



**MAPLE CREEK  
COMMUNITY PROFILE  
2019**



# General Information

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

# 2019 Steering Committee

Gillian Moch	Chair	Community Development	Town of Maple Creek
Royce Pettyjohn	Chair	Community Development	Town of Maple Creek
Diane Moss	Treasurer	Chief Administrative Officer	Town of Maple Creek
Elaine 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		Town Councillor
Anne Weisgerber	Member		
Genene Kimber-Zinger	Member		
Carol Bremner	Member		
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 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

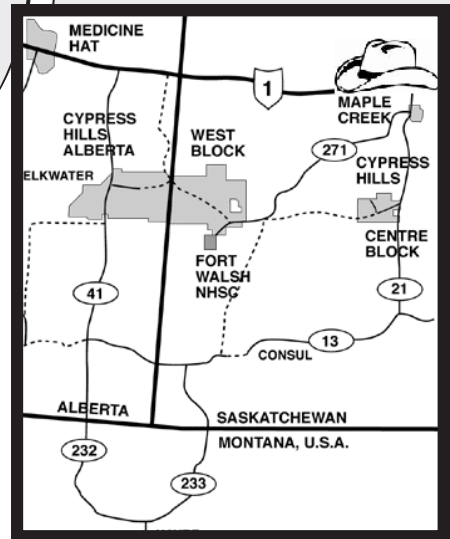
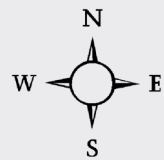
[www.facebook.com/maplecreekinbloom](http://www.facebook.com/maplecreekinbloom)





# MAPLE CREEK

WHERE PAST IS PRESENT



- |                                 |                                    |   |   |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>P</b> Visitor Centre         | <b>1</b> Town Hall                 | <b>9</b> Ball Diamonds  | <b>17</b> Southwest Oldtimers Museum            |
| <b>R</b> Restaurant             | <b>2</b> Post Office               | <b>10</b> Maple Creek Veterinarian                                  | <b>18</b> Jasper Cultural and Historical Centre |
| <b>C</b> Camping                | <b>3</b> Armoury                   | <b>11</b> Swimming Pool   | <b>T</b> Old Cowtown Heritage District          |
| <b>A</b> Accommodation          | <b>4</b> Elks Hall                 | <b>12</b> Skating Rink  | <b>---</b> Walking Trail                        |
| <b>G</b> Gas                    | <b>5</b> Legion Hall               | <b>13</b> Golf and Curling Club                                     |   |
| <b>S</b> Groceries and Supplies | <b>6</b> Senior Citizens Centre    | <b>14</b> Lions Park  |   |
| <b>H</b> Hospital               | <b>7</b> Rural Municipality Office | <b>15</b> Centennial Park<br>(Skatepark, Tennis Courts, Playground) |   |
| <b>P</b> Parking                | <b>8</b> Agricultural Grounds      | <b>16</b> 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 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.

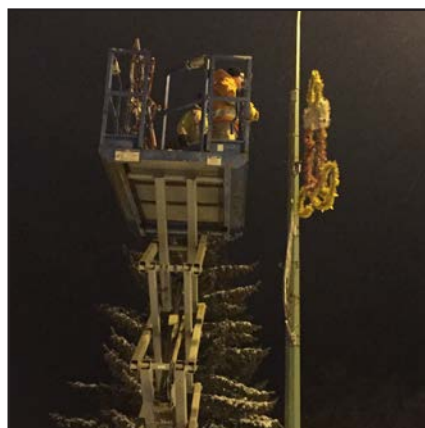
The Public Works Crew also assists CiB in various projects such as levelling grounds, hauling large materials, street sweeping, and hang our downtown Christmas lights!

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

This year an estimated 72 individuals and 10 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 one who registers for the clean-up is invited to the CiB Volunteer Appreciation on the Saturday of that week. For 2019, the committee decided to change up the day of the week hoping for a stronger turn out of volunteers, it worked! We had so many attend the Pizza Party that we had to order additional pizzas. In all 16 pizzas were devoured by volunteers!



# 5 for 5 Initiative

The slogan stands for "Five minutes for Five 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 and 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!

This year, the committee arranged for the winners of 2018 to select the monthly winners. The winning business must demonstrate excellence in all CiB categories, particularly tidiness.



The winners receive a sticker for the window naming them 'Business of the Month'. They are also recognized in our local newspaper, on CiB social media, and at the annual CiB Soirée along with our Yard of the Week winners, CiB Committee Members and other CiB volunteers.





## Yard of the Week

In 2011, the CiB Committee initiated the Block and 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.



CiB Yard of the Week  
is sponsored by the  
Maple Creek News



## CiB YARD OF THE WEEK

*Each week through July & August the CiB Steering Committee highlights the yards of local residents that present a positive first impression of our community and/or that represent excellent work in one or more of the CiB program areas of Tidiness, Environmental Action, Landscaping, Heritage Conservation, Urban Forestry, & Floral Displays.*

*This summer, the CiB Yards of the Week are being selected by previous years' winners.*

**WEEK #1 - 313 Marsh Street - The perfection of this front yard leaves a lasting impression. The lawn is beautiful, shrubs and hedge neatly trimmed. A glimpse of the cozy, well treed backyard is just as neat. Lovely!**

## 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 and birdhouses have been 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.

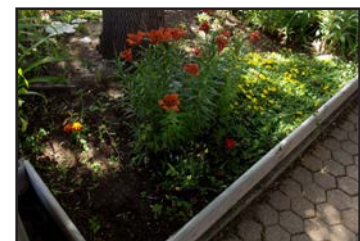
The Town of Maple Creek has a pet bylaw prohibiting pet owners from having more than two pets per household and ensures animals are not running around at large or causing harm to residents.

## Student Environmental Education and Participation

In 2011, Maple Creek Composite High 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 of 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 centre 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 and maintained by Kindergarten to Grade 3 students.





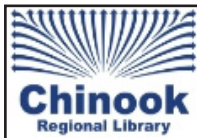


## CiB Workshop Series

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 and Xeriscaping, Planting and 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.



## CiB Spring Workshops

April 13 | @ the Library

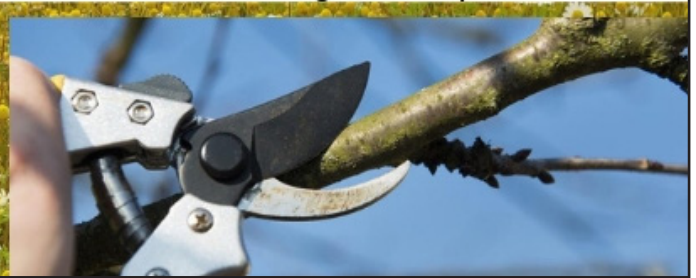
Register at the Visitor Centre, [tourism@maplecreek.ca](mailto:tourism@maplecreek.ca) or call 306-662-4005

Limited Seating | Two Sessions



Xeriscape Your Yard @ 10:00am

Pruning @ 1:30pm



## 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 Landfills 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 9:00am - 6:00pm. Odd and even house numbers water on odd and even calendar days respectively.

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. In 2017, the addition of two small raised beds were seen along the back fence. These beds were made with reclaimed wood. There are plans for composting bins along the back fence as well. 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 greenspace 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 five 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 being asking 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 and 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.

The Bags-in-Bloom program supports CiB initiatives throughout Maple Creek.



## Other Environmentally Friendly Initiatives

Xeriscaping is a very popular among residents, businesses and institutions which help conserve water.

The Cypress Credit Union promotes e-statements to reduce the amount of paper statements.

The SW Saskatchewan Oldtimer's 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 program (2012-2015), Maple Creek undertook heritage conservation work on thirteen 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 participated 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 and 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 and 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 and Historical Centre, the S.W. Saskatchewan Oldtimer's 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 and 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 and Celebrations

July 21 st and 22 nd, 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 Metis Cultural and 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, Maple Creek CCA Rodeo, and the Murrydale Stampede and Picnic are all opportunities to watch real cowboys strut their stuff.

Cowtown Productions hosts a bull riding and 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, and even wild cow milking!

The Murrydale Stampede and Picnic, another traditional rodeo, celebrating its 111th year, is 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 and Historical Centre focuses on elements of the 1930s onward.

The Oldtimes' Museum has expanded 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. Grand Re-opening to take place during 2019 Heritage Festival







# 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 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 (Cowboy Poetry)
- The SW Sask. Oldtimers’ Association Round-Up Banquet and Dance
- CowTown Christmas in Maple Creek’s Heritage District
- Creek Classics Show ‘n’ Shine
- 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 and 2015, there was \$2 066 704.61 invested in conservation work on thirteen 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 and the W.R. Orr Building). Since then, the MHAC has since successfully recommended to Mayor and Council, the formal designation of an additional six properties (Jasper Cultural and Historic 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 - 2018 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 and 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 and Co.:** Engineering report and building stabilization work.
- **Star Cafe and Grill:** Masonry repairs.
- **Country Lane Kitchens:** Canopy repair and repainting.
- **Cowtown Kids Toy & Candy:** Façade project.
- **South Country Building:** Façade project.





## 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 last 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 Metis Cultural and Resource Centre, operating out of the C.M. Glascock building in partnership with the S.W. Saskatchewan Oldtimers' Museum.

Another initiative that began in 2011, also with the S.W. Saskatchewan 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 generations 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 arbourist 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 and 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

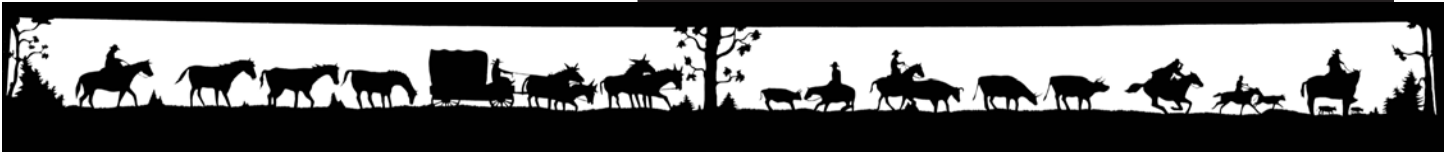
The CiB Committee looks at urban forestry as, in part, a heritage conservation initiative, and therefore is working to reintroduce trees and green space into areas of the community where they had existed historically.

The Land of the 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 plants.

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 since planted an apple tree.



# Businesses and Institutions

The Rockin' Horse Cookhouse and Bar sells small cedar trees at Christmas Time for \$10.00 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 three years.





# Xeriscaping

For a community located in Palliser's Triangle, 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 the Living Skies Park and Centennial Park have employed xeriscaping elements in their design and care. In 2011, 2013 and 2019 Workshop Series offered courses on xeriscaping to interested residents, and were both very popular workshops.



# CiB Landscaping Initiatives

The Community Garden continued its expansion in 2014 with the addition of four new raised-beds, bringing the total up to ten, all available for sign-up to residents for only \$25.00 a season. Benches have 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.





## Communtiy 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 suuroundings, and passes through naturalized areas featuring wildflowers and native shrubs.



## Maintenance Standards and Personnel

Up until June of 2018, the Town of Maple Creek's Parks & Recreation Manager has 15 years of experience in park management. Currently, the Town's Parks crew is well trained and is maintaining and improving Maple Creek's public spaces. New standards for greenspace management and care benefit all who use and visit the land and facilities.

This includes moving, 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 Committtee adopted the colour black as its project accent and community branding colour.

Throughout Maple Creek, the urban furntiure 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



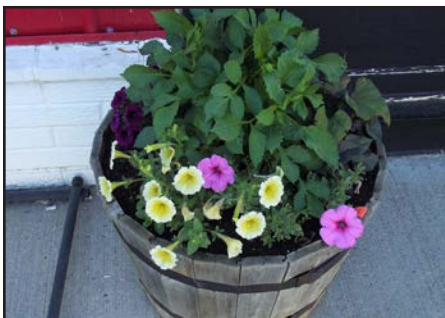
## Adopt-A-Barrel Program

An initiative that is now a decade 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 the 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 the Snap Tini.

The flower is announced at the Annual Soiree in January.

The Snap Tini can be seen in some of the Town's whiskey barrel planters.



# Garden Tour - Cemetery 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.

In the summer of 2017, we had just under 60 registrants for the Garden Tour which is more than any other year.

The garden tour was replaced with a cemetery tour & strawberry social in July 2018. It was a partnership with a local museum and was a great success. The next cemetery tour will be held on July 28th, 2019.





# Communities in Bloom 2018 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 and 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 until 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 favourites 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 approximately 130 entries. Winning entries were featured in the 2018 CiB Calendar. Photo Contest continues in 2019.





# 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.

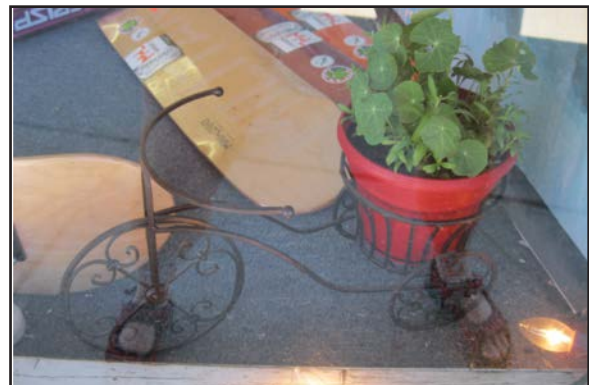
Here are a few of the ways we recognize and thank those people who make all these projects possible through their hard work and cheerful determination.

## 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 neighborhood 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.





# 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 Soiree

This Annual Event is filled with wine and hors d'oeuvres, prizes, guest speakers, displays, and more. Everyone in the community is invited including volunteers, businesses and 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 2018, the Soiree was themed "Glitz and Glory" celebrating the National Win.

In 2019, the committee partnered with the local art club who unveiled the flower of the year on canvas.

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**EARTH WEEK: Volunteers give Maple Creek a smarter look**

**spring clean-up**

The Maple Creek Communities in Bloom Steering Committee hosted their annual Earth Week Spring Clean Up volunteer appreciation pizza party between 5pm and 6:30pm on Thursday April 25. This year 72 individual volunteers were registered with the Visitor Centre for public realm clean up efforts undertaken by 10 different community organizations. Businesses, community groups, or individuals who undertake public realm clean up projects (around businesses, back alleys, parks, halls, churches, ditches, etc.) during Earth Week, and who register their projects with the Visitor Centre, are invited each year by Communities in Bloom to the volunteer appreciation pizza party. The Soiree was at the C.M. Glascock Building where the event was held again this year was packed as hungry volunteers devoured a total of 10 pizzas!

The annual community spring clean up event sponsored by Communities in Bloom is an important first step each year in getting our community looking its best for the busy summer tourism season.

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS SUBMITTED





# 2018/2019 HIGHLIGHTS



**Thursday December 13th, 2018**  
 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

Communities in Bloom Collectivités en fleurs



## COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM 2019 SOIREE

# An evening of celebration

Marcus Day  
marcus@maplecreeknews.com

From the person picking up litter on a sidewalk to householders keeping their gardens pristine, from businesses sprucing up their facades to volunteers putting in extra hours ... all were thanked last week for making Maple Creek a great place to live and do business.

Plaudits, citations and awards were in full flow at last Thursday's Communities in Bloom 2019 Soirée, which brought more than 100 people to a brightly decorated Elks Hall.

One of the biggest rounds of applause was reserved for the Communities in Bloom Steering Committee.

Michelle McKenzie, the Mayor, invited committee members on stage to be recognized for outstanding volunteer commitment.

"This group works all year, from January to January," she said. "I want to give kudos to them for their hard work."

McKenzie mentioned several CiB programs: Yard of the Week, Business of the Month, and the Twinkle Tour.

"Have you ever seen a judge's handbook?" she said, "Have you ever gone through it, page by page by page."

McKenzie admitted she did not have a particularly green thumb.

"I can't even grow a cactus," she said.

Royce Pettyjohn, steering committee chairman, said Maple Creek could take pride in its successful participation in the CiB program.

Last year the town received a 5 Blooms-Bronze rating in the CiB Circle of Excellence with special recognition for "Downtown Retrofit and Tourism Promotion."

Pettyjohn said judges' comments had been very



**You've done us proud:** Michelle McKenzie honours Communities in Bloom Steering Committee members.

positive and encouraging about Maple Creek.

Guest speaker was western artist Gena LaCoste, who highlighted the influential women in her family. She also spoke more broadly about women's roles in helping to shape prairie communities. **See speech on Page 12.**

As each speaker was called to the podium, a slide show kept rolling on a big screen. It was filled with pictures celebrating Maple Creek's CiB success, including properties featured in the Twinkle Tour.

This year's soiree theme was "Colour Your Community." One of the highlights was a special exhibition, "It's a Beautiful World" by Maple Creek Art Club that took up a section of the hall. **See separate story on Page 2.**

Other features were the announcement of the "Flower of the Year" - the Snaptini - door prizes, light snacks, cup cakes and a cash bar, with beer and wine provided.

Nola Sanderson, steering committee member, called out the names of CiB photo contest winners: Doreen Brost, Charles Kuss, Kate Winquist and Lew

Bevan, whose photos were shown on the big screen.

"The contest was decided by people's choice," she said.

Sanderson told how much she enjoyed being on the CiB committee, adding: "It really is a pleasure."

Maple Creek has participated in the CiB Program for more than a decade. The program was developed in Canada and adopted around the world. It encourages work in Heritage Conservation, Tidiness, Environmental Action, Urban Forestry, Landscaping, Floral Displays and Community Involvement.



Marilyn Blythman

101 Maple Street  
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MORE PHOTOGRAPHS AND STORIES ON PAGE 12





# 2018/2019 HIGHLIGHTS



## COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM 2019 SOIREE



**Happy times:** (left) Dixie Black, Diane Moss and Winnie Leslie-Hanson; pictured **Outstanding professional:** Gillian Moch. **right are Jerry and Michelle McKenzie, the Mayor, pictured enjoying the evening.** **Winning photographer:** Charles Kuss.

# Saluting the women who transformed this "arid land"

**Marcus Day**  
marcus@maplecreeknews.com

"Who really settled the west? Wolfers, voyageurs, buffalo hunters, ranchers, railroaders, miners, trappers and traders? I don't think so."

In this way, western artist Gena LaCoste began her speech at last Thursday's Communities in Bloom Soirée.

She challenged the audience to imagine what the Palliser's Triangle - a semi-arid steppe occupying a large portion of Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba - would look like today without the skills and determination of women.

LaCoste told about her parents, born in the early 1920s, who were the "first generations of us Caucasians here in this arid land"; her dad grew up in Elkwater, her mum north of Bassano, Alberta.

She also spoke about her mum's mother, who raised five children on a rolling prairie at Makepeace through the "Dirty 30s."

It was a familiar story with familiar components: a trenched garden, twilight days of howling wind and dirt; shovelling sand out of the door; and plagues of hoppers.

Thankfully, her dad's family, being on the top of the Cypress Hills, had it easier.

Meanwhile, her dad's brother bought a place at Bassano.

"This brief history brings me to the point of this talk, which is to bear witness to the women in my family and their contribution to comfort, commerce and culture here on the Canadian prairies."

LaCoste, who was raised in Bassano, recalled how hard her mother and Aunt Shirley worked.

It was a lifestyle of milking cows, shipping cream, looking after chickens, tending huge gardens, doing the laundry and feeding men.



**In the frame:** Gena LaCoste (left) beside one of her oil paintings. Right is Ev Southwood, president of Maple Creek Art Club.

"What we grew included peas, beans, corn, potatoes, carrots, turnips, beets, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, lettuce, green onions, spinach, swiss chard, tomatoes, crabapples, rhubarb and raspberries. The spring and summer were spent nurturing, then harvesting and canning, freezing, pickling all of this. And there was also fruit - peaches, pears, cherries and crabapples ...

"Through all of this people expected to be fed three times a day. By people I mean our family of seven."

LaCoste remembered huge family get-togethers, picnics, haying crews in the summer, combiners in the fall.

"We ate like kings. These women were geniuses," she said.

LaCoste said her mum and Aunt Shirley supported their communities: cookies, cakes, squares, casseroles, home-made bread, buns, sandwiches and farm cream went to countless weddings, funerals,

dances, church functions and fundraisers.

"As if all of that weren't enough, even with the help of us kids, then there were the lawns and gardens."

LaCoste's mother died in 2016 aged 94.

"She and Dad gardened till she was 90," she said.

"Aunt Shirley passed away in November, her garden still of epic proportions. At 84, she continued to cultivate and expand outside the fence her concerned offspring attempted to limit it with. At her funeral we gave away the 400 gladiolas. Her yard is still a riot of perennial beds and fruit trees. Thanksgiving won't be the same."

LaCoste said her prairie background profoundly influenced her work as an artist.

"When I think of myself as a child, I remember how I loved to escape the house and be with the horses etc. No wonder - being in or around the house meant work."

LaCoste said grandmothers like hers came to Canada with a naive idea of the adversity facing them - and yet they stayed.

"This is the story of only one family's women - the ones I was witness to - but they represent thousands just like them, your mothers and grandmothers included.

"Imagine if you can the outcome, had these women not possessed the skill-set, grit and determination they did, how different the settling of this arid region would have looked - how very different the landscape here would be today.

"I salute this army of women; their endless labour, community-mindedness and creative vision have transformed a nearly uninhabitable place into the comfortable and beautiful communities we all enjoy today. We owe them our deepest gratitude."







# 2018/2019 HIGHLIGHTS

