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Moosomin is perfectly situated on the Trans-Canada Highway near Moosomin Regional Park, and has many other parks and attractions within easy driving distance.

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Moosomin is a growing regional centre with a full complement of professional services, first class medical facilities and a solid local economy.

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

Town of Moosomin

www.moosomin.com twn.moosomin@sasktel.net 306-435-2988

Town of Moosomin

Moosomin Parks & Recreation

www.moosominparksandrec.com msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net (306) 435-3622

11 Nutrien Sportsplex

Moosomin & District Regional Park

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Moosomin & District Regional Park

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Canadian country star Jess Moskaluke performing at the convention centre in November 2022.

Conexus Convention Centre and Mike Schwean Arena a busy place all winter

Every winter, the Conexus Convention Centre and Mike Schwean Arena in Moosomin become hub of activity.

The Convention Centre was designed to be a multipurpose facility, and it has truly hit the mark. Once winter arrives, the facility plays host to a ton of events, from public gym nights to gymnastics and air cadets, and many, many private bookings such as trade shows and entertainment events.

For those looking for some indoor public skating and shinny time, both are available in the Mike Schwean Arena throughout the winter. Skating and shinny times can be found on the Moosomin Parks and Rec website at www.moosomin.com/parksandrec.

For adults wanting to indulge in a little bit of rec hockey there are options. Men's rec hockey is played each week. Times vary each week, but these programs are open to any adult. The Mike Schwean Arena is also a great place to catch a local hockey game—be it minor hockey or a game between the town's senior team, the Moosomin Rangers, and one of their opponents in the Big Six Hockey League.

The Convention Centre is also well used by community groups, such as the gymnastics club, the air cadets, pickleball, and renting it for birthday parties has also been a big hit over the years.

The Convention Centre and outdoor rink are fairly recent additions to Bradley Park, and Moosomin Rec Director Mike Schwean says everything has worked out the way the town hoped, with the entire facility humming with activity on a regular basis.

"It's exactly what we planned, it worked out perfect," he says. "It's busy all the time.

"It's not so much a revenue producer as it is payback to the community—lots of different groups have been able to use it."

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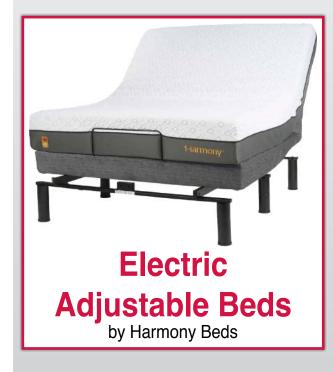
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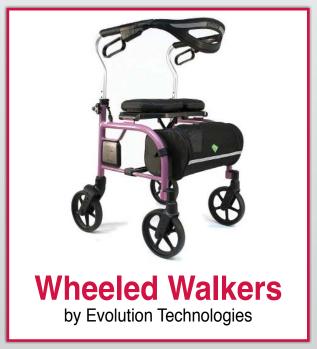


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Above are people using the rubberized walking track and the sports simulators at the Sportsplex.

Sportsplex a winter rec destination

Moosomin's Nutrien Sportsplex is a unique venue that has been recognized with awards by both the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association.

"I'm thrilled, because it was a unique undertaking, and the fact that it has been recognized by both SUMA and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association shows that it was a good decision," says Moosomin Recreation Director Mike Schwean.

The Sportsplex had its start when the town had the bowling alley turned over to it, and a community needs assessment was completed. The needs assessment identified the need for a dedicated park space for community events, the need for nontraditional recreation opportunities, the need for winter leisure opportunities and the need for more diversified recreation opportunities.

Schwean says the facility—with everything from bowling lanes and billiards to a walking track, pickleball court and sports simulators—was meant to serve all ages.

ages.
"When we were planning it, we wanted to be able to offer programming for adults and seniors and kids. One of the biggest successes of the entire project has been offering programming to seniors. In the past we just didn't have winter programming for that demographic.

Continued on Page 8 1887



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Sportsplex an award-winning facility

™ Continued from Page 6

"When I look at it now, it's better than what I had envisioned. We were looking for diversity and to accommodate everyone, and I think between exercise classes and the walking groups, and the simulators, and the parties, we're working with all different demographics. With all the parties, we're bringing a lot of people to the community."

The Sportsplex now includes the pre-existing bowling alley, billiards, four sports simulators, an indoor walking track, two indoor pickleball courts, large raised decking, a large outdoor stage, ground level rubber decking, a flag garden, and a park area. Activities are hosted there on a regular basis, including weekly golf leagues, fitness classes, seniors programming, league bowling, and a large number of walkers make use of the walking track, which the recreation department has tried to make more interesting by starting challenges where walkers walk across the province or the country reaching certain milestones after a certain number of laps.

"For the people in town who use it, it's great," says Schwean." There are so many people who use it, from walkers to golfers, and they all love it. We hear so many positive comments. It's provided exactly what we wanted it to. It's provided an opportunity to stay active in the winter for people who didn't have an opportunity for that before." The monthly schedule for events at the Sportsplex can be found online at www.moosomin.com/parksandrec/sportsplex.html



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Moosomin, Esterhazy skating paths prove popular

Who doesn't like to strap on a pair of skates and go for a leisurely skate on a beautiful winter day with the sun sparkling off the snow and the air crisp on your face?

When the towns of Moosomin and Esterhazy decided to create outdoor skate paths in 2020, they didn't realize what a popular decision that would be. With local rinks booked up for ice time, and outdoor rinks often used for shinny, the outdoor skating paths proved to be the perfect solution for people just looking for a nice winter skate.

Both communities have decided to create skate paths on an annual basis. The skate path in Moosomin starts at the outdoor rink and loops around one of the ball diamonds. Christmas lights are strung along the path for night time skaters. The skate path in Esterhazy winds along the roads of the Esterhazy Regional Park. There's even a spot to stop along the way and have an outdoor bonfire, and the path is lined with lights.

It doesn't matter if you are eight years old or eighty. Anyone can enjoy the skating paths this winter, so go ahead and get outside for some skating fun! Both skating paths are free of charge!



Above: The Esterhazy skating path through the regional park. **Below:** An aerial view of the Moosomin skating path at Bradley Park.





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Moosomin outdoor rink free to use

In the town of Moosomin—where indoor ice time is at a premium—there is an outdoor rink for people to enjoy during the winter months.

Moosomin's outdoor rink was built as an answer to the lack of time for public skating and shinny at Mike Schwean Arena, the town's indoor arena.

Since then the outdoor rink has been a busy place, used frequently for games of shinny and by children who just want to have some fun on the ice.

Recently Moosomin's outdoor rink has gained some attention. Canadian filmmaker Randy Frykas was in Moosomin last winter

to capture the town's historical outdoor ice rink as part of his 10-episode documentary series "Outdoor Hockey Club."

The series featured outdoor rinks on scenic lakes, frozen rivers, extraordinary backyard rinks, local community clubs, and more from all across Canada.

The Moosomin outdoor rink is 160 by 170 feet and located in Bradley Park, just behind the Communiplex on the south end of town.

Conceived, built, and maintained by volunteers, the ice is reserved for public skating and shinny, and was built with wind breaks so skaters are more comfortable on chilly days. There is also a heated building on site for skaters to change into their skates or just warm up in, and the ice is cleaned regularly by a Zamboni.

The rink is lit at night so that skating can continue into the evening.

If there is an event on at the Communiplex, adjacent to the outdoor rink, there is a concession available inside the Communiplex for snacks and drinks.



Kids playing shinny on the outdoor rink.

The outdoor rink in Moosomin is open to the public completely free of charge.

If you are looking for some free public skating in Moosomin, strap on your skates and join the fun!



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Snowmobiling the Tri Valley Trails

Every winter a group of dedicated volunteers maintains hundreds of miles of snowmobile trails from Fleming to Spy Hill, ensuring local snowmobilers have a safe and scenic ride.

Tri Valley Trails is a local snowmobile club providing safe, groomed trails for riders. The club is also affiliated with Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association (SSA). Since TVT formed over 20 years ago it has maintained several miles of trail systems which connect three valleys—the Qu'Appelle, Assiniboine, and the Pipestone. The trail system also joins up with the SnoMan trails (Manitoba system).

Any snowmobile licensed in Saskatchewan also has their trail pass covered in Manitoba, and vice versa, allowing licensed snowmobilers to ride between provinces on one license.

The Tri Valley Trials are designated SSA trails, therefore trail users are required to register their snowmobile.

The club currently maintains 300 kilometres of trail in the Moosomin, Fleming, Rocanville, Welwyn, Tantallon and Spy Hill areas. There are three groomer operators who spend hours grooming the trails each winter, plus a number of volunteers who go out onto the trails at the beginning of the season to stake signs along the trails.

The trails provide a safer way to ride.

Warmup shacks are located at Moosomin, Rocanville, Welwyn, and Spy Hill, and are stocked with firewood for those wishing to take a break and build a fire. There



are also signs along the trails for local businesses who support the trails system, many who provide services to snowmobilers, such as meals, repairs, and accessories. While a membership in the Tri Valley Trails club is

While a membership in the Tri Valley Trails club is not required to ride the trails, buying a membership is a great way to support the trails system and the club so that the trails can continue to be marked and groomed in the future.

For more information on the trails, visit the Tri Valley Trails website, which is regularly updated, at www. trivalleytrails.com. (*See page 54 for the Trails Map*)



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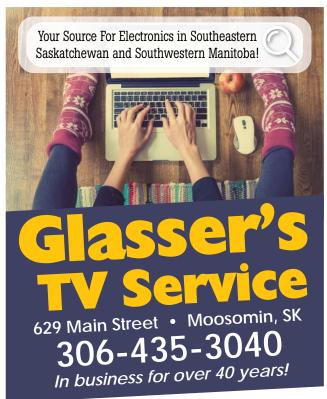
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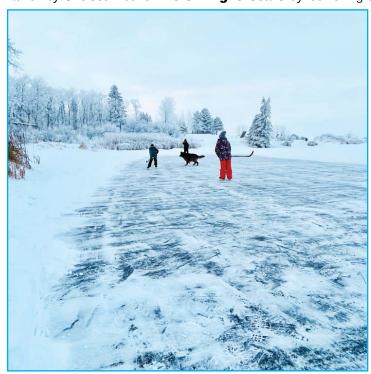


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Some of the Winter Fun photos submitted by readers around Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba in 2022. **Top left:** Kids enjoying the Moosomin outdoor rink (taken by Alyssa Jones). **Top right:** Brooke Raab proudly showing off her snowman (taken by Kayla Chicoine). **Below left:** Skating on Moosomin Lake on New Year's Day (taken by Chelsea Doane). **Below right:** Jett Gray ice fishing on Moosomin Lake (taken by Wendy Sagh).







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Beautiful, groomed cross country ski trails available at Rocanville

For over 32 years now, community members from Rocanville have been volunteering their time to maintain the popular cross-country ski trails that families and children go to for skiing. The trails are located south of Rocanville and are available for anyone to use.

Volunteers from Rocanville Cross-Country Ski Club spend their time not only in the winter but in the summer time too, preparing and maintaining the trails. Dennis Hack, the equipment co-ordinator of the club, says it takes him about an hour and a half to groom the trails, pack the snow and then create the ski trails.

"Quite a bit of work gets put in during the summer time, we're actually clearing trees, mowing grass. Dennis has taken a step further into the trails, he's actually ridden a lot of the trails to smooth and level them out," says Layne McFarlane, president of Rocanville Cross-Country Ski Club.

Hack, who has been skiing on the trails in Rocanville since he was a kid, says he loves everything about them.

"It's been a real blessing having this," he says. Throughout winter of 2021, McFarlane says there were about 2,000 people who used the ski trails in Rocanville. "People come from all areas to be here because it's unique. Between Kenosee and Madge Lake which is up north, it's really the only facility for skiing at this level that's in between."

With all five cross-country ski trails combined, there is a total of 8 kilometers of paths. Hack designed the route of the ski trails and created each trail to be of different lengths so that people of all ages and abilities, can be included. The shorter trails like Barney's Bend, is 0.9 km and is mainly meant for children, in case they are not able to ski for a long period of time. The longest trail, Beaver, is 1.6 km and goes in a full loop which then brings individuals back to the center, where all trails are connected.

"It's amazing seeing the birds come out here and also just seeing the families. I love seeing families and kids skiing and enjoying their time," he says. Hack also says that there is rental equipment available

Hack also says that there is rental equipment available for individuals who do not own their own skis, ski boots or ski poles. "We have about 51 pairs of rental skis and 76 pairs of boots for rental, but serious skiers have their own skis. When the rental skies come back (to the Club House) and the boots, and the poles, people put them in a bin and



Dennis Hack on the cross country ski trails.

I spray them with sanitizer."

The rental equipment used in the past has been donated to the club. However, McFarlane says because the facility has been doing so well, the club is now able to purchase any additional rental equipment that is needed.

The ski trails located just south of Rocanville, are available for anyone to use now. More information on rental equipment prices and other updates, can be found on the club's website: https://rocanvillecrosscountrytrails.ca



St. Lazare & McAuley MANITOBA

Lazare & RM of Ellice

St Lazare got its beginning as a Roman Catholic mission in the 1820's. It was founded by Oblate Father Jules DeCorby, who had immigrated from France in 1867.

Father DeCorby was at this time attached to the mission at Lebret, Saskatchewan. Father DeCorby named this new mission St Lazare to commemorate the place in France from which he departed on his journey to Canada.

The mission was located at the junction of the Qu'Appelle and the Assiniboine Rivers, approximately 3 miles north of the Hudson Bay Company's Fort Ellice. Church services in those early years were held in the homes of these early settlers, which were mostly Métis families. Since Father DeCorby was very nomadic, traveling from mission to mission, other missionaries from Lebret helped with the St Lazare mission, namely Fathers St. Germain, Campeau and Lepage.

In 1880, a log Church was built and Father DeCorby became the first resident priest. At about this time, a French Canadian, Delphis Chartier and family, arrived at Fort Ellice via steamboat and settled at the mission. He eventually opened a post office, October 1st, 1895, and various other businesses. In 1895, Father DeCorby was replaced by Father Léon Favreau and in 1898 a new stone Church was constructed under the supervision of Mr. Chartier. The new Church was blessed by the Archbishop of St Boniface Adelard Langevin, in 1899. A stone rectory

was also built at this time.

In 1900, Father Favreau conducted a census of the mission. The census which included men, women and children was 89 families, 456 souls in all broken down as follows. Métis 342, French Canadians 34, French 15, Irish 30, Scotch 19 and Germans 18. On May 13, 1909, the mission of St Lazare was declared a parish by the Archbishop of St Boniface Adelard Langevin.

On July 7, 1883, the Rural Municipality of Ellice was born, with its headquarters at Fort Ellice. With the decline of the fort and the emergence of St Lazare, its permanent headquarters were moved to St Lazare with the first meeting in the space rented from Father Favreau on January 6th, 1902. In 1905, the merchants of the mission anticipated the coming of the railway and began relocating to what is the present day location of the Village of St Lazare. Records indicate the railroad opened in 1908.

Many businesses sprung up at this new site, general stores, barber shop, pool room, blacksmith shop, hotel. Eugene Fouillard started a Massey Ferguson dealership. In 1911, a grain elevator owned and operated by the Atlas Grain Company opened its doors.





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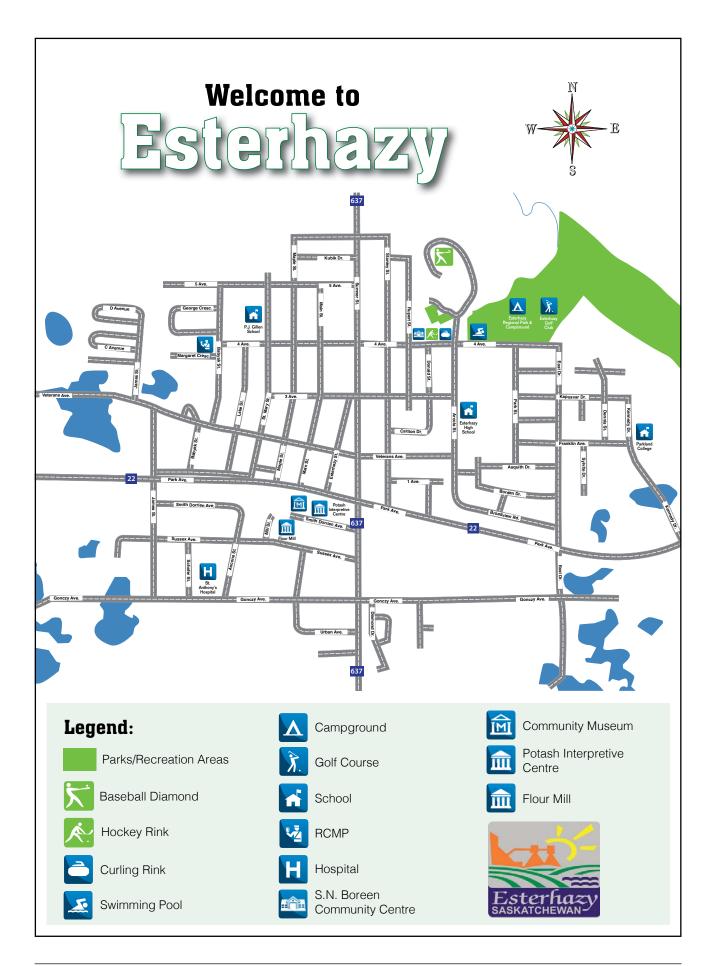
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A snowmobiles outside of one of the warmup shacks.

Esterhazy Super Sledders provide fun and safe snowmobile trails

For those in the Esterhazy area looking for a fun activity this winter, the Esterhazy Super Sledders are a group of dedicated snowmobilers whose members ensure their trails are in the best shape when the snow begins to fall.

From Esterhazy to Tantallon, the Randy Abdai Memorial Trail stretches along the Kaposvar Valley and into the Qu'Appelle Valley. The trail winds along parts of the old CN Rail Bed and follows much of the Kaposvar Creek.

Along the trail, you will find a mix scenery, creek crossings, and genuine Saskatchewan beauty! The trail is primarily a graveled trail, but you will find several sections to challenge your abilities, with sand, silt, hardpack, hills and valleys to traverse. There is something for everyone!

The Esterhazy Super Sledders acquired the rail bed system 16 years ago, but have been grooming them and using them since the rail bed system was abandoned 26 years ago.

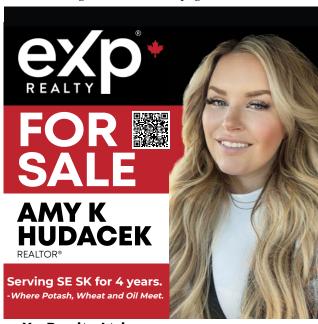
The Esterhazy Super Sledders is a non profit organization which provides fun and safe ATV/snowmobile trails, and hosts events with the help of its many members donating their time.

"We have a consistent group of members who help take care of the trails and groom them," says Esterhazy Super Sledders organizer Curtis Abdai. "As soon as we get enough snow to groom the trail—pretty much anything after a foot—we'll start grooming them and get our signs up and it will show up on the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association (SSA) website as open. The grooming is all GPS tracked so the SSA knows when we're out grooming and ready to go.

"We have a few warmup shacks throughout the valley for snowmobiling and we hold woodcutting days and all kinds of random work days with our members.

"The main contact for our members to stay in touch or for new members interested is our Facebook page," says Abdai. "We have about 35 active members and we're always looking for more members because they're what keeps the trail system alive."

The Esterhazy Super Sledders charge and annual membership fee and the best way to get in touch with them is through their Facebook page.



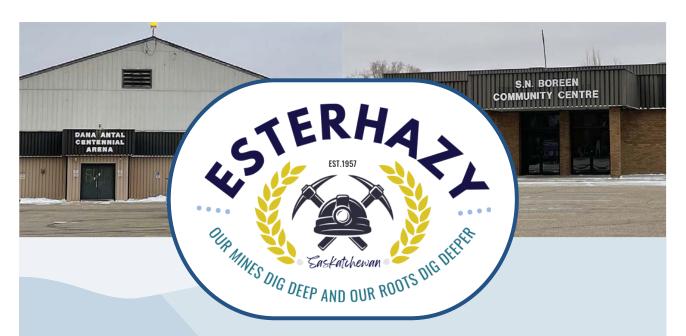
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- 3 Recreation Hockey Teams
- Public Skating
- Shinny Hockey
 Check Arena Schedule
 for times
 Facility Schedule:

www.townofesterhazy.ca

OUTDOOR SKATING RINK

Located by D.A. Mackenzie Aquatic Center

Warm up room for tying your skates

ADULT REC VOLLEYBALL

High School Jr. Gym

Thursday at 7 pm

ESTERHAZY CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB

- 14 km classic and 6 km of skate-ski trails
- Ski Chalet sits on the east side of the landfill site access but is not visible from the road
- There is an assortment of skis, boots, poles at the ski chalet for your use. Donations are welcome by non members

Email: EsterhazyCCSC@gmail.com

S.N. BOREEN CENTER

Walk the Hall

- Open to all ages
- No cost to walk
- Open 10 a.m. 2 p.m. Monday to Friday unless booked for an event:

www.townofesterhazy.ca

ESTERHAZY COMMUNITY CURLING CLUB

- Mixed Curling Wednesday at 7 pm
- Ladies Curling Monday at 7 pm
- Men's Curling Thursday at 7 pm
- Drop In Curling
 Tuesday at 1pm
- Bonspiels in March
 For information:
 Mark 306-991-1002

ESTERHAZY SUPER SLEDDERS

Non-profit organization which provides fun and safe ATV/snowmobile trails.

Check out facebook page: Esterhazy Super Sledders Email: esterhazysupersledders @gmail.com

THERE'S SO MUCH TO DISCOVER IN OUR COMMUNITY!

Contact the Town Office: 306-745-3942

or visit www.townofesterhazy.ca





Esterhazy has outdoor rink, skating path



The town of Esterhazy has an outdoor arena right beside the DA Mackenzie Aquatic Centre, and the rink is well used every winter. The rink includes a warm up room for tying skates, and there are lights for skating into the evening. The rink is free for anyone to use.

Ésterhazy's skating path winds through the Esterhazy Regional Park, using the roads as a skateway. There's even a spot to stop along the way and have an outdoor bonfire, and the path is lined with lights.





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LADIES' BONSPIEL

February 2 & 3, 2024

OPEN BONSPIEL

February 14-18, 2024

MAN.-SASK. SLIDING STARS YOUTH CURLING

December 17, 2023

YOUTH BONSPIEL

Date to be decided

We would like to thank Curl Canada for their sponsorship of the Maryfield School Curling Program which is in its final year of a 3-year program. This program offers on-ice curling sessions to Grades 3-7 in Maryfield School as a part of their physical education curriculum. This program was funded by the Curl Canada Youth Grassroots Funding Initiative.

LEAGUE CURLING

Wednesday nights at 7 pm, December to March

For more information on any of these opportunities, contact

BARB SWALLOW: 306-646-7725



OILMENS BONSPIEI

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\$ 240 / Team

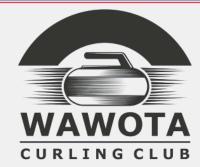
Farmers & Friends Bonspiel MARCH 15th - 17th

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT Calvin: 306-487-7353



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Open Bonspiel

January 12-14, 2024 \$200 / Team Entry Fee Saturday Night Supper Included

CASH PRIZES!

Lions Bonspiel

March 15-17, 2024

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Curling: It's fun and healthy!

Curling is a staple in small towns and communities around Canada every winter, but few people give thought to how beneficial the sport is. Not only is curling fun, it's a way to keep healthy and active in the winter. It provides a great way to foster social interaction during the long, cold winter months, and it's also a great workout!

Some of the main benefits of curling are as follows:

Aerobic fitness: Working out in the cold can burn more calories, and since curling is played on ice and players are constantly competing and running back and forth from end to end, it will definitely increase your heart rate and improve the cardiovascular system.

Strengthens your muscles: Sliding on the ice and being in a constant squatting position strengthens the calves, glutes and quadriceps. You can also get a good core workout by practicing curling and sweeping vigorously ahead of the stone.

Social interaction: In many communities, curling clubs are among only a few recreational resources available. It becomes a place where they can talk with others, build friendships, and take leadership roles, increasing both their confidence and resiliency when coping with challenges.

Flexibility: The team member who delivers the stone in a curling game often stays very low to the ice before pushing the stone. Staying this low to the ice requires a great

deal of flexibility.

Precision: Curling requires precision. It has been nicknamed as "chess on ice" for the amount of strategy involved in winning a game. This is one of the reasons it is so popular among both players and spectators.

Stretching and toning legs: Stretching and toning your legs is a way the players workout before playing the game. The stretching and toning not only helps with flexibility for the game but it also carries out in day-to-day activities.

Promotes weight-loss: Sliding on ice burns a lot of calories, yet because you are playing on ice, you don't perspire as much. Curling requires a lot of sliding back and forth, which burns calories.

It can be done by anyone, including the disabled: Curling is a sport that can be enjoyed by everyone, no matter the age or ability. In fact, the Paralympic Games feature a Wheelchair Curling event.

Fun and interactive: It is a sport for both men and women and is played by both adults and kids of all ages. Not only is it a great way to meet people who have the same interest in curling, but it can be a great networking medium. In addition, many people with depression turn towards curling because it's a fun and interactive sport that opens up their social realm.

Check out your local curling club and give curling a try this winter!

Cross country skiing at Esterhazy

Esterhazy Cross Country Ski Club is a member of Cross Country Canada, its division Cross Country Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Ski Association. As such, the club's membership of over 130 skiers benefits from this association in a number of ways, some of which are liability insurance, map grants, newsletters, education and development.

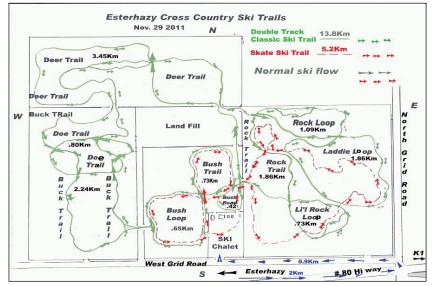
The club is a volunteer-run organization and are a group who is excited to share their love of fresh air, exercise and beauty of the outdoors. Thank you to all those individuals who help clear and groom the 14 km of classic and 6 km of skate-ski trails, maintain equipment, clean and stock the ski hut, keep wood supplied for outside fires and our wood stove inside of the ski chalet, wax skis and any other jobs that are required to keep our club running.

If you need to access the ski hut or need any help, the executive will gladly answer any questions, but ask that you help by keeping the area clean, helping to replenish wood supply, respecting the equipment and facilities and being responsible for your own safety. As a member, your assistance with the many events and participation in a fundraiser would be greatly appreciated.

would be greatly appreciated.

New members are always welcome. The club holds various events throughout the season which include moonlight skis, wax clinics, poker skis, family fun days, ski tournaments, loppets and competitions.

The ski hut sits on the east side of the landfill site access road (see map), but is not visible from the road. The town maintains clearing of snow in this area. The clubhouse





has a wood stove, plenty of wood, a fire pit, porta-potti and seating areas inside and out of the hut. Some ski equipment, a hot plate and hot beverages are available for use.

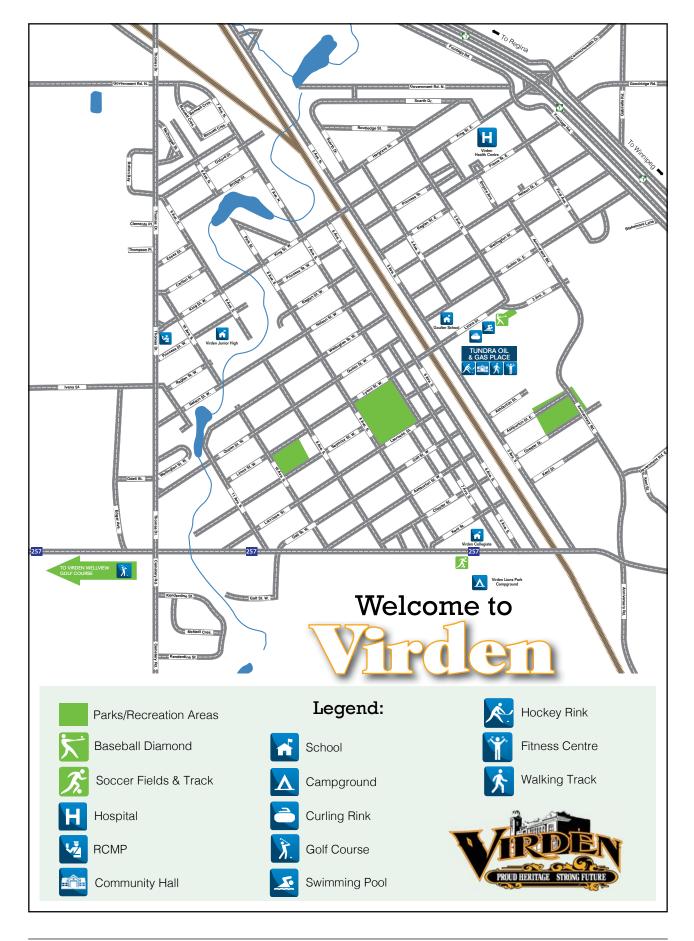
For more information on the Esterhazy Cross Country Ski Club, email esterhazyCCSC@gmail.com



www.livingskiesrealty.com

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Virden's Tundra Oil and Gas Place

A multi-purpose recreational facility, known as Tundra Oil and Gas Place, was built in Virden in 2011. This building contains a hockey rink, community hall, walking track, office space, meeting rooms, canteen and a fitness center.

This building has been set up to be mobility friendly with the installation of an elevator for those that are unable to use the stairs.

The hockey rink has 1,200 individual seats, an NHL sized ice surface, and provides a comfortable environment with climate control.

The rink is where Virden's MJHL team—the Virden Oil Capitals—hold their games.

During August this area is transformed into a rodeo arena which offers high classed performances for three



An Oil Caps game underway at Tundra Oil and Gas Place

days.

The community hall located within this building offers seating for 500 people and an exceptionally large kitchen to host any of your entertaining needs.

For more information concerning this beautiful facility call (204) 748-2736.



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Virden winter attractions

Snowmobile trails

Around the Virden area are many groomed snowmobile trails. These trails are maintained by an independent organization known as the Virden Valley Runners.

These trails cover areas all over Manitoba and can get you safely from one town to the next.

For more information on the location of these trails and others contact Virden Recreation & Watersports at (204) 748-2060 or visit www.snoman.mb.ca

Outdoor rink

Virden's Junior High School has a beautiful outdoor skating rink located at 447 Princess Street West. This facility is run by the school and is open for public use. A small building is located adjacent to the rink that offers benches and a warm place for you to put on your skates and equipment. For more information on this outdoor facility call (204) 748-1932 during school hours.

Curling arena

The Virden Curling Arena is located at 170 Lyons Street East beside the swimming pool at Tundra Oil & Gas Place. The arena consists of four sheets of artificial curling ice



along with a licensed bar and kitchen area.

During the summer months, this organization rents this building out for many different events which can hold approximately 500 people.

For more information or to book this facility call (204) 748-1745.





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The Virden Oil Capitals at a game at Tundra Oil & Gas Place.

Virden winter attractions

Ice Fishing

Ice fishing is a popular winter pastime on the Prairies, and Virden is no exception. Kenworth Dam is one of the hot spots for ice fishing in the area. Located northeast of Virden, one mile south of Kenton of PTH No. 21 and half mile west, the site of the Kenworth Dam has been developed for camping, swimming and fishing. Pickerel can be had here year round.

Great Shopping & Dining

The Virden area is home to some of the best retailers and restaurants around. It's easy to take a day and go shopping in the area. If you're looking for a one-of-a-kind boutique shopping experience, you could start at Samantha's boutique in Elkhorn just 15 minutes west of Virden, then head

to Virden to hit up Flower Attic and Gifts, Shari Lyn Fashions, and Virden Footwear. As for food and drink, venues like MJ's Coffee Bar & Bistro, The Sweet Spot Bakery, and Brierwood Creek Café & Grill are the icing on the cake!

The Virden Oil Caps

As the home of its very on Junior A team since 2012, the town of Virden is a hockey action hub.

Hockey fans can regularly see the Oil Caps play MJHL hockey at the beautiful Tundra Oil & Gas Place arena in Virden, which can hold up to 1,400 fans.

The Oil Caps play in the MGEU West Division against the Dauphin Kings, OCN Blizzard, Waywayseecappo Wolverines, Neepawa Titans, and the Swan Valley Stampeders.





St Mary's Anglican Church in Virden is a unique example of fieldstone construction.

Virden full of heritage buildings

Virden is well known for its many restored heritage buildings, dating back to the early 1880s. Architectural styles are varied with most of the heritage being of either fieldstone or brick construction. Many of the structures are unique in Western Canada, in architectural style and purpose.

Examples include the Aud Theater, which is unique in style as an example of a restored turn of the century opera house. Another example is St Mary's Anglican Church, whose unique fieldstone construction exemplifies 1800s English style construction using abutments and high pitched roofs.

Virden's unique history as an early railroad center has also left the community with a central business district, rich with heritage brick buildings, constructed at the turn of the century.

Following are a few of the heritage buildings that make Virden unique:

Canadian Pacific Railway Station - 425 - 6th Avenue S The Aud Theater - 228 Wellington Street St Mary's Anglican Church - 633 9th Street Goulding House - 677 - 9th Avenue Virden Pioneer Home Museum - 390 King Street

Be sure to check a few of these buildings out next time you are in Virden for a visit!









Mossberg



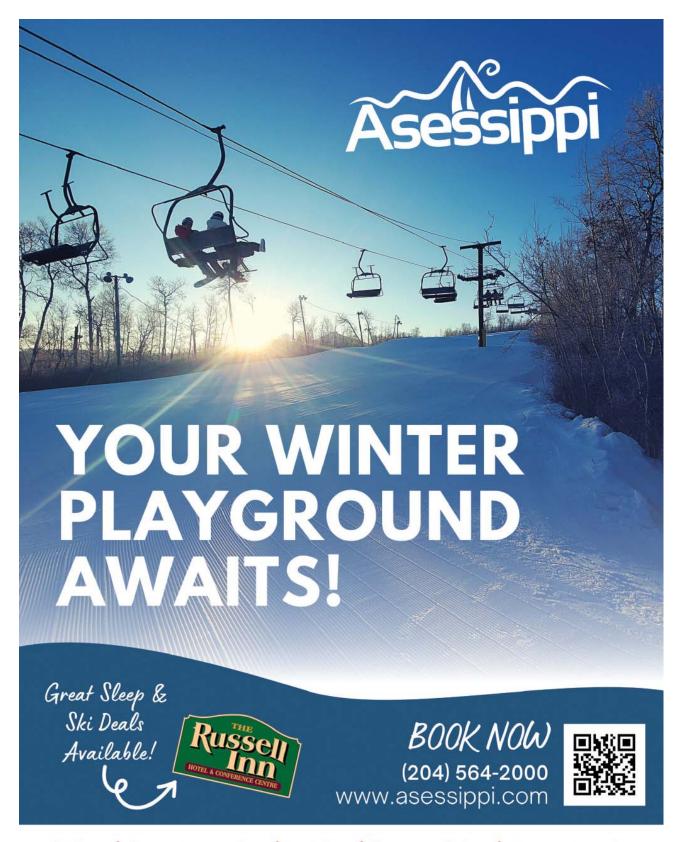






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Are you ready for a good time this winter? Pack up the friends or the fam, dust off your gear and head for Asessippi Ski Area and Resort!

Located near Russell, Manitoba, with 26 groomed runs and 2 terrain parks, the resort offers a true mountain feel. It's popular with many Manitoban and Saskatchewan skiers and riders for weekend trips to experience the Prairie Terrain.

Group and private lessons are offered by experienced instructors to anyone looking to up their skills. Don't have gear? No worries!

Asessippi's rental shop has you covered. The expert rental team will get you the equipment you need to have a blast while on the hill. Need to tune up your own gear? The Pro Shop has you covered.

The Bears Den food court offers a wide range of options to end any craving. The long list of items includes salads, soups, daily lunch specials, burgers and pizza, and so much more! The O-Lifty's Pub features panoramic windows that offer a beautiful view, perfect for watching the skiers fly down the runs as you enjoy a cocktail and a delicious meal from the tasty menu!

Take a break from your downhill adventure to check out the Trail's End Gift Shop, where there is something for everyone! Buy some Assessippi swag for yourself, or get a gift for those who are missing out.

Be sure to check www.asessippi.com for additional information, tickets and accommodations. We'll see you on the slopes!



Ice fishing on the prairies

Ice fishing is extremely popular in Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba, with many people setting up their ice shacks on frozen lakes all winter long hoping to get that perfect catch at just the right time.

Moosomin Lake is known for some great fishing, with people pulling some impressive pike and pickerel out of the lake over the years.

One of the biggest ice fishing events in the area each winter is the Lake of the Prairies Ice Fishing Derby held at Asessippi Provincial Park. This derby draws fishermen from all over the area. Lake of the Prairies is a man-made reservoir created behind the Shellmouth Dam. The lake experiences excellent walleye, perch, northern pike fishing and carp.

There is also great ice fishing at Clear Lake, located in Riding Mountain National Park.

Ice fishing at both Boundary Dam and Rafferty Dam near Estevan are also a hit, with ice fishing derbies held at both lakes over the years. Nickle Lake near Weyburn is also a popular ice fishing spot with annual derbies.

Round Lake, Crooked Lake and Kenosee Lake are three local lakes in Southeast Saskatchewan that also offer ice fishing opportunities.



Casey Miller showing off his very first ice fishing catch at age 5 on Moosomin Lake. At right is his dad Jason Miller





The Moosomin Rangers vs the Oxbow Huskies at a game in Moosomin.

Catch some senior hockey action!

If you love a good hockey game, there are some great senior hockey teams to watch in Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba this winter.

The Moosomin Rangers, Redvers Rockets, Wawota Flyers, and Kipling Windthorst Oil Kings all compete in the Big Six Hockey League. All four teams are gearing up for a competitive season again this winter. The schedule and results for the Big Six Hockey League can be found at www.bigsixhockey.com.

The Rocanville Tigers are back in action this season in the Sask East Hockey League, as are the Whitewood Orioles, the Wapella Blackhawks and the Langenburg Warriors.

In Manitoba, the Miniota-Elkhorn C-Hawks will compete in the Tiger Hills Hockey League this season. The schedule and results can be found at https://www.thhl.ca

For Manitoba Junior Hockey League action, people in the area head to Virden where they can watch the Virden Oil Capitals compete against other MJHL teams. The team boasts a wide fan base, and draws from a large talent pool, with hundreds of people packing the stands at Virden's Tundra Oil and Gas Place.

So head on down to the rink to cheer on your local team!





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In town, outta town...it's gotta be COWTOWN



Kipling's outdoor rink a labor of love for Alan Batters

For the fifth winter, Alan Batters is building an outdoor rink for the people of Kipling to enjoy.

The first time he did it was in the winter of 2019-2020 for the Winter Carnival.

"They were looking for an outdoor rink and they approached me because I had this property across from my house. A lot of families were out there on Christmas Eve," said Batters.

The location of the rink the site of the former Kipling Union Hospital.

"There is a little bit of sentimental value to that land. That land used to be the Kipling hospital. My son died of brain cancer on Christmas day in 2013. He was only 11. He was born in that hospital and sadly passed away in that hospital. So, when they tore it down, I said that I would like to buy (the land) if it ever comes up for sale. I purchased it. It is a nice park area, it is right in the middle of town, it has trees. So there is nothing better than putting a rink there for kids to enjoy it. It is a little silver lining," said Batters.

ing," said Batters.
"You can have lots of kids that would not normally go to the rink that are out skating. It is very informal. It is just an open thing for the public and the lights are on 24/7."

Any good rink needs a proper zamboni to keep the ice smooth and safe for those who want to skate on it. Again, Batters stepped up and got one for the rink.

"I bought a zamboni. It has my son's memorial photo on it, so whenever the zamboni is on the ice, he is on the ice," said Batters.

BALFOUR DRUGS/ TIM HORTONS



KIPLING, SK • 306-736-2242 (PHARMACY) 306-736-2992 (TIM HORTONS) The Whitewood Community Centre is the hub of Whitewood and houses an NHL sized ice surface, a curling rink with four sheets of curling ice, a kitchen, and licensed lounge.



Above: The curling rink portion of the building.

Below: The NHL-sized ice surface.





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GameSense



Carlyle will keep you busy!

Located just south of the Moose Mountains, the town of Carlyle, with just over 1,500 people, has lots of recreation opportunities available for anyone to take in and enjoy over the winter!

Carlyle Curling Club offers curling for seniors and league curling.

If it's hockey you are looking for, Carlyle has an active minor hockey program. The Carlyle Hooters and Carlyle Cowboys are recreational hockey clubs, and the Carlyle Cougars is the town's senior hockey team competing in the Big Six Hockey League.

The Moose Mountain Snowmobile Club offers groomed trails, poker derbies and relaxing winter outings.

Carlyle Skating Club offers CanSkate, Bridging and Star Skate programs.

These are just a few of the options available. Visit www. townofcarlyle.com for more information on rec opportunities year round!





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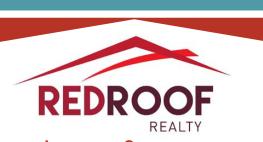


Box 58, Wawota, SK S0G 5A0 306-739-2216 www.wawota.com wawota.town@sasktel.net Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.



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Winter in Canada means outdoor ice skating! Enjoy one of our outdoor ice rinks or hit one of our frozen bodies of water for a true experience.



DINING & ACCOMODATIONS

Discover all of Estevan's favourite restaurants. Polish cuisine, pizza or pub food...we have it all!





701 Souris Ave. N. Estevan, SK tourism@estevan.ca ESTEVAN.CA



42

Estevan: Your winter playground

Nestled in the South East pocket of the province, Estevan is a unique destination that boasts a variety of outdoor pursuits and energetic community events. The city lies just minutes from the Souris River, multiple campgrounds, and two large bodies of water (Boundary Dam and Rafferty Reservoir). In the winter months, these areas become a playground for outdoor enthusiasts.

Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing

Immediately outside of the city visitors are greeted by the woods lining the banks of the Souris River. This area is home to Woodlawn Regional Park, Rotary Park, Preddy Trails and the Twister Totter bike path. The Preddy Trails as well as the trails through the parks are maintained throughout the winter which makes them an excellent area for cross country skiing and snowshoeing. Skiers and snowshoers can enjoy the calmness of the woods with frequent wildlife sightings as well as the view of the winding river. When fully frozen and safe, the river also makes a wonderful path for both of these pursuits. While skiers need to provide their own gear, people wanting to snowshoe can borrow snowshoes from the Estevan Public Library during their operational hours. Anyone with a valid Saskatchewan Library Card is welcome to borrow snowshoes and hit the trails. During this season of early sunsets, Woodlawn Regional Park is a welcome sight as the lampposts lining the campground light up at dusk. This allows for evening skiing/snowshoeing and makes for a great place to build a fire to cap off your day.

Ice Fishing

Rafferty Reservoir is accessible just 15 minutes out of Estevan and is teeming with fishing opportunities. On the end of your line you're likely to find Northern Pike, Walleye or Perch. Rafferty stretches for 10 km so there's loads of space to find a spot on the ice. If you're looking for a spot that's going to produce a ton of fishing action, we recommend getting in touch with Ralph Smart of Prairie Pro Outfitters. Estevan is fortunate to have a fishing guide of Ralph's caliber and Prairie Pro owns exclusive guiding rights to Rafferty. This winter they'll be offering ice fishing guiding, shack plus equipment plus electronics rentals, and possibly even overnight shelters! We can't wait to see the Ice Camping experience come to our area. If staying on the ice isn't your thing, we have plenty of newly built and newly renovated hotels to keep you warm and well rested so you can get in a couple of days of fishing.

Twinkle Tour & Festival of Lights

The energy city really shines during the Christmas season. During the month of December many homes in the area participate in decorating for Christmas. This year, Tourism Estevan will be providing the community with a Twinkle Tour map to encourage the community to take in the holiday season. After making your way through the city lights, the best grand finale is to head over to Woodlawn Regional Park to view the Festival of Lights (December 17 January 1). Here, local businesses and organizations create light displays in the campground and cars can drive the loop to view the lights. Each year boasts larger displays for all to see.

These are just a few of the unique opportunities you'll find in the Estevan area. To find out more head to the Visitors page at www.estevan.ca



Skier near Preddy Trails



Part of the Festival of Lights display in Woodlawn Regional Park



Post ski fire at Woodlawn Campground

Explore SE Sask: Your winter wonderland awaits!

As we head into the winter months, many people start dreaming of hot holidays and the sound of crashing waves. However, for those who are planning to visit southeast Saskatchewan this winter, we're sure you won't be disappointed. While the temperature dips below zero most days, the sun shines bright in the big prairie sky creating a winter wonderland full of sparking snow.

Southeast Saskatchewan is stepping into the spotlight for winter travel, with the regional tourism initiative "Explore SE Sask" that invites visitors to embrace the magic of the winter season. Nestled in

the heart of Canada's prairies, the region offers an array of outdoor activities and festive events to make your winter unforgettable.

Explore SE Sask encourages you to embrace the beauty of winter and enjoy the great outdoors. "While we tend to think about cozying up indoors during the winter months, we invite you to head outdoors and explore the region and all it has to offer," said Christina Birch, Regional Economic Development Coordinator for CF Sunrise. "Whether it is ice fishing at one of our many lakes, taking in a winter festival, skating on an outdoor rink, or taking in a bonfire



EXPLORE SESASK

after a full day of snowmobiling, there is something for everyone."

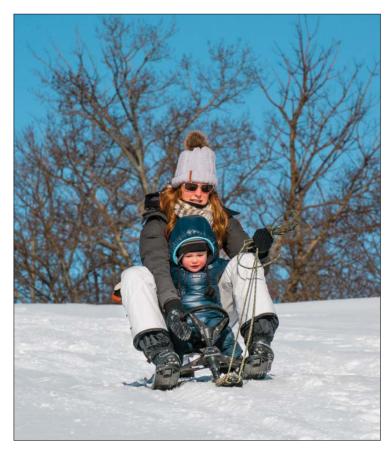
Whether you're a seasoned winter adventurer or a newcomer to the joys of a snowy wonderland, southeast Saskatchewan has something for everyone. Birch points out that with the right gear, you can have just as much fun in the winter as you can in the summer! Southeast Saskatchewan is renowned for its friendly hospitality. "From short one-day road trips to longer excursions, there is so much to see and do in southeast Saskatchewan," she says.

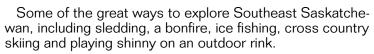
The campaign, launched by Community Futures Sunrise (CF Sunrise) in 2021,

has included the development of a number of marketing platforms that feature unique destinations for those visiting the area. Explore SE Sask is inspired by the insight that today, more than ever, travellers are looking for unique, authentic experiences that create unforgettable memories.

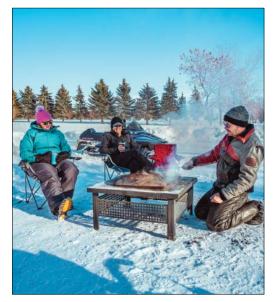
To stay connected, Birch encourages those interested to follow Explore SE Sask on Facebook and Instagram or to visit their website. "We feature everything from outdoor experiences and festivals to culinary hot spots and shopping destinations. There truly is something for everyone," said Birch.

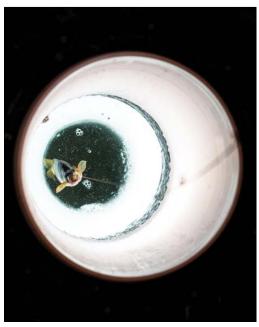


















Access Water Park located at the Gallagher Centre in Yorkton allows for year-round indoor swimming. The water park features a zero depth beach entry, wave pool, two-storey waterslide, lazy river, spray features, hot tub, steam room and sauna, 25-metre six-lane pool, one metre diving board, and one-storey rock climbing wall.





The city of Minot, ND has a lot to offer in the winter months, including some great outdoor spaces to spend time making the most of the winter





Minot—save on your holiday weekend getaway

Sip and dine

Choose from an assortment of flavors and different cuisines in Minot. Savor classics at our many locally owned restaurants, like burgers at Ironhorse Kitchen + Bar, Irish favorites at Ebeneezer's, and steaks and seafood at Badland's Grill. Take it up a notch for fine dining experiences at High Third, Primo, and Elevation overlooking the Minot Country Club golf course. Taste a world of flavors at hot spots like Baan Rao, Oishii Ramen, and Mi Mexico.

Try craft brews at Minot's two local breweries that

create their craft beers in-house and offer different experiences, and memorable drinks. Souris River Brewing couples their brews with a farm-to-table dining option offering many styles of burgers made from North Dakota grass fed beef. Take in the charm of Atypical Brewery, and sip on a London Fog brew, a local favorite. Other unique drinking spots throughout Downtown Minot include a modern-day speakeasy, wine bar, and a place to throw axes.

Continued on Page 49 1887

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Minot—save on your holiday weekend getaway

™ Continued from Page 48

Sights and sounds all around!

Wander through winter wonderlands sparkling with Christmas lights throughout the holiday season. See the Scandinavian Heritage Park in the heart of Minot illuminated with lights showcasing the beautiful Gol Stave Church, the 30-foot Dala Horse, and charming Danish windmill. Drive through Oak Park and see the many handmade light displays at Christmas in the Park.

Enjoy a memorable experience at the new Pocket Park Ice Rink. Bring your skates to enjoy ice skating in Downtown Minot under the holiday lights, with hot cocoa and treats next door at Guilty Sweets. Visit the beloved Roosevelt Park Zoo during winter. Watch the animals play in the snow and see how their coats change in cooler weather.

Save some \$\$\$ on your stay

Make your weekend even more sweet with deals created just for you! Check out visitminot.org/canadian-deals to discover special offers from hotels, restaurants, local shops, and MORE!

Book your hotel room now. Rates averaging from \$80 - \$95 per night. Check availability at: https://visitminot.

org/hotels/ and reserve your stay today!
For more information on local events, places to eat, and shopping options, go to VisitMinot.org!







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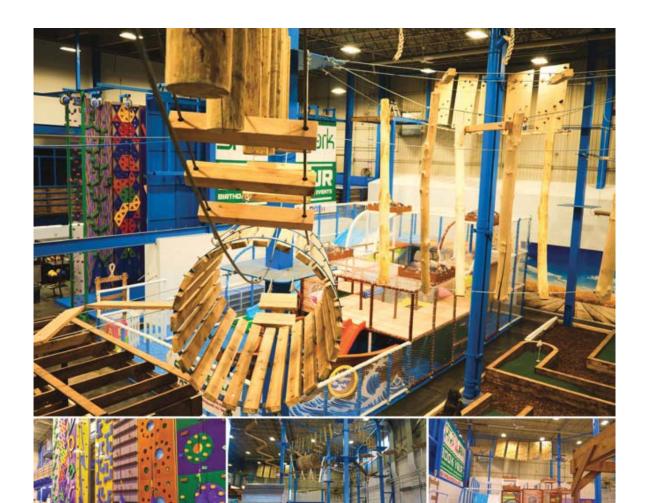




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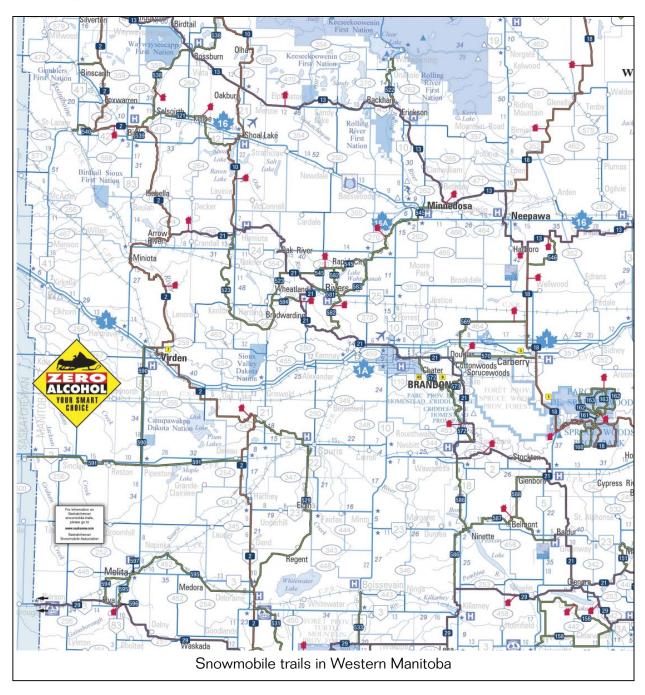
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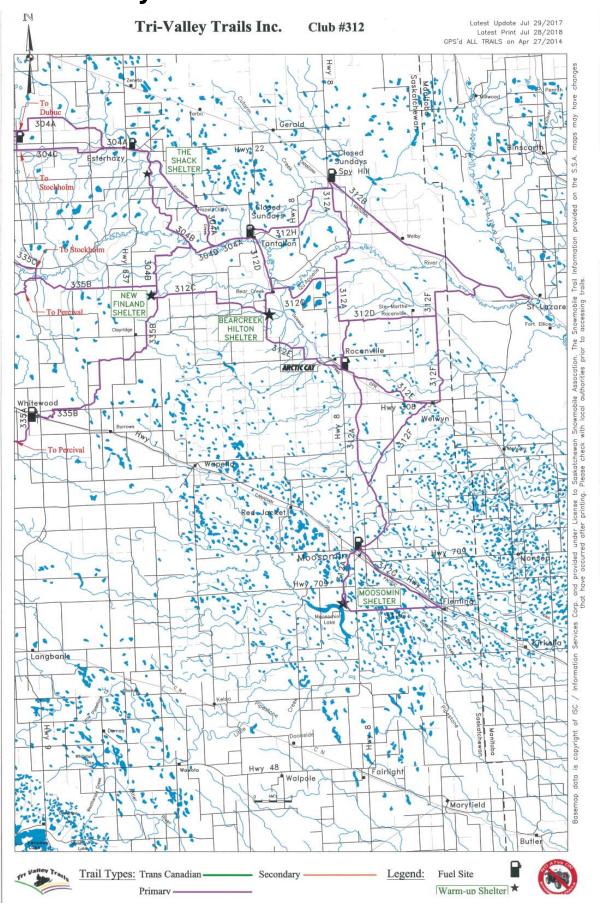


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The Tri-Valley Trails Snowmobile Club Trails Map





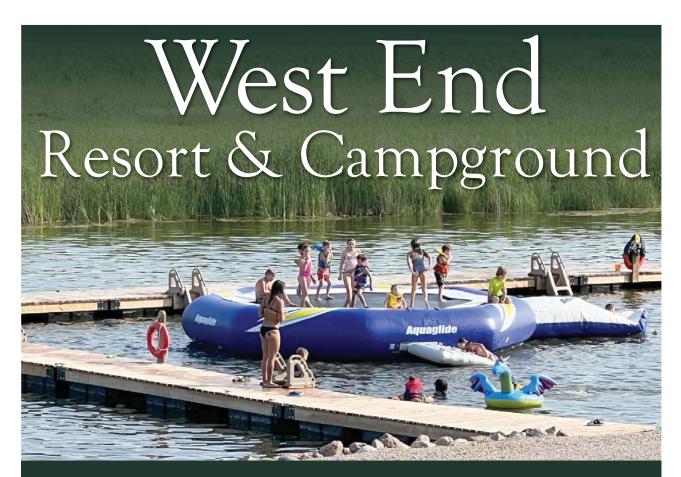












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