sponsorship relationships. Presented virtually in August and again in October, to a total of 23 participants, the training featured the same signature small group instruction and discussion as its Grant Writing counterpart.



Respect In Sport for Parents

The Respect in Sport Parent Program is a 1-hour bilingual online certification program. It has been accredited by the Canadian Red Cross Respect Education Division and is designed to educate parents and guardians who have children or youth involved in sport and community-based programs. The online course was completed by 9 participants.

Social Media

Two workshops were offered to help communities and groups reach a larger audience, especially during COVID restrictions when online communication became critical. The July virtual training was a three-part series: Starting Out, Getting Better, and Getting Fancy. The training was completed by 16 participants. The March virtual workshop was tailored to the small non-profit, volunteers, and anyone overseeing social media. The workshop was completed by 25 participants.



Photo: Shared District Sport Medicine Poster

Sport Medicine and Science Webinar Series

Offered in partnership with the other provincial districts, this online series presented sport-focussed training in sport medicine and science, with a new topic each month. There have been 9 different webinars offered so far, completed by 129 participants.

“The District has given me useful information and tools that would have been difficult and/or too expensive otherwise.”

Canadian Indigenous Cultural Training

Canadian Indigenous Culture Training - Truth and Reconciliation Edition is an online course designed in accordance with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action (2015) and includes information about the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Indigenous rights, Indigenous law, and Indigenous-Crown relations, and was developed by the Indigenous Leadership Development Institute of Canada. The online training was completed by 38 participants.



Introduction to Non-Profit Lifecycles

All non-profits move through different stages of development, from start-up to growth, from decline to turnaround. It is important for organizations to recognize at what stage they need to begin focusing on planning for the future. The Lifecycles virtual workshop helped participants evaluate their non-profit and



make decisions about the future. The workshop welcomed 14 participants.

Let’s Talk Heritage Webinar

A September webinar to better understand the value of heritage in a community. Topics included heritage designation programs/benefits and dispelling common myths and misconceptions around preservation. The online workshop, offered in partnership with the other provincial districts, welcomed 18 participants.

HIGH FIVE Principles of Healthy Child Development

Announced in time for communities needing to train 2020 summer play program staff, the HIGH FIVE Principles of Healthy Child Development offered training for those working with children aged 4 to 12 to enhance program quality, ensuring that every child has a positive experience. Training was offered online using self-paced instruction and was completed by 11 participants.

Treaty 4 Gathering Student Activity Videos

COVID restrictions may have cancelled the Treaty 4 Gathering, but that didn't stop four Saskatchewan culture/recreation/sport districts from taking the learning online. Working in partnership with Harold Littlelent and family, three videos were developed for a classroom environment, along with teachings, crafts, and activities. Videos were available for a limited time on YouTube for anyone to watch, including 28 views from the southwest.

Roberts Rules of Order

Providing a brief overview and important aspects of Robert's Rules, participants of this virtual workshop learned tips and tricks to successful meeting facilitation and engagement for small groups and boards. This partnership workshop was very popular, with 49 participants attending.

“Whenever you can garner new information and share it with your board members it makes the board stronger.”

Fundamentals of Finance

A crash course on legal roles, financial statements, and key financial elements every grassroots culture/recreation/sport board member should understand. This partnership virtual workshop had 22 participants from the southwest.



Photo: Shared Districts Virtual Treaty 4 Poster

Aquatics Talk Webinar

Aquatics can feel intimidating at times. It's a high-risk environment with often energetic but inexperienced young staff. There are lots of rules and liability and managing them can feel overwhelming. Two virtual workshops, offered in partnership with the other culture/recreation/sport districts, helped provide aquatic strategies and an introduction to the Red Cross and Lifesaving Society, with plenty of time to implement learning before pools opened for the season. The workshop was completed by 16 participants.

“I learn something new in each webinar.”

...and So Much More

In addition to our own programs and services, the District shares information from our communities in the southwest, our contacts/clients, and provincial partners including: the Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Program, Kid Sport, Jump Start, Indigenous Community Sport Development Grant, Creative Kids, Culture Days, SaskCulture programs/services, Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association programs/services, and Sask Sport programs/services

What's the best way to learn about all these great programs and opportunities? Subscribe to our e-newsletter or follow us online, Facebook (@SWDCRS), Twitter (@SWDCRS), and Instagram (@SouthWestDistrict). Every week we share, post, and retweet information from around the province to build your community, your group, or yourself.



Strengthening the Culture/Recreation/Sport Network

The District builds awareness for culture/recreation/sport by closely monitoring the successes, challenges and trends our communities are facing. We provide support and resources whenever possible and watch for opportunities to partner to further develop culture/recreation/sport in the southwest.

Community Support

The South West District works with recreation leaders, administrators, museum volunteers, councils, libraries, community groups, and many more to help navigate the world of funding, partnerships, training, and programs. We keep a keen eye out for issues, trends, successes, and challenges.

During 2020-2021, District Community Consultants **visited virtually with 27 communities**: Assiniboia, Cabri, Cabri Library, Caronport, Chaplin, Coronach, Eyebrow, Fox Valley, Gravelbourg, Hazenmore, Herbert, Lafleche, Leader, Leader, Library, Mankota, Maple Creek Library, Moose Jaw Western Development Museum, Morse Museum, Nekaneet First Nation, Riverhurst, Saskatchewan Festival of Words, Shaunavon, Success, Tugaska, Val Marie, Waldeck, and Wood Mountain.



Photo: South West District Recreation Practitioners Meetings

District programs connected with 258 different groups during the year.

We're here if you have a question and we get a lot of emails and phone calls. Last year the staff team **consulted with 973 residents** from District communities through email (over 60%), phone calls, and one on one virtual conversations.

New in 2020-2021, District Community Consultants held **10 roundtable-style virtual discussions with 27 recreation professionals**. The meetings provided an opportunity to talk about how to sustain community recreation during COVID restrictions. The online virtual format might just make this a program that continues well into re-opening.

Recreation Board Development

When a community wants to develop their recreation board, that's when District Consultants shift their work out of the Community Support program and into the Recreation Board Development program. Always offered in partnership with the SPRA Field Consultant, Recreation Board Development helps communities build, grow, and sustain their own recreation operations.

78% of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed they know and understand the services provided by the District.

Work began with **Success and Waldeck** during the 2020-2021 year and is expected to pick up with a return to in-person programming. South West District Community Consultants supported the SPRA Field Consultant, who leads this partnership.

Community Projects

2020-2021 was filled with a wide variety of unique community projects through two funding programs.

The **2021 Get Covid-Creative Fund**, challenged communities (under 2500) and groups to find ways to develop culture/recreation/sport while staying within all the provincial COVID safety regulations. The District funded over \$9600.00 and 20 projects. Groups reported 806 participants.

91% of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed the programs and services offered by the District are useful to their group.

- **Gravelbourg Minor Ball** (sport camp, 64 participants)
- **Val Marie Rec Board** (public skating, 20 participants)
- **Assiniboia** (day camp, 100+ participants)
- **Bengough Parks and Recreation** (recreation programming, 26 participants)
- **Cabri Library** (gardening kits, 17 participants)
- **Coronach** (escape room, 10 participants)
- **Gull Lake** (free library)
- **Leader Library** (take home puzzles, 48 participants)
- **Shamrock Recreation** (senior indoor walking, 9 participants)
- **Tugaske Library** (laser tag, 24 participants)
- **Abbey ABC Centre** (wood sign art, 19 participants)
- **Chinook Regional Library** (dream catchers, 101 participants)
- **Coronach** (stepping stones, 10 participants)
- **Eastend Library** (photo contest, 30 participants)
- **Eastend Museum** (drum circle, 8 participants)
- **Gravelbourg Artisan Co-operative** (painting collage, 165 participants)
- **Gravelbourg and District Tot Spot** (craft kits, 25 participants)
- **Hodgeville Library** (art contest, 118 participants)
- **Ponteix** (hip hop dance for kids, 12 participants)
- **Shaunavon Grand Coteau Heritage and Culture Centre** (heritage signs)



Photo: Eastend Museum



Photo: Gravelbourg Artisan Co-op

"I will use what I learned going forward in the changing COVID landscape and get creative with new roles and ways to steward our volunteers."

The **2020 Library Micro Grant** challenged rural libraries to find ways to develop culture/recreation/sport within the provincial COVID safety regulations. The District funded over \$1000.00 and 4 projects. Groups reported 116 participants.

- **Cabri** (reading program, 26 participants)
- **Leader** (reading program, 51 participants)
- **Tugaske** (Zoom yoga classes, 19 participants)
- **Maple Creek** (Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, 20 participants)



Photo: Maple Creek Library file, taken pre-COVID

Developing the South West District

The District strives to be the best it can be to serve its communities, groups, leaders and volunteers. We develop our ability to govern and manage effectively by committing to annual training, planning, and monitoring.

Our Board of Directors

The South West District is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. As a policy governance Board, their priority is representing the communities the District serves and assuring organizational performance. Board members represent communities from across the South West District.

1. **Chris Keleher** – Swift Current (Chair)
2. **Lindsay Alliban** – Hazlet (Vice-Chair)
3. **Dana Dale** – Claydon (Director of Finance)
4. **Emily Bamforth** – Eastend
5. **Bula Ghosh** – Swift Current
6. **Rose Nord** – Bushell Park
7. **Heather Ritenburg** – Findlater
8. **Casandra Rushinko** – Gravelbourg
9. **Rosa Vazquez** – Eastend

Photo: Town of Assiniboia



The South West District believes that all people contribute to the diversity and richness of community culture, recreation, and sport. Everyone is welcome and supported.

Our Staff Team

Christie Saas
Executive Director
Moose Jaw

Anne Weisgerber
Community Consultant
Maple Creek

Elizabeth Heatcoat
(maternity leave)
Community Consultant
Leader

Brennen Ronovsky
Community Consultant
Moose Jaw

Special Thanks Jaclyn

The District often works with Jaclyn Davis, Field Consultant for Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association.



Photo: South West District Staff Team having a little Zoom fun

District Vision

All residents of the South West District understand, value, and participate in culture, recreation, and sport.

District Mission

The South West District advocates and supports culture, recreation, and sport.

Strategic Direction

Core Priorities are provided by the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund with additional Outcomes developed by the District Board of Directors.

Location

The South West District includes the area south of the South Saskatchewan River, to the borders of Alberta, Montana/North Dakota and east to the area south of the City of Regina.

Treaty 4

The South West District is located on Treaty 4 territory and the homeland of the Métis. Together we pay respect to our ancestors – the First Nations, Métis, and non-Indigenous people who have called this land home – and we reaffirm our Treaty relationship.

Contact Us

www.gosouthwest.ca



Linking Community with Culture: Museum Stories

Shaunavon's Got Talent

Whitman's Band: Photo Circa 1994

Shaunavon's musical groups have kept us tapping our toes, singing a song, and turning up the dance floor for decades. Children and adults alike have beat drums, hoisted the ivories, clashed symbols, blown wind instruments, and strummed guitars, proving without a doubt that Shaunavon's Got Talent!

Scan the QR Code on the left to see if you can spot your favourite Shaunavon musical group.

Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the Grand Coteau Museum!

FIND ALL SIX SIGNS located at Standard Shaunavon, Deb's General Store, Affinity Credit Union, Shaunavon Dental, & Robert Loan Investments.

Signs will be on display from March 14 to 20.

Powered by **SASK LOTTERIES** and **SOUTH WEST DISTRICT FOR CULTURE, RECREATION & SPORT INC.**

HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19
Please practice safe physical distancing. Please do not touch this sign. Thank you.



Photo: South West District Sponsorship Development

Photo: Shaunavon Grand Coteau Heritage and Culture Centre