

South West SPOTLIGHT

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

Dilke, Saskatchewan Streamlining Volunteer Commitments



The Dilke Memorial Hall is a hub for community activities.

The volunteers in Dilke, Saskatchewan noticed some redundancies when they took stock of their community and two active organizations in the village. They wanted to find some solutions to help fill board positions and alleviate volunteer fatigue in the community of less than 100 people.

The Dilke Memorial Hall Board and Dilke Athletic Board were often made up of couples with spouses dividing their times between the two boards. This meant that it was the same households showing up to volunteer for most events.

The Dilke Memorial Hall Board typically hosted events along the lines of steak nights, Rider Game Nights, 50/50's and tradeshows. Meanwhile the Athletic Board

handled more sporting type of events. There was one main similarity though; the events were being put on by both organizations as fundraisers to help cover the cost of the day-to-day expense of keeping their facilities open and available to the members of the community.

This got the two boards thinking about combining into one cohesive board, so that everyone was working together, meeting together and making decisions that are best for the community with the resources at hand. Not to mention, having to maintain only one set of financial books.

The Dilke Memorial Hall Board initiated the merger and approached the Dilke Athletic Board with their suggestions. After being

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From Page 1

discussed at both board tables, a decision was reached to move ahead with the amalgamation, and it was recorded in the organizations' respective minutes as such.

The next phase did require a bundle of paperwork according to Lora Bast, secretary/treasurer of the Dilke Memorial Hall Board. While describing the amalgamation process, she noted that in hindsight it would be best to coordinate the merger with the year-end of the organization being dissolved, simply to reduce the work required for filing year-end financial statements.

The first step they undertook was looking into Saskatchewan non-profit corporation amalgamation through [Information Services Corporation \(ISC\)](#) and filling out the appropriate paperwork to get the ball rolling. Once officially approved, it was time to follow-up with all businesses and organizations that Dilke Athletic worked with and have everything transferred to the [Dilke Memorial Hall Board's](#) name and mailing address. Since the Athletic Board managed the curling rink this included items such as utility statements and other facility costs. The [Canadian Revenue Agency \(CRA\)](#) was also notified of the amalgamation, as they have their own forms and required follow-up.

If any other boards are considering merging, Lora offered a few tips and suggestions.

1. Each step does take time. Have patience, take photocopies of each document you must send away, as well as put a date on the top of the copy you are keeping. It is always nice to have dates and a copy of what was sent in case paperwork was lost or forgotten along the way.

2. If you are starting to talk about amalgamation, make a list of correspondence and bills you get in the mail, this will help when it comes time to change the name and mailing address on accounts.

3. Take very good minutes, with dates, locations, names, board members, and signatures. This is very helpful when it comes to the minutes you need for approval of all the banking paperwork.

Lora notes that the newly amalgamated board is still in its infancy. However, they are committed to continuing to serve the distinct community needs that the former Athletic Board and the Dilke Memorial Hall Board previously fulfilled. The new board consists of volunteers from both boards.



The Dilke Curling Rink, previously run by the Dilke Athletic Board, is home to the community coffee shop and consignment store.

Inset: Lora Bast, Secretary Treasurer of the Dilke Memorial Hall board, is a volunteer dedicated to creating opportunities for her children, the community and surrounding area.