

South West SPOTLIGHT

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

A COMMUNITY HUB

Craik Branch Library (Palliser)

Before Jo McAlpine, the Craik Librarian, arrives at work the doors are already open and people are arriving at the building. Inside, gathered around the long table is a group of locals that have come together for coffee row. They meet Monday to Friday mornings for coffee at the library because there is no other coffee shop in town.



"We are supposed to be thinking outside of the box and doing something different," said McAlpine. By allowing for coffee row to take place within the building the library is further extending their resources and support to the community.

It is because of their out-of-the-box thinking that the Library has become a culture and recreation hub for the community of fewer than 400 people and hosted more than 80 programs in 2018. McAlpine, the librarian of 20 years, is busy filling up their 2019 calendar.

Many of these programs are possible through actively applying to the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF), accessing funds from the Craik Recreation Board - which are made available by the Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Program and the surrounding RM - receiving sponsorship from the RBC, generous donations from the coffee club, and an

annual fundraiser put on by the board.

"We keep an eye open for opportunities and go with them," said McAlpine. While thinking outside of the box, the library is also thinking outside of their walls and they have directed some of their grant funding toward supporting the community's walking program and they are developing a story trail.

Other examples of activities and things to do, have included a weekly story time, a presentation on the Spanish Influenza, holiday activities for the children, setting up haunted house in the old town hall building, hosting book club, coordinating a visit from the Gus Bus, listening to singers and writers, drumming, and learning the art of flower arrangements and ink painting, to name a few.

A unique program is story time yoga. The instructor tells a story and leads a yoga class that is specific to the story.



Craik Library

The summer reading program is getting ready to go into full swing, outdoor activities, crafts and sport development are in the works, and plans are underway for a free arts workshop made possible through a partnership with the South West District for Culture, Recreation & Sport and Saskatchewan Cultural Exchange.

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



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