

South West SPOTLIGHT

There are so many fantastic stories in the South West District. We want to share some of them with you!

Bengough Working Together

Bengough has accomplished what many communities strive to do - they work together! On a recent visit in [Bengough](#), the SWDCRS Community Consultants asked what was happening in town. In the hour that followed, many projects were described, and one stand-out was that most of the events and activities involved at least two groups working together, if not more. Examples include:

- **Free Movie nights at the Museum** - Youth group does popcorn, picks the movies (they periodically have a viewers choice vote to determine the movie), runs the projector, etc. The [Museum](#) offers activities in the museum prior to the movie to get younger children engaged in the museum. All ages attend the movies (people bring their own lawn chairs, bug spray, blankets, etc.) which begin at sundown. Everyone gets to have a fun evening watching a movie outside shown on the side of the Museum, which was sandblasted recently by volunteers, and painted with paint donated by the Co-op.



- **Dresses for Africa** - a group of women get together and make little dresses to send to Africa, for girls who must have a dress in order to attend school. The fabric, thread and trim material is all donated by fabric shops and sewers that have extra material. Sewing bees are held at the local Library, who donates the space to the sewers and provides them with lunch.
- **Gateway Festival** - spearheaded by Bengough Arts Council, there are many groups involved. The Festival Site is in the Bengough and District Regional Park, so the Park benefits by receiving all the camping income, as well as running a concession booth on the grounds. A church group offers a pancake breakfast each morning, which is a great fundraiser for them. The Festival boasts over 250 volunteers, in a town of 320, many of whom work multiple shifts. Volunteers include Bengough alumni who come home for the festival, and work a few shifts with their families for old time sakes and a good way to see everyone! The Festival Committee promotes the [Gateway Festival](#) as family

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LOTTERIES


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Train Ride - Health Centre Carnival

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friendly so they also include children's activities throughout the weekend. The Drop-In Centre provides a facility for local artists to show their wares. Performers at the festival do their bit by doing outreach performances at the Twilight Centennial Senior Home and the swimming pool! The Gateway Bus takes people around to see the sights of town. The Museum always puts together a special temporary display for visitors to enjoy while they are in Town - this year was a tribute to Rock and Roll. In 2019, a car show and a parade celebrating 15 years took over the main street, which involved all the downtown businesses. The car show was such a success that it looks promising to continue this in future years.

- **The Bengough Arts Council** is also working with the school and the community choir to present one Christmas Concert for everyone, which includes the Christmas Cantata, school class Christmas Plays and music for everyone. The event is held in the evening so everyone in town can attend.
- **The Agricultural Society** hosts all sorts of events, including the Home Fair, which involves all ages, from school children to seniors, crafters and bakers, gardeners and



many others, picking their very best efforts and showing them off - and winning prizes.

- **The Bengough Health Centre, Bengough Youth Group and Jumpin' Beans Day Care** join forces to offer a Carnival to celebrate the end of summer which includes carnival games, petting zoo, train rides, hot dog and hamburger BBQ, popcorn and lemonade stands, and more.
- **The Bengough Swimming Pool, the Youth Council and the Recreation Board** join forces for an end of the Year Pool Party and Late Nite Swim on the last day of the Swimming Pool. What a great way to end the summer.

Bengough is proud of their community and it shows in the many activities, events and projects that so many people and groups cooperate to make happen.