

South West SPOTLIGHT

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

HIGHWAY 37 S

Carmichael, SK

It all started with the Grassy Hills School building, and some people who recognized the historical value of a building that was still in pretty good shape but needed to be somewhere where it could be taken care of properly and be accessible for use. Years ago, the school was the center of a community, often used as the church and community hall as well. So, the Carmichael Community Club decided that Carmichael needed a museum, and the Grassy Hills School would be a great start. The School was moved to Carmichael in 1990, and a labour of love began. The building needed some repairs, and like all buildings, needed paint and the mice kept out. The community came together, and much work was done. When the Co-op in Gull Lake renovated, the shelving was donated to Carmichael. Then the donations started coming, and the school became a museum that brings together the collective memory of many.

The museum grounds have grown to include the Grassy Hills rural school, a store, church, blacksmith shop, leather shop and Howard's House.

Every summer, everyone interested got together on one day to see what was new, update things a bit, and enjoy the fruits of their labours.



Judy Wells, Carmichael Museum

This day became so much fun, it was decided to open it up to the public. 2003 was the 1st Annual Carmichael Museum Tea, and it has been growing ever since. Each year, a theme is designated, to highlight and honor a segment of their history. Themes have included Rural School Teachers, Wedding dresses through the years, Hats, Aprons, and the Saskatchewan Roughriders. The museum committee always dresses up in themed costumes and encourages participants to dress up and have even more fun.

The tea is held in the church, which is also a designated heritage building. The museum has collected over 100 teacup and saucer sets, which make drinking tea a delightful experience. The 4-H and other youth groups help serve tea and strawberry shortcake, a traditional dessert that carries many fond memories, and is still delicious.

Blacksmith Arid Romrich attends every year, to the great delight of children and others. Arid demonstrates what a blacksmith does, and people have the opportunity to order personally designed items. The children often leave with a small memento made just for them.

2019 has been designated the Year of the Blacksmith, and Blacksmith Arid will be honored and highlighted, and have even more to show off. **The Carmichael Museum Committee would love to see everyone in Carmichael on Sunday, May 26, from 2-4 pm. The cost is \$5, which includes your tea and shortcake.** A wide variety of interesting artifacts, blacksmith demo, tea and strawberry shortcake, will make the Carmichael Museum a great place to for a delightful afternoon with friends and family.

More photos are available on our [Facebook page](#).

SOUTH WEST

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 Saskatchewan LOTTERIES