

**MAPLE CREEK**

**COMMUNITY PROFILE**

**2018**



## General Information, 2017

Population:	3068 (Saskatchewan Health)
CiB Budget:	\$10 000
Sources of Funding:	Fundraising, sponsorship, and grants
Municipal budget for parks:	14% of total
Parks and green space land:	28% of total

## 2017 Steering Committee

Royce Pettyjohn	Chair	Community Development	Town of Maple Creek
Diane Moss	Treasurer	Administrator	Town of Maple Creek
Ellaine Hawrylak	Member	Land of Living Skies Park	Town Councillor
Sally Chant	Member	Community Garden	Horticulturalist
Nola Sanderson	Member	Post Office Pocket Park	Horticulturalist
Angela Litke	Member	Garden Tour & Yard of the Week	Chamber of Commerce
Darlene Hoffer	Member	Cenotaph Flower Beds	Horticulturalist
Shelly Kay	Member	Credit Union Pocket Park	Coordinator
Cara Teichroeb	Member	Newly Appointed	Town Councillor
Anne Weisgerber	Member	Newly Appointed	
Genene Kimber-Zinger	Member	Newly Appointed	
Carol Bremner	Member	Newly Appointed	
Joanne Bowyer	Volunteer	Land of Living Skies Park	Horticulturalist

## Communities in Bloom Objectives

- To widely engage the community in the implementation of the Communities in Bloom (CiB) program.
- To provide educational opportunities for the public in a wide range of topics and areas.
- To create volunteering opportunities in order to help implement programs and projects that have been initiated as part of Communities in Bloom.
- To continue to foster a sense of pride and ownership in the community.
- To make Maple Creek and area a more vibrant, sustainable, and beautiful place to live and work.

## Social Media

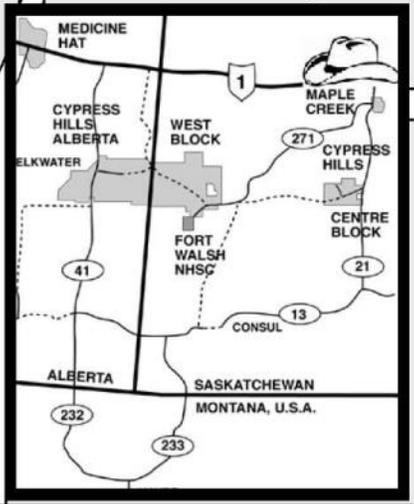
[www.facebook.com/maplecreekinbloom](http://www.facebook.com/maplecreekinbloom)





# MAPLE CREEK

WHERE PAST IS PRESENT



- |                        |                           |  |                                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Visitor Centre         | Town Hall                 | Ball Diamonds  | Southwest Oldtimers Museum            |
| Restaurant             | Post Office               | Maple Creek Veterinarian   | Jasper Cultural and Historical Centre |
| Camping                | Armoury                   | Swimming Pool  | Old Cowtown Heritage District         |
| Accommodation          | Elks Hall                 | Skating Rink   | Walking Trail                         |
| Gas                    | Legion Hall               | Golf and Curling Club  |                                       |
| Groceries and Supplies | Senior Citizens Centre    | Lions Park   |                                       |
| Hospital               | Rural Municipality Office | Centennial Park<br><small>(Skatepark, Tennis Courts, Playground)</small> |                                       |
| Parking                | Agricultural Grounds      | Living Skies Park  |                                       |



# TIDINESS



## Town of Maple Creek Spring & Fall Clean-up Weeks

The Town of Maple Creek Public Works Crew provides additional waste collection for branches, leaves and grass clippings to businesses and residents for one week in September and one week in May on their regularly scheduled garbage days.

In January the Public Works Crew picks up Christmas trees from back alleys to be used for mulch.

Larger appliances can be picked up year round given they pay a fee for service at the Town Office.

The Public Works Crew also assists CiB in various projects such as levelling grounds, hauling large materials, street sweeping and hang our downtown Christmas lights!



## Bylaws for Tidiness

Property Maintenance and Nuisance Abatement Bylaw 2014 -MC-16 supports the Town's tidiness, and health and safety efforts.

A bylaw was enacted in 2010 that makes it a requirement for loads being hauled to the Landfill to be secured properly to prevent waste from being lost and blown into the ditches along the entranceway to the community.

The Town of Maple Creek Parks Crew monitors properties around town to make sure they are in accordance with the Town bylaws.





## Earth Week Spring Clean-up

The CiB Committee hosts an Earth Day Clean-up Week bringing residents together to tidy public areas of the community.

For the past four years the event has been expanded to an entire week which offers more time for clean-up. In doing so, we received more participation from businesses, institutions, and residents.

This year an estimated 60 individuals and 9 organizations participated in the clean up. Participants clean up areas around businesses, schools, churches, public buildings, museums, parks, trails and along roadways helping to beautify Maple Creek.

Anyone who registers for the clean-up is invited to the CiB Volunteer Appreciation on the Saturday of that week. Guests can enter for prizes donated by local businesses, sign up to volunteer with CiB and find out more about our upcoming projects and spring workshops.



Volunteers from the Maple Creek Lutheran Church enjoy Spring Clean-Up volunteer appreciation event at the C.M. Glascock Building on Saturday April 28th, 2018.



## 5 for 5 Initiative

The slogan stands for “5 minutes for 5 days” and suggests that taking a few minutes every day to sweep sidewalks, pull weeds, wipe down windows and doorways, and pick up litter will add up to a big improvement, not only for the appearance of individual business properties, but for the community as a whole. Each year “5 for 5” buttons and a reminder letter are distributed.





## Parks & Recreation Crew

The Parks & Recreation Crew keep the Town's parks and green spaces looking beautiful whether it be by mowing grass, pruning trees, weed-whipping, watering flowers, or rototilling parks for planting.

They also take care of our downtown area making sure weeds on the sidewalks are pulled, downtown hanging baskets are watered, garbage receptacles are emptied, downtown furniture is in good condition, and painting curb lines.



## Business of the Month

In 2015 the committee introduced a new program to encourage businesses to tidy their property - Business of the Month! The program runs for the months of June, July, August and September.

This year, the committee arranged for the winners of 2017 to select the monthly winners. The winning business must demonstrate excellence in all CiB categories, particularly tidiness.



The winners receive a sticker for their window naming them business of the month. They are also recognized in our local newspaper, on CiB social media and are invited to our end of summer BBQ along with our Yard of the Week winners, Garden Tour hosts, CiB Committee Members and other CiB volunteers.





## **Yard of the Week**

In 2011, the CiB Committee initiated the Block & Back Alley Beautification Contest, which aimed to get individuals involved in creating “block pride” and encourage more social interaction between neighbours. The winning block was thrown a BBQ by CiB catered by one of the local restaurants.

In 2014 the committee changed the format to the “Yard of the Week” in order to encourage the whole community to beautify their properties. This year the committee has engaged past winners to select a yard as “Yard of the Week” and the winner receives a sign designating their yard as “Yard of the Week” as well as recognition in the weekly local newspaper and on CiB social media.

At the end of the summer, the winning yards will get together for a celebratory barbeque with many other CiB volunteers.



## **Other Tidiness Initiatives:**

- Sidney Street Elementary School does a clean-up of the school grounds each Friday afternoon.
- Doggy bag and garbage receptacles are located along the Town of Maple Creek Walking Trail.
- Garbage and recycling receptacles are available in the town’s parks and green spaces as well as the heritage themed garbage containers in the Heritage District.
- The Town of Maple Creek has a cemetery caretaker who has proper training in tree pruning and looks after the maintenance of the cemetery.
- The Town of Maple Creek’s landfill has had some beautification as well. A three-hole golf course has been built, birdhouses added to the fence posts as you drive up to the landfill.





# ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION



## Community Recycling Program

In the fall of 2016, the Town of Maple Creek implemented a curbside recycling program of bi-weekly collection, significantly diverting waste from the landfill.

The Eco Centre for recyclable oil has recently been relocated to Pacific Avenue.



## Bylaws for Environmental Action

Bylaw NO.2015-MC-04 prohibits any person from disposing recyclable materials at the landfill and ensures proper collection and disposal of waste.

The Town of Maple Creek has a pet bylaw prohibiting pet owners from having more than 2 pets per household and ensures animals are not running at large or causing harm to residents.

## Student Environmental Education and Participation

In 2011, Maple Creek Composite School started a horticulture class, now incorporated into Home Economics, for Grade 8 and 9 students. Through this program, the students have become involved in some CiB initiatives, such as planting the Adopt-a-Barrel whiskey barrel planters and helping with the planting and care of the Jasper Centre yard and planters.

In 2011, Sidney Street School created an outdoor classroom funded in part through the Energy in Action program, and were able to build raised beds, seating, and a greenhouse located in the center courtyard. The space and program was intended to help teach Grade 5 and 6 students about the importance of environmental stewardship, and give them a place to put those teachings into practice.

The outdoor classroom is planted & maintained by K-Gr 3.





## CiB Workshop Series

For the last several years, CiB has hosted a series of workshops and lectures providing education and information about different elements of landscaping and outdoor maintenance practices.

Past workshops included, but are not limited to: Tree Pruning Workshop, Growing Great Grapes, Raised bed Gardening, Mulching & Xeriscaping, Planting & Selection of Plants, Worm Composting and many more.

We continue to partner with Maple Creek Public Library to present a variety of workshops throughout the year.

**“Household Compose”** with Sally Chant & Colleen Kennedy, a local volunteer.



## CiB Initiative:



CiB has installed a “living fence” at the Armoury, a designated heritage building. Brick watering wells are planned to go around the trees and to landscape the grounds with gravel, it is a work in progress. Work progressed with the installation of raised flower beds.





# ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION



## Municipal Mulch Program

- In 2014, the program was moved to the landfill where it is administered by the landfill operators.
- The tree trimmers provide the landfill with mulch quarterly.
- The Maple Creek Visitor Centre distributes green CiB tokens (by donation) that residents can give to the landfill operators in exchange for mulch.
- So far, the program has been a great success!



## Compost

- A more recent initiative is composting of yard waste. Residents are able to take yard waste to the compost pile at the landfill.
- The Maple Creek Visitor Centre distributes green CiB tokens (by donation) that residents can give to the landfill operators in exchange for compost.



## Water Conservation

- At the Community Arena, a catchment tank is used to collect and store rain water for watering of the Town of Maple Creek hanging flower baskets and planters located in the downtown parks and walking trails.
- Bylaw NO 2014-MC-05 restricts outside watering during the hours of 9:00 am—6:00 pm. Odd and even house numbers water on odd and even calendar days.
- Water conserving planters are used in a variety of areas in town. These planters have reservoirs that bottom feed the plants.
- The Spray Park grey water is stored and used for irrigation at Centennial Park.



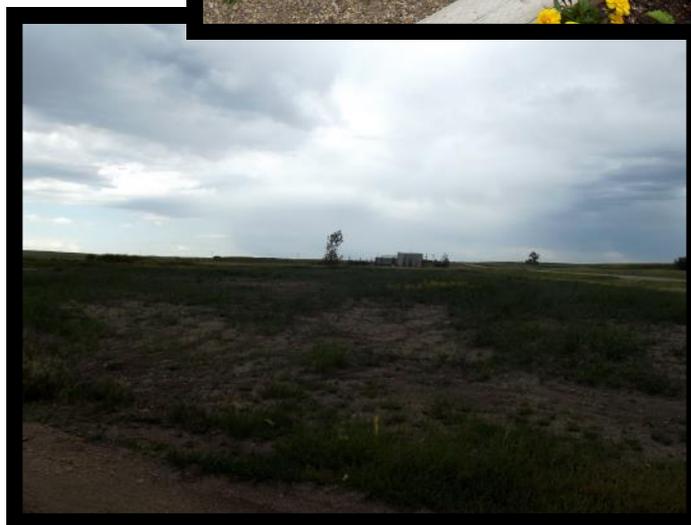


# ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION



## Land Reclamation

- One ongoing project is the Community Garden, located on a former abandoned lot in the Heritage District downtown. Last year saw the addition of two small raised beds along the back fence. These were made with reclaimed wood. There are plans for composting bins along the back fence. This project is still going strong.
- The town's former Public Works shop and maintenance compound site is undergoing reclamation work. Plans are in place to turn it from a gravelled yard with abandoned buildings into a new green-space with grass and greenery all around.
- Finally, the Town of Maple Creek, and CiB, is hoping to reclaim and develop a former Imperial Oil brownfield that is very near the main entrance to the town off the Trans Canada Highway. It is planned to be community garden with picnicking areas as a welcome to greet seasonal visitors that pass through on their way to the Cypress Hills to stop and enjoy Maple Creek. This location has our electronic sign.



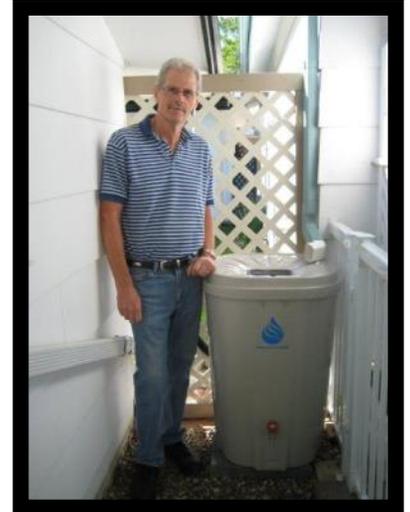


# ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION



## Rain Barrel Rebate Program

- The Town of Maple Creek offers a \$25 rebate to the first 5 households who purchase a rain barrel in Maple Creek and install it on their property, between May 1st and August 31st each year.
- They are asked to bring a receipt and photo of their installed rain barrel to the Visitor Centre as a thank-you from the Town and CiB for conserving water and caring about our community and environment.



## Public Works Vehicle Fleet Efficiency

- The Town of Maple Creek is proactively replacing its older vehicles with newer, more efficient ones in an effort to save on both fuel costs and greenhouse gas emissions. 2012 saw the purchase of a new pick-up truck for the Parks & Recreation crew alongside the retiring of an older truck.

## CiB Beverage Container Drop-Off Bin

- Citizens who come to SARCAN after hours can still drop off their beverage containers, and support two worthwhile causes at once.
- CiB has partnered with Maple Creek and District Opportunities Vocational Services to provide a collection bin on the SARCAN lot. Proceeds from returns are split between the two organizations.
- This lovely bin was decorated by volunteers from the Healing Lodge.





# ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION



## Bags in Bloom Program:

- Bags in Bloom is a fundraising program for CiB that encourages shoppers to undertake environmentally friendly practices such as using reusable grocery bags to reduce the number of plastic bags going to the landfill.
- Anytime a shopper brings their reusable grocery bag to the Coop Food Store, the Coop donates 5cents to Communities in Bloom.
- In 2014 we raised \$800 which was used to purchase benches for the Community Garden.



## Other Environmentally Friendly Initiatives

- Xeriscaping is very popular among residents, businesses and institutions which helps conserve water.
- The Cypress Credit Union promotes e-statements to reduce the amount of paper statements.
- The SW Sask Oldtimers' Museum hosts an annual garage sale to raise funds for the restoration of their log cabin, also encouraging residents and businesses to reduce, reuse and recycle.
- The Salvation Army Thrift Store has beautified their establishment with the addition of several planters and a large flower bed where they grow their own food for the food bank.
- The Committee is in the process of purchasing Solar Lights for the Maple Creek Welcome Sign.





# HERITAGE CONSERVATION

## The Maple Creek Main Street Program

- Maple Creek was one of the four pilot communities selected for the Main Street Saskatchewan Demonstration program; a heritage led downtown revitalization program. Over the course of the four year pilot program (2012-2015), Maple Creek undertook heritage conservation work on 13 historic buildings within the Maple Creek Heritage District. The work ranged from replacing windows and re-painting to major façade replacements and masonry repairs.
- As a result of the success of the pilot program, the Main Street Saskatchewan Program was made a regular program of the Province and has been expanded to include other new communities across Saskatchewan. Maple Creek still participates in the program as an "Accredited" level community.



## Maple Creek Heritage District

- The Maple Creek Heritage District was designated by the Town of Maple Creek in 2009. At the time it was one of only two recognized heritage districts in Saskatchewan, and the only one in a rural community.
- The area encompassed by the Maple Creek Heritage District is identified on the Town of Maple Creek map at the front of this booklet.
- Commercial heritage buildings within the Maple Creek Heritage District are also eligible for the Town of Maple Creek Heritage Conservation Incentive Program which provides tax credits to heritage property owners who undertake conservation work on their buildings. Maple Creek was the first community in Saskatchewan outside of Saskatoon & Regina to offer a program of this nature, and the only community of its size on the prairies to offer a tax incentive for heritage conservation.





## **Maple Creek Heritage Advisory Committee**

- The Town of Maple Creek has had a MHAC since 2008. The MHAC advises Mayor & Council on all matters related to heritage conservation within the Town of Maple Creek, including; the designation and maintenance of Municipal Heritage Property, the administration of the Maple Creek Heritage District, place naming, community celebrations, and more.
- The committee is comprised of representatives from the Town of Maple Creek, the R.M. of Maple Creek, the Maple Creek Chamber of Commerce, the Jasper Cultural & Historical Centre, the S.W. Sask. Oldtimers' Museum, heritage property owners, local historians, building contractors, tourism operators, and educators.

## **Historic Walking Tours**

- The Maple Creek Visitor Centre offers a self-guided historic walking tour of the Maple Creek Heritage District.
- In 2016 the Visitor Centre launched a heritage appreciation school group program offered at the Maple Creek Cemetery.

## **Heritage & Main Street Program Awards**

- Saskatchewan Municipal Awards of Excellence - Heritage Conservation Excellence - 2012.
- Canadian Institute of Planners Award of Merit for Rural/Small Town Planning - Maple Creek Heritage District Implementation Plan - 2014.
- Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan Heritage Architecture Excellence Award - Maple Creek Main Street Program - 2015.
- Maple Creek Community Awards of Excellence - Maple Creek Main Street Program - 2016.
- Saskatchewan Economic Development Association - Economic Development Initiative of the Year - Maple Creek Main Street Program - 2016.





## Heritage Festivals & Celebrations

July 21st & 22nd, 2016 was the Annual Maple Creek Heritage Festival. As in previous years, the festival honoured and celebrated the history of Maple Creek and its residents, including honouring our local Centenarians and Century Farm Award recipients, as well as Pow Wow dancing by members of the Nekaneet First Nation, crafts and food from the Cypress Hills Métis Cultural & Resource Centre, vintage vehicle and tractor displays, wagon rides, and demonstrations of heritage craft techniques, such as pottery throwing, rug making, and more. There were activities, food, and entertainment all day in the downtown Heritage District for everyone to enjoy.



## Rodeos

Cowtown Productions Bull Riding, the Maple Creek Ranch Rodeo, and the Murraydale Stampede & Picnic are all opportunities to watch real cowboys strut their stuff.

Cowtown Productions hosts a bull riding event and new in 2018 is an Indian Relay Race.

The Maple Creek Ranch Rodeo, on the other hand, showcases competitions outside of the rodeo norm, all based on traditional ranch work. There you'll see timed team events like roping, branding, herding, doctoring, even wild cow milking!

The Murraydale Stampede & Picnic, another traditional rodeo, celebrating its 110th year; it's the longest running rodeo in Canada.

## Museums

Maple Creek has two heritage museums. The Southwest Saskatchewan Oldtimers' Museum focuses on preserving and presenting artifacts from the 1880s to the 1930s, while the Jasper Cultural & Historical Centre focuses on elements of the 1930s onward.

The Oldtimers' Museum is currently in the process of expanding their facility with a new log building, and currently undergoing landscaping of the front lawn to be more in line with the original appearance of the museum, but including sections on native and early settler-introduced plants, such as grasses, shrubs, medicinal and other useful species.





## Heritage-Themed Events

- The Maple Creek Multicultural Mosaic, showcases the richness and diversity of Maple Creek's cultural community, both old and new. It's one way of welcoming newcomers to our town, and it provides a great learning opportunity for everyone.
- There are horse shows and 4-H competitions throughout the year, especially in spring and summer.
- The Nekaneet First Nation hosts a Pow Wow every year, which is a wonderful event to attend.
- The Battle of The Little Big Puck, an annual charity hockey game, is a long-standing, tradition. The teams are Cowboys vs. Indians, the referees are local RCMP officers, and in the third period, everyone dons traditional attire, including cowboy hats and chaps, headdresses, and the red serge.



Other events worth mentioning include: Maple Creek Mustering, the S.W. Sask. Oldtimers' Association Round-Up Banquet and Dance, Cowboy Christmas in downtown Maple Creek, Creek Classics Car Shows, Taste of Maple Creek, Farmers Market on Fridays May to October.





## **Building Conservation and Renovation**

The community of Maple Creek is heavily invested in heritage building conservation. Between 2012 & 2015 there was \$2,066,704.61 invested in conservation work on 13 heritage buildings within the Maple Creek Heritage District alone. This was in addition to the \$98,589.77 that was invested in conservation work on the 1914 Maple Creek Armoury in 2014 and the conservation work undertaken privately by the owners of various historic homes within the community.

Prior to the establishment of the Maple Creek Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) in 2008, the Town of Maple Creek only had two formally designated Municipal Heritage Properties protected under the Saskatchewan Heritage Property Act (Saint Mary's Anglican Church & the W.R. Orr Building). Since then, the MHAC has since successfully recommended to Mayor & Council the formal designation of an additional six properties (Jasper Cultural & Historical Centre, 1935 Log Museum, C.M. Glascock Building, Commercial Hotel, Broken Spoke Fine Art Gallery, and the Maple Creek Armoury). All of these properties have either undergone or are currently undergoing conservation work.

2016 saw the following work being undertaken to heritage buildings:

- ***Broken Spoke Fine Art Gallery:*** Parapet repairs, major masonry repairs, the installation of period reproduction wood windows.
- ***Saint Mary's Anglican Church:*** Fieldstone foundation masonry repairs.
- ***Jasper Cultural & Historical Centre:*** Major masonry repairs.
- ***1935 Log Museum:*** Installation of cedar shingles.
- ***C.M. Glascock Building:*** Roof repairs.
- ***Maple Creek Armoury:*** Roof and soffit repairs.
- ***Luxito & Co.:*** Engineering report & building stabilization work.
- ***Star Café & Grill:*** Masonry repairs.
- ***Country Lane Kitchens:*** Canopy repair and repainting.





## Being the Old Cowtown

There is a great deal of effort that has gone into promoting Maple Creek as the “Old Cowtown. The Town of Maple Creek has made this the focus and theme of its downtown urban furniture and infrastructure. One key element was using the colour black as a unifying feature, the inspiration for which was taken from the distinctive black cornice along the top of the Post Office, a prominent building in the downtown Heritage District. Special signage for the Heritage District, a number of murals depicting elements of western life, including a brand-new one created and installed this year on the side of the Salvation Army Thrift Store, along with the heritage silhouettes that appear on waste receptacles, archways, advertising signs, and town publications (including this one!), are all intended to welcome visitors to enter the Old Cowtown and experience the history that lives here. Maple Creek won the distinction of “Canada’s Greatest Western Town” in 2014, beating out over 30 other communities in an online competition.



## Aboriginal Heritage

An important part of the history of this region is the First Nations people who have lived here for millennia. There have been a number of local initiatives to conserve and celebrate that history and culture in and around Maple Creek. One such example is the creation of the Cypress Hills Métis Cultural & Resource Centre, operating out of the C.M. Glascock building in partnership with the S.W. Sask. Oldtimers’ Museum. Another initiative that begun in 2011, also with the S.W. Sask. Oldtimers’ Museum collaborating with the Nekaneet First Nation: the Nekaneet Pow Wow Regalia project, which brought Elders, artisans, and families together to create new pow wow regalia for the next generation of dancers to use, and thereby participate. Nekaneet Band members also graciously allow the Oldtimers’ Museum to display on-loan vintage pow wow regalia no longer in use. In 2016 the Town of Maple Creek renamed a street “Nekaneet Drive” to commemorate the longstanding relationship between the Town of Maple Creek and Nekaneet First Nations.





# URBAN FORESTRY



*“The Town of Maple Creek has a substantial urban forest consisting of street trees. This urban forest provides a number of benefits to the Town besides the visual amenity. The street trees provide the town with shelter from winds, and they also act as a natural energy conservation method by reducing passive solar heating during the summer months.”*

- from the Town of Maple Creek Official Community Plan

## Boulevard Tree Replacement Program

- Every year the Town of Maple Creek provides a limited number of new trees for residents to plant on their boulevards. These local citizens are provided with instructions on the planting, care, and maintenance of the tree they install, and are encouraged to take ownership of the tree’s well-being.
- A selection of species is offered to encourage biodiversity, not only to protect the tree canopy from wide-spread disease or insect infestation, but to provide food and shelter to a wider range of species, making our ecosystem stronger.



## Insect and Disease Monitoring

- As part of the regular care and maintenance of Maple Creek’s urban forest includes contracting biologists to inspect and monitor the town’s trees for evidence of Dutch Elm Disease or Spruce Bud Worm, both of which can have terrible consequences if left unchecked.
- The potential for these conditions to spread prohibits the chipping of any elm wood, or any diseased or infected wood, through the Municipal Mulching Program, in an effort to contain and control such potential issues.





## Tree Pruning and Tree Pruning Education

- The Town of Maple Creek has undertaken a comprehensive tree pruning program that contracts a professional tree-pruning service, such as an arborist or other trained and experienced crews, to maintain the canopy on a rotating system.
- This schedule allows every tree in town to be addressed at least once every four years.
- The Parks & Recreation crew handles minor or emergency pruning needs throughout the year, supplemented by training courses offered by the Town.
- For the last few years, workshops have been held to train residents on proper pruning techniques as part of the spring CiB Workshops. .

## Heritage Trees and Shrubs

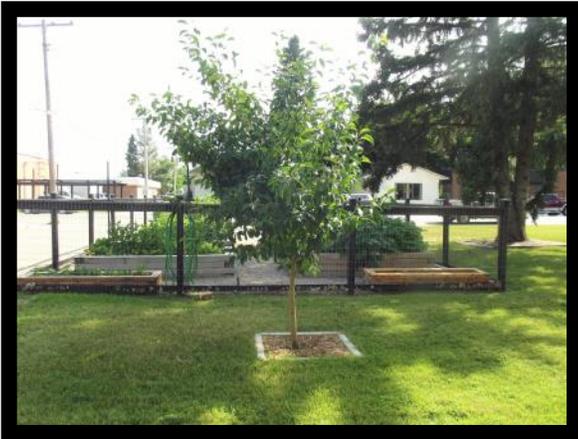
- The CiB Committee looks at urban forestry as, in part, a heritage conservation initiative, and therefore is working to reintroduce trees and green space into areas of the community where they had existed historically.
- The Land of Living Skies Park, located along Pacific Avenue in the very location a formal park created by the Canadian Pacific Railway used to be.
- The Post Office Pocket Park greenspace is being reintroduced where a lovely grassy yard once was.
- The Oldtimers' Museum landscape plans include elements of the original lawn, as well as historically collected and cultivated plant species.
- There have been surveys of the community's trees in an attempt to find the oldest living tree in Maple Creek. This is being done primarily by trunk diameter, as records of original plantings are scarce.





## **Communities in Bloom Urban Forestry Initiatives**

- In 2014 the CiB theme for the year was “Trees, Glorious Trees!” in order to raise awareness of urban forestry. This included a special youth program related to studying and visiting trees.
- The Community Garden has planted an apple tree.



## **Businesses & Institutions**

- The Rockin’ Horse Cookhouse and Bar sells small cedar trees at Christmas Time for \$10 with all proceeds going to the New Hospital Equipment Fund.
- The Credit Union Pocket Park has planted different varieties of ornamental trees in the last two years.





## Xeriscaping

- For a community located in Palliser's Triangle, and often afflicted by drought conditions, xeriscaping has been a logical and popular choice for Maple Creek's residents and the municipality itself when it comes to landscaping green spaces.
- The Land of Living Skies Park and Centennial Park have employed xeriscaping elements in their design and care. Both the 2011 and 2013 Workshop Series offered courses on xeriscaping to interested residents, and were both very popular workshops.



Noia Sanderson and Dale Chant work in the Community Garden July 12. NEWS PHOTOS MEGAN CHAMNEY

## CiB Landscaping Initiatives

- The Community Garden continued its expansion in 2014 with the addition of four new raised beds, bringing the total up to 10, all available for sign-up to residents for only \$25 a season. Benches have been installed for the Community Garden as a place for people to come and sit to enjoy their lunch surrounded by the greenery.
- The Post Office Pocket Park had concrete poured under the pergola. This was an exciting development, as it opened up another shaded greenspace in the downtown core for anyone to use and enjoy.





## **Community Walking Trail**

- In 2007, the Maple Creek Trail Development Committee initiated this walking trail that stretches 3km around the southern and western perimeters of town and through the downtown, linking all of the public parks and greenspaces.
- The trail follows the natural contours of the landscape to allow users to feel as though they are part of their surroundings, and passes through naturalized areas featuring wildflowers and native shrubs.



## **Maintenance Standards and Personnel**

- The Town of Maple Creek's Parks & Recreation Manager has 15 years of experience in parks management.
- He and his crew have been instrumental in both maintaining and improving Maple Creek's public spaces, and have been implementing new standards for greenspace management and care, much to the benefit of all who use and visit the land and facilities.
- This includes mowing, irrigating, fertilizing, mulching, tree planting, pruning, reseeding grass, and weed control.

## **Hardscaping and Streetscaping**



- Inspired by the black cornice of the Maple Creek Post Office, an iconic heritage building, the CiB Committee adopted the colour black as its project accent and community branding colour.
- Throughout Maple Creek, the urban furniture and streetscape is full of western-themed elements, and the colour black is present throughout to tie the appearance all together.
- The Town has fully embraced this as part of its Main Street Program and Heritage District, including black and white colour-schemes throughout downtown on waste receptacles, wayfinding signs, banners, street signs, even the Town of Maple Creek website and tourism publications, as well as future plans for new developments to follow suit.





# FLORAL DISPLAYS



## Adopt-a-Barrel Program

- An initiative that is now nine-years-running is our Adopt-a-Barrel program, where businesses and institutions sponsor whiskey barrel planters with floral arrangements that are displayed in front of their stores.
- The businesses take responsibility for watering and maintaining their barrel over the summer, and may have them decorated for winter as well, using juniper, willow, spruce, and festive ribbons.
- Planters compliment both the Town's hanging baskets in summer and its illuminated Christmas decorations in winter.
- Not only does this beautify the downtown core of Maple Creek, no matter the season, it also offers business owners and managers an easy and simple way of supporting Communities in Bloom.





## High School Planting Bees

- As in previous years, Home Economics students from the local high school helped Communities in Bloom by planting the whiskey barrel planters for the Adopt-a-Barrel program.
- It is hoped that this will foster community pride in the students and an interest in the environment around them, in planting or gardening, and in the goals and ideas CiB promotes.



## Diversity of Planters and Plants

- Planter types and plants throughout the community vary according to scale and location in order to maximize efficiency, conserve water, and still offer stunning flowers for all to enjoy.
- The Town Hall and Cenotaph are in-ground beds, largely filled with perennial plants supplemented with annuals.
- The hanging baskets in the Heritage District are water conserving, and filled with hardy wave petunias.
- The Land of Living Skies Park boasts highly water-efficient “Desert” planters, filled with a variety of shade- and sun-loving annuals, depending on their proximity to trees.





## Flower of the Year

- This year the committee decided that the flower of the year would be Rudbeckia Sonora.
- The flower is announced at the Annual Soirée in January.
- The Rudbeckia's can be seen in the town's whiskey barrel planters.



## Garden Tour

- The Annual Garden Tour is always filled with a variety of different floral displays.
- The Garden Tour gives gardeners a chance to showcase their yard, as well as for gardeners to view other yards and take home new ideas.
- This past year we had just under 60 registrants for the Garden Tour which is more than any other year.





## Communities in Bloom 2017 Photo Contest

- In 2014, the CiB Committee had calendars made consisting of beautiful floral displays and landscapes from around town and sold them as a fundraiser during the Cowboy Poetry Western Art & Gear Show.
- As the calendars sold out we decided in 2015 to do another calendar for 2016 which brought up the idea for a Communities in Bloom Photo Contest! From March to the end of July 2015 residents could enter photos to the contest depicting one of the six categories with the winning photos to be featured in the 2016 calendar.
- We received over 100 photos for the 2015 contest. Residents voted for their favorites during the month of August 2015 while the photos were on display at the C.M. Glascock Building.
- In 2017 another photo contest was held with around 130 entries. Winning entries were featured in the 2018 CiB Calendar.





# VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION



The volunteers who work with Communities in Bloom in Maple Creek are many and diverse people. Some are members of our Steering Committee, and the work they do is both vital and greatly appreciated. Others are local businesses and institutions who support the goals and initiatives of CiB through financial support, in-kind support, or just through the actions of their day-to-day business operations. Finally, there are individuals and families who live and work here in Maple Creek, and who do their part in making their properties, as well as the whole town, more beautiful for everyone.

Here are a few of the ways we recognize and thank those people who make all these projects possible through their hard work and cheerful determination.

## Personal Thank-Yous

One of the ways we thank people for participating in CiB initiatives — sometimes without them even realizing it — is by giving them personal and personalized thank-you cards. These cards are written up and hand-delivered by the Project Coordinator, to make sure no one is missed.

Each card highlights the area in which the individual or organization has excelled and why their work is so appreciated. For example, a resident whose property always looks neat, tidy, and beautiful may get noticed by a member of the Steering Committee, who then asks that a thank-you get passed along; after all, they are contributing to the overall appearance of their neighbourhood and the community.

Businesses who participate in promotional projects such as this year's Tidiness Campaign have received thank-yous, as well as institutions who put out floral displays on their own initiative or can regularly be found sweeping their sidewalks and cleaning their public space. These people, although perhaps not "volunteers" in the usual sense, are so important to the success of a program like Communities in Bloom, that we want to make sure they know their efforts are appreciated, and their hard work is not going unnoticed.



## Public spaces tidied up during CiB's Earth Week Spring Clean-Up

Submitted

The annual Maple Creek CiB Earth Week Public Realm Spring Clean-Up ran April 21st to April 29th, 2018.

The objective of the event is to rally community groups, businesses and residents around gearing up for the summer so that Maple Creek makes the best first impression possible on our spring & summer traffic.

Each year approximately 300,000 visitors pass through Maple Creek as part of the Cypress Hills Destination Area, and first impressions play a significant role in visitors' decisions to stop, explore and spend money in our community.

Tourism Saskatchewan's latest statistical analysis of the tourism industry in the Province shows that tourism in our area injects approximately 30 million dollars into the region's economy. Tourism Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Economic Development Association also both identify first impressions as being critical to business success.

As the international standard for defining a 'tourist' is anyone

who travels more than 40kms from home for any reason, many of our regular customers here in Maple Creek are technically tourists. Given that they are already traveling 40kms to shop in Maple Creek, these customers could have just as easily travelled to the next community over.

Hospitality and professional/welcoming first impressions are therefore key to all sectors, not just tourism.

As the objective of the Maple Creek CiB Steering Committee is to elevate Maple Creek's appeal as a place to visit, to live and to do business, first impressions campaigns are an important part of the CiB program.

Each year CiB sponsors the Earth Week Public Domain Spring Clean-Up, the "5 for 5" program (which encourages 5 minutes of tidying around one's property 5 days a week), and more quirky programs like the "Wascally Weeds - Wanted Dead or Alive" weed eradication program, or "Company's a' Comin' - Best Tidy Up!".

This year five community organizations and one business registered their CiB Earth Week Public Domain Spring



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Volunteers from the Maple Creek Lutheran Church enjoy beef & beans at the CiB Earth Week Public Domain Spring Clean-Up volunteer appreciation event at the C.M. Glascock Building on Saturday April 28th, 2018.

Clean-Up efforts with the Visitor Centre: the Anglican Church, the Lutheran Church, the Assembly of God, the Art House, CiB/Trail Committee, and the S.W. Sask. Oldtimers' Museum. Although this was down from previous years, these six registered clean-up initiatives represented 30 individuals who pitched-in to help tidy up public spaces within the community. These individuals were invited by the CiB

Steering Committee to a complimentary roast beef and beans appreciation event at the C.M. Glascock Building on April 28th, 2018 catered by Howard's Bakery. Thank you to all the businesses, groups and individuals who participated in this year's spring clean-up and for contributing to making Maple Creek a more appealing place to visit, to live and to do business!

*Wildflower Acres Gallery, Gift Barn & Market Garden*

**Season Opening May 5th**  
Spring has arrived!  
Antiques, Collectibles, Stained Glass, Barn Wood Furniture ... so much more!

The gallery and gift barn are filled with new treasures for every room and generation in your household!

**FREE Cookies/Coffee/Tea**

NEW Hours: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm everyday!  
Located: 1.5 km south of Maple Creek on Hwy #21  
306-661-8551

## The Newspaper and Social Media

Every time there is a big CiB-related event, our social media platforms are buzzing, both before and after. Usually, there are reminders that the event is upcoming, is on, and is over, as well as thank-yous to the many volunteers and participants who make these things possible. Sometimes, there are photographs shared as well, so others can see who was involved in making these great events happen.

More traditionally, the Maple Creek Advanced Times and News and The Gull Lake Advance are local papers. These are a major source of support for CiB, as well as one of the ways we say "thank you" to our many helpers. CiB initiatives are often featured in articles in the papers, as well as through advertising promotions. Those involved in our projects are often named and pictured in the midst of their work for CiB, which we think is an excellent way of acknowledging and thanking them for their generosity.



## Communities in Bloom Soirée

This Annual Event is filled with wine & hors d'oeuvres, prizes, guest speakers, displays and more. Everyone in the community is invited including volunteers, businesses & institutions and residents. Guests have a chance to sign up to volunteer and see what Communities in Bloom is planning and what projects they are working on and have completed.

In 2017, the Soirée changed it up a little in honor of Canada 150 offering "Canadian Desserts".

In 2018, the Soirée was themed "Glitz & Glory" celebrating the National Win.



# 2017 HIGHLIGHTS



**Communities in Bloom Photo Contest 2017**



*Want your image featured in the 2018 CIB fundraiser calendar?*

Submit your image(s) by **May 31, 2017**  
 Images must be taken in the Maple Creek/Cypress Hills area  
 Images from all seasons are encouraged  
 Limit of 10 images per photographer  
 High resolution images can be emailed to [tourism@maplecreek.ca](mailto:tourism@maplecreek.ca) or dropped off at the Visitor Centre  
 Winners will receive a complimentary calendar




**Communities in Bloom Garden Tour**

**Community Garden**

NEWS PHOTO SEAN MCINTOSH  
 Laura White works in the Maple Creek community garden behind the RCMP detachment on a Sunday morning.




[www.brydenconstructionandtransport.ca](http://www.brydenconstructionandtransport.ca)



**TWINKLE TOUR**  
 (Guided Christmas Light Bus Tour)  
**DECEMBER 14TH**

Advance Tickets @ Visitor Centre  
 (Any remaining tickets available that night)  
 \$5.00 per person  
 Limit of 20 per tour  
 Tours @ 6:30 pm & 7:30 pm  
 Bus Pick-up at The Shop Bakery & Deli

**2018 CIB CALENDARS**

Great Stocking Stuffers  
 \$10 each  
 Available @ Visitor Centre  
 Pharmasave, Lansdells  
 & Kelli Dee Floral






# 2017 HIGHLIGHTS



## Maple Creek tops the nation

Town wins its category for 2017 Communities In Bloom contest

**Facundo Rodriguez**  
frodriquez@maplecreeknews.com

Maple Creek is the winner of the up-to-4,500-population category at the Communities in Bloom competition.

Maple Creek received a 5 Blooms — Bronze rating and a special mention for Innovative Landfill Site during the 2017 National/International Symposium and Awards Ceremonies in Ottawa-Gatineau.

The Town of Maple Creek competed against Bruderheim Alta., Hanna, Alta., Merrickville-Wolford, Ont., Valhalla Centre, Alta. and Windsor, N.S.

This is the first time Maple Creek won an award at the national level, previously having won at the provincial level. Although winning an award at the provincial level is an impressive achievement in itself, economic development officer Royce Pettyjohn says winning on the national scale is tremendous.

"We were quite shocked and over the moon with the results," he said. "We were competing against other communities of our size across the country; we weren't sure we would win so hearing the announcement over the weekend in Ottawa is overwhelming."

Over the summer, trained volunteer judges travelled to participating communities to evaluate the overall contributions of municipal council and departments; industry; busi-



**SUBMITTED PHOTOS**  
**Left:** Communities in Bloom Steering Committee members Judy Renas, Nola Sanderson and Sally Chant accepting the national award at a ceremony in Ottawa on Saturday.

**Below:** The National Awards are offered each year by the National Capital Commission. All are identical, created from granite extracted from the Canadian Shield in Quebec. Each piece of granite is carefully selected from the NCC's inventory for the Confederation Boulevard ceremonial esplanade that encircles the heart of the Capital Region, the core of Ottawa-Gatineau.

nesses and the private sector — including volunteer efforts — in regards to the following criteria: Tidiness, Environmental Action, Heritage Conservation, Urban Forestry, Landscape and Floral Displays.

Each year the judges choose a particular element of the community in their judging visit that stands out and deserves special recognition. In the past, Maple Creek had received special recognition for work done in the Heritage District. This year the judges chose to recognize the innovative work the town is doing for the landfill. Following their evaluation of the town landfill, volunteer judges Lucy Chang and Louise Dumouchel spoke highly of the improvements made.

"The Town of Maple Creek's landfill has undergone such a transformation that it has been selected as The Business of the

Month by the business sector," they said. "Under the diligent and committed care of the new caretaker, the landfill presents a pristine business front with neat compartments of sorted garbage and a friendly entrance with potted plants, birdhouses atop fence posts, recycled ornaments, a tempting 3-hole golf course, and seasonal lighting," they said.

Pettyjohn says all members of the community should be proud of these results.

"Members of the community need to congratulate themselves and feel pride in the accomplishments," he said. "It takes the participation of every resident, every business and every non-profit organization in the community to win a national award like this."

One of the things that stood out this year to the judges was the aftermath of the Maple

Creek Heritage Festival. Judges were curious as to what the town would look like after such a huge celebration and were very pleased to see not a single item of litter on the ground.

"I think this speaks to the level of respect people have for the community and the pride that they feel for their hometown," said Pettyjohn. "It also shows the fact that businesses themselves are actively engaged in the Communities in Bloom Five for Five program, which encourages people to do five minutes of tidying around their properties five days a week."

The victory for the town brings not only physical trophies but as well Canada-wide recognition, which in turn brings more tourism.

"Thanks to our great community of Maple Creek, we are bringing home the hardware," said Nola Sanderson with the



Maple Creek Communities in Bloom committee. "(We want) to let everyone know how important this is, it's like the Stanley Cup of competitive gardening."

