# You don't have to travel far to find the fun! 2020-2021 WINTER FUNGUUE SOUTHEAST SASKATCHEWAN





#### Strength Diversity

Nestled in the parklands between the Qu'Appelle Valley to the north and the Pipestone Valley to the South, Moosomin is a great place to stop and enjoy the beauty of the Prairies!

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

#### MOOSOMIN HAS FIRST CLASS RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:

#### MOOSOMIN COMMUNIPLEX

During the colder weather, our community rink becomes the heart of much winter entertainment. The rink hosts 15 minor hockey teams, a figure skating club, recreational hockey and senior hockey. We also have the Blue Moose Lounge Services, as well as a full kitchen service.

#### OUTDOOR SKATING ARENA

One of the finest outdoor arenas in Rural Saskatchewan. The outdoor rink boasts a 80 ft X 160 ft playing area and a warm-up room for tying your skates.

#### MOOSOMIN CURLING CLUB

- · Modern 4-sheet facility complete with multiple upgrades in past years.
- Full kitchen and bar services.
- Hosting Provincial, SCA Southern Playdowns and SHSAA Regional Playdowns in 2019-2020 along with the 2021 National Firefighters Bonspiel

Come visit us and see all we have to offer!

Moosomin has a wealth of tourist services, including a wide range of accommodation options, including three new hotels built in the last few years, a wide variety of dining options, and some one-of-a-kind local stores

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

#### MOOSOMIN CONEXUS CONVENTION CENTRE

6,000 square feet of gym floor along with 3,000 square feet of stage. It hosts various events includina:

- Multiple performing arts productions Sporting Events: Volleyball, Basketball, Floor
- Hockey & more! Graduation Ceremonies
- Trade Shows & Auction Sales
- Wedding Ceremonies & Receptions
- Cabarets
- Various Fundraisers and more!
- NUTRIEN SPORTSPLEX Brand new in 2016, and features:
  - **Bowling Lanes**
- Billiard Table
- Pickle ball Courts
- Shuffle Board Table
- Darts
- Walking Track
- 4 Simulators (golf, hockey, baseball, cricket and more)

#### This building is fully licensed and also offers kitchen services.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday, Tuesday • Wednesday: Closed

- Thursday: 4 p.m. 10 p.m.
- Friday: Noon 10 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- Sunday: 10 a.m. 9 p.m.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

#### Moosomin Parks & Recreation

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

### NUTRIEN SPORTSPLEX CALENDAR **OF EVENTS**

- Monday Nights Dance Classes
- Tuesday Nights Exercise Classes
- Wednesdays Pickle Ball League
- Thursdays IG Wealth Management Men's & Ladies Winter Golf Royal LePage King Pins

**Bowling League** Fridays

Afternoon Snow Birders Special! All games 50% off from noon to 6 p.m., Chamber of Commerce Friday night Golf League.

 Saturday Nights Kinette's Chace The Ace

#### Sundays

Family Day! Buy 1 hour, get the second hour FREE on all games!



Moosomin & District Regional Park www.moosominregionalpark.com moosominregionalpark@sasktel.net (306) 435-3531 Moosomin & District Regional Park

Diverse Population — Diversified Economy — Boundless Opportunities

#### Town of Moosomin

Town of Moosomin



## Covid or not, winter fun is still a go!

While Covid-19 has meant that almost all activities around the region have been cancelled this winter, and it's anyone's guess what the rest of this winter will hold, it doesn't mean that winter fun has to stop. Quite the contrary, it's an opportunity to experience some of the best things that Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba have to offer during the winter months.

Most outdoor activities are perfect for social distancing, and there's no lack of things to do in the region that will get you outside and active while staying safe with your family and friends.

For example, you can jump on a snowmobile this winter and ride the extensive snowmobile trail systems in the area. Both Tri-Valley Trails in Saskatchewan and the SnoMan Trails in Manitoba are available for riders, offering groomed and safe trails. The Esterhazy Super Sledders also provide fun and safe snowmobile trails to ride in the Esterhazy area.

If you want to strap a pair of skis to your feet, there is downhill skiing at Asessippi Ski Area and Resort in Southeast Manitoba, which also offers snowboarding and snowtubing. The resort features 26 runs, three lifts, and two terrain parks for skiing and snowboarding, plus a downhill snow tubing park with four downhill lanes. It's a perfect way to spend a day of family fun!

Moosomin, Rocanville and Esterhazy all have cross country ski trails on offer as well!

Both Moosomin and Esterhazy have busy and active outdoor rinks in the winter that are free of charge. The rinks are great places to play a game of shinny or just go



for a fun skate!

Curling is also a go in most communities this winter, with lots of curlers signed up for league and fun curling as a way to make the winter go a little quicker.

Ice fishing is also a great way to get outside and there is no shortage of great ice fishing spots on local lakes around the region.

Finally, as long as it is allowed, indoor facilities like the Moosomin Sportsplex and SN Boreen Centre in Esterhazy are offering some indoor programming this winter such as winter walking, pickleball, bowling and indoor golf.

So go ahead, make the most of this winter and use it as an excuse to get some winter recreation in while you can!

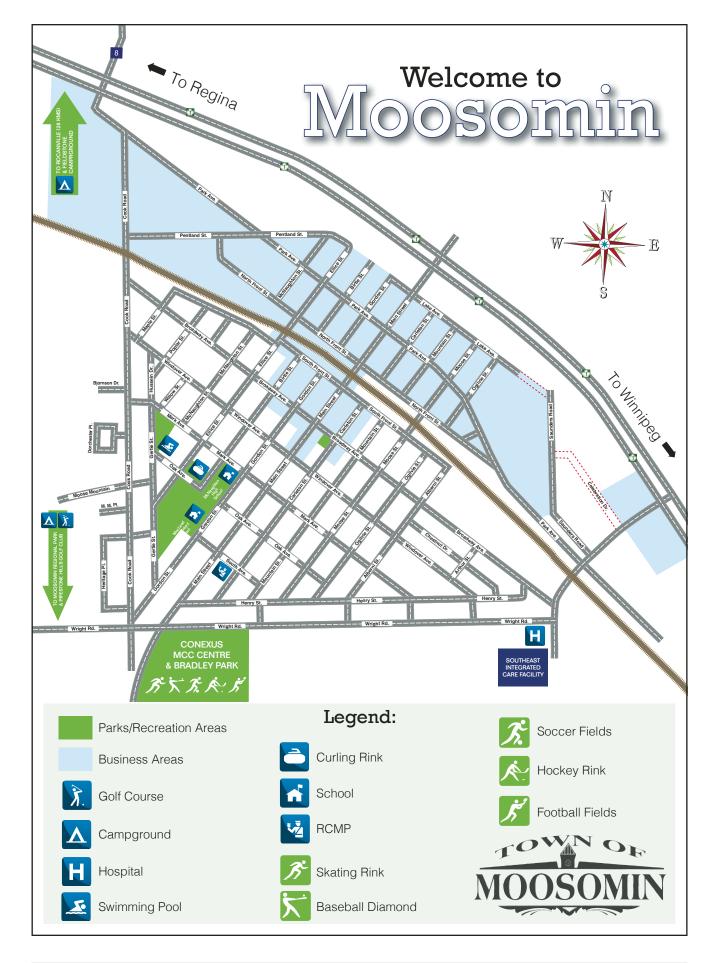


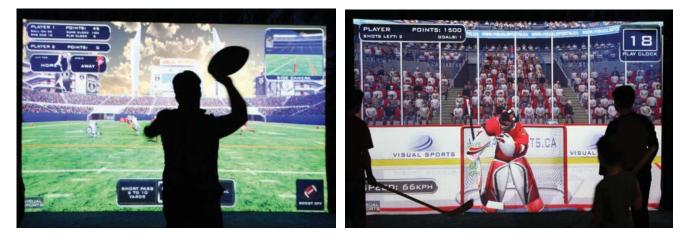


### Why sit when you can **Swivel**?

Soothe your mind, soul, and WholeBody! Let every muscle in your back, neck, and shoulders surrender into relaxation with an unparalleled massage solution of the patent pending FlexGlide<sup>®</sup>. Sit in style and elegance while you experience soothing comfort like a warm oil massage, using orbital massage technology featuring comprehensive massage techniques that will leave you feeling deeply relaxed and restored head-to-toe. The Human Touch<sup>®</sup> WholeBody<sup>®</sup> swivel collection features an open design with generous seating fit for you and your contemporary living space.







# Moosomin's Nutrien Sportsplex an award-winning facility

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 eight years ago. 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 and sports simulators—was meant to serve all 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.

"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, and the health region using it, we're working with all different demographics. With all the parties, we're bringing a lot of people to the community."

This year the Sportsplex can not host large events due to Covid-19, but the facility continues to operate some of its regular winter programming.

The Sportsplex has weekly golf leagues, there are pickleball courts, 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.

Schwean said there are positive comments from people from out of town when they see the Sporsplex. "People are really shocked with it," he said. "When people see it for the first time they are shocked. When we have our Christmas parties now, we have a lot of people coming from out of town, from places like Virden, and people are just amazed at what we have there."

He said the proximity to the MCC Centre and the Communiplex helps as well. "It's so nice the way it works with the rink next door," he said. "So many people pop by just to see

"So many people pop by just to see it. And for the people in town who use it, it's great. 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.

"We have had cities call us for blueprints and to find out how it works not towns but cities."

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.

The main part of the facility was completed in 2016, and that year the facility was named the winner of the Cecil Nobes Facility Award of Excellence from the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association.

Outdoors, at the Tim Hortons Outdoor Eventplex, the deck and stage are used for special events in the summer. A flag garden and campground were developed, and Kim Setrum sponsored a mini-golf course that was added recently. This year there is also the additional of outdoor walking trails/cross country ski trails that start at the Eventplex, and a new gazebo.

Mayor Larry Tomlinson says he is proud that the town was selected for the SUMA award. "It's pretty awesome that we won. It's awesome for the town. Mike put a lot of work into getting that facility built and it's something for everyone in the community," he said. "It's got the simulators with all the sports inside, it's got the Tim Hortons Park outside for the summer. It's just a really good facility."



# **SPORTSPLEX**

# Escape the cold this winter at Nutrien Sportsplex in Moosomin!

The Nutrien Sportsplex is nothing short of amazing!



- 4 Virtual Game Simulators
- 6 Bowling Lanes
- 1 Billiard Table
- 320 Ft. Walking Track
- 2 Pickleball Courts
- Shuffleboard
- Darts
  - This place is sure to please everyone!

Moosomin Rec Department Programs:

THURSDAY NIGHT Royal LePage King Pins Bowling

THURSDAY NIGHT IG Wealth Management Men's and Ladies Golf league

FRIDAY AFTERNOON Sharpe's Crop Services Farmers and Friends Golf League

**FRIDAY NIGHT** Corporate Scramble Golf Night

WINTER SNOWBIRDERS CLUB

### TO BOOK CALL 306-435-3622







## Moosomin's outdoor rink well used

In the town of Moosomin—where indoor ice time is quickly booked up by hockey, figure skating, and other events each season—there is an outdoor rink for people to enjoy during the winter months.

Moosomin's outdoor rink was built a few years ago as an answer to the lack of time for public skating and shinny at the Communiplex, 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.

The 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.

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!

# Ride the beautiful 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 19 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.

Continued on Page 11 🖙



# Ride the beautiful Tri Valley Trails

#### Scontinued from Page 10

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.

snowmobilers, such as meals, repairs, and accessories. 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.

As snowmobile season begins amid the pandemic, Tri Valley Trails organizer Stan Langley says there's been a few minor adjustments, but for the most part Covid-19 should lead to minimal changes at the trails this year.

"We've come up with a few things that you have to do," said Langley. "You have to practice your social distancing in the shacks. With garbage it's pack in, pack out. So if you cook yourself something to eat in the shack, you have to take your garbage back out with you and there won't be any garbage cans at the shack that's from the SSA—so we don't want people leaving their garbage laying around.

"I certainly think it will be a normal year for us," he said. "As long as we can get snow and keep it going, but everything is day-to-day in the province now. It



wouldn't make sense to close the snowmobile trails because people are going to snowmobile no matter what and at least if they're on a trail they're safe—they have a good idea of where they're going and they have land that we have permission to be on.

Langley is also the owner of a snowmobile dealership. "Most snowmobile manufacturers are pretty well sold out," he said. "We have very few snowmobiles, we sell a lot on a regular basis, but I don't think we've ever been this low this time of year. Everybody's selling snowmobiles, the used market is extremely high right now. If people want to get rid of a snowmobile, it's a good time for them to sell because a lot of people want to buy them. It's the perfect activity to do right now."





There are lots of great curling clubs in the area, but one of the most active clubs is in Welwyn, which sees an abundance of teams each year, and hosts a kids bonspiel and very popular St. Pat's bonspiel every winter.



### Welcome to Rocanville, SK!



### Winter Activities FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY!



We have all the equipment you need! Reasonable Rates

Equipment Rentals

Over 8 kms of sheltered, groomed trails

Located 2 1/2 miles South of Rocanville 1 mile west of Hwy 8 near the Dennis and Joan Hack Farm

FOR MORE INFORMATION FIND US ON FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/Rocanville-Cross-Country-Ski-Club

#### Tri-Valley Trails Snowmobile Club

300 kms of groomed trails Food, fuel & accommodations available

in many centres

Serving Moosomin, Fleming, Rocanville, Welwyn, Spy Hill, Tantallon & St. Lazare



Buy your membership at Universe Satellite in Rocanville or call 306-645-2669

www.rocanville.ca

#### Rocanville Skating Rink

You can view the full rink schedule online at www.rocanville.ca or Facebook for upcoming events and ice times

#### Nutrien Rocanville Community Hall

For bookings please contact s.fortney@sasktel.net 306-435-7703

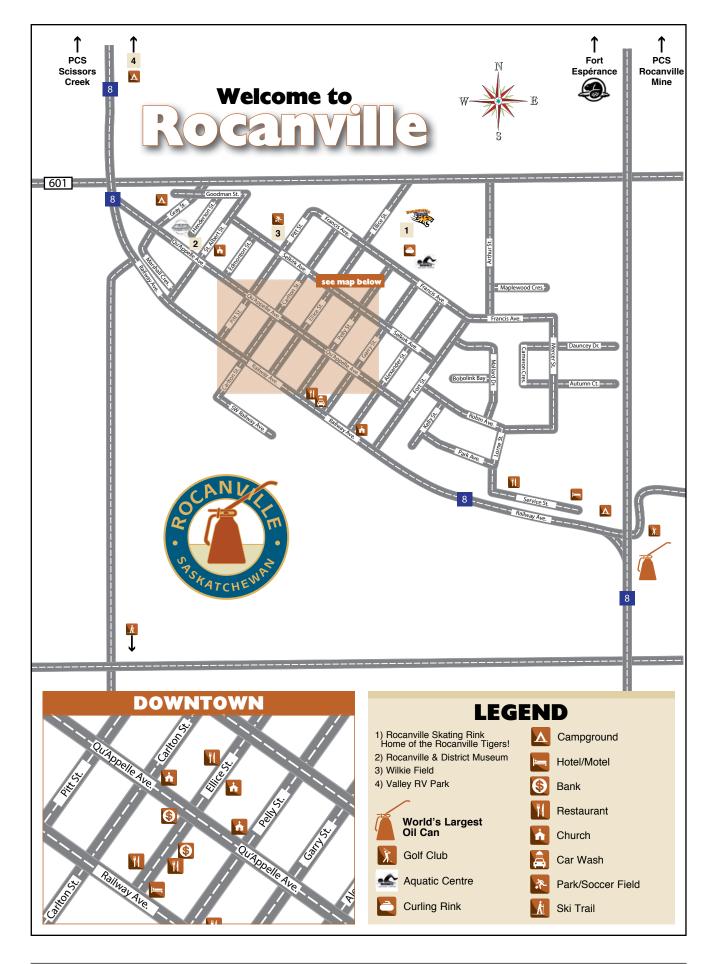
View hall rates and availability www.rocanville.ca

#### Senior Centre Activities

Open Thursday Afternoons at 1:00 p.m. cards, board games, pool. shuffleboard and crafts **Members & Non-Members of all Ages Welcome!** 

For info call: Linda at 306-645-4287 or visit www.rocanville.ca

f www.facebook.com/Rocanville





### Universe Satellite Sales 520 RAILWAY AVE • ROCANVILLE, SK • 306.645.2669 www.universesatellite.com





The Moosomin Rangers and Rocanville Tigers, above, and Esterhazy Flyers, below, in action.

## Catch some senior hockey action!

If you love a good hockey game, there are a number of great teams to watch in Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba during the winters.

As of the time of writing, all games in Manitoba were suspended due to Covid-19 for the 2020-21 season, but games in Saskatchewan were still a go.

Three local senior hockey teams—the Moosomin Rangers, Rocanville Tigers, and Esterhazy Flyers—compete in the Sask East Hockey League—a new league formed for the 2020-21 season. The full schedule for the league, as well as weekly results, can be found at www.saskeasthockey.ca.

Three more local teams—the Redvers Rockets, Wawota Flyers and Kipling/Windthorst Oil Kings—are all active in the Big Six Hockey League. The schedule and results for the Big Six can be found at www.bigsixhockey.com.

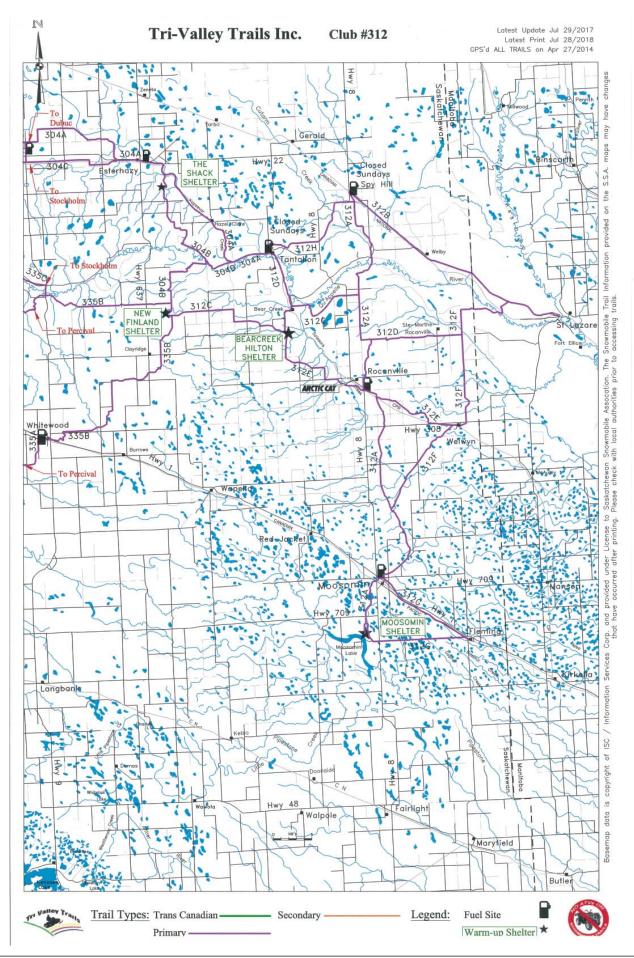
In Manitoba, if play resumes at some point this season, the Miniota-Elkhorn C-Hawks



are one of the strongest teams in the North Central Hockey League, defending the league championship many times over. The Virden Oil Kings also play in this league. Information on the NCHL can be found at www. northcentralhockeyleague.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 beautiful new recreation centre, Tundra Oil and Gas Place.

So go ahead—bundle up, head on down to the rink, buy yourself a burger and a hot chocolate at the local concession and enjoy the game!





Skiers enjoy a winter day at the Rocanville cross-country ski trails.

# Cross-country ski trails popular at Rocanville

Whether you're looking for sport, fellowship, exercise, or an opportunity to simply enjoy the outdoors during a Prairie winter day, the Rocanville Cross-Country Ski Club fits the bill.

Since 1995, when local resident Dennis Hack cleared some trails on his farm located two miles south of Rocanville, cross-country ski enthusiasts have strapped on their skis and ventured into Saskatchewan's winter landscape.

Since then, the club has developed into an organization regular members, while many more nonmembers also take to the nine-kilometre groomed track through the winter.

Even those without skis are included. The Rocanville Cross-Country Ski Club's clubhouse amenities provide everything you need for a day of skiing. The club has all different sizes of boots and skis for rent at low cost, and a wax station to prepare your skis for the day's travel. Payment is based on the honor system.

The clubhouse also has a wood stove for warmth, comfy chairs, and hot chocolate and marshmallows.

The club's trail system contains a variety of tracks, from flat easy-going paths to more challenging hills and coulees. The route winds through bush, providing shelter from a chilly winter breeze.

And, because the club has a facility for all ages and skill levels, the whole family can get involved. While older children can make their first attempt at crosscountry skiing, younger ones can be pulled behind an adult in a sled or toboggan.

The trails are groomed to provide for classic or skate skiing.

You can get more information from the club's ex-

ecutive members or by calling the Rec Office in Rocanville.



ROCANVILLE, SK 306-645-2112

LANGENBURG, SK 306-743-2332







#### DANA ANTAL ARENA Home to the Esterhazy Senior Flyers

- 7 Minor Hockey Teams
- Skate Esterhazy & Canskate
- 2 Recreation Hockey Teams
- Public Skating: Tuesdays 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.; Sundays 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
   For facility schedule:

www.townofesterhazy.ca
OUTDOOR SKATING RINK

#### Located by D.A. Mackenzie Aquatic Center

- Warm up room for tying your skates 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

Light the

#### ESTERHAZY COMMUNITY CURLING CLUB

- Junior Curling Tuesday at 4 p.m.
- Ladies Curling Monday at 6:30 pm
- Mixed Curling Wednesday at 7 pm
- Men's Curling Thursday at 7 pm

#### S.N. BOREEN CENTER Walk the hall

- Open to all ages, please register at the Town Office: 306-745-5402
- Cost \$10/Month
- Open 9 a.m. 2 p.m. Monday to Friday unless booked for an event www.townofesterhazy.ca

#### 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 UPCOMING EVENTS Moonlight Madness Thursday, December 3 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

FREE MOVIE AT THE MAPLE LEAF

THEATRE!

Saturday, December 5 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.



There are only 60 seating spots available per show. It will be first come, first served <u>FREE POPCORN</u> for children attending Merry Christmas from the Town of Esterhazy

This holiday season, ESTERHAZY BUCKS

will be awarded to the top 3 houses with the best Christmas lights! You will decide who your top 3 favorites are! To join in on the contest simply decorate your house by DECEMBER 14, 2020!



#### ONE VOTE PERSON

ABER 14, 2020! FIRST PLACE:

\$250 Esterhazy Bucks

SECOND PLACE: \$150 Esterhazy Bucks

THIRD PLACE: \$100 Esterhazy Bucks Sponsored by the Town of Esterhazy

### There's so much to discover in our community! Contact the Town Office: 306-745-3942 or visit www.townofesterhazy.ca



Esterhazy is home to some excellent cross-country ski trails. These photos were taken at an Esterhazy Family Ski Day held in February.

# Cross country skiing at Esterhazy

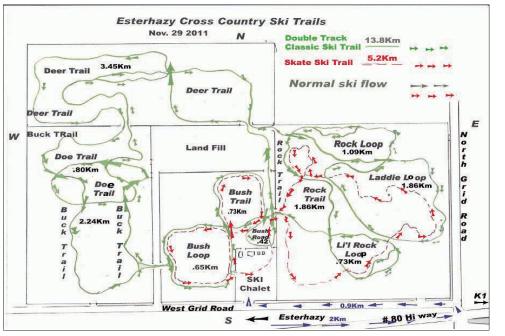
Esterhazy Cross Country Ski Club is a member of Cross Country Canada, its division Cross Country Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Ski Association. As such, the club's membership of over 130 skiers benefits from this association in a number of ways, some of which are liability insurance, map grants, newsletters,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

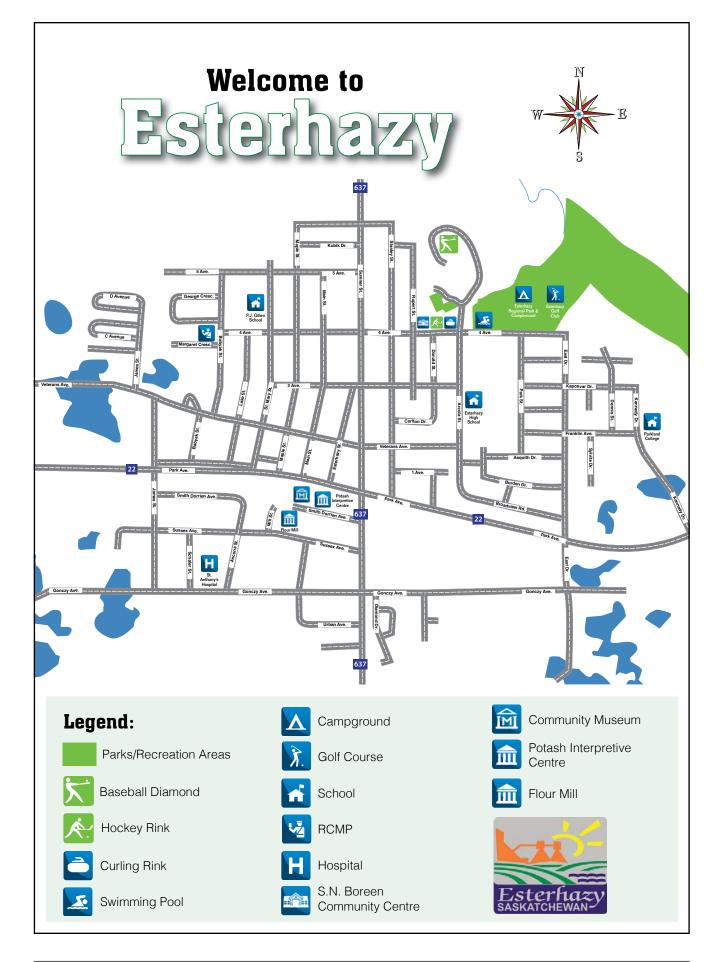
The club is a volunteerrun organization and are a group who is excited to share their love of fresh air, exercise and beauty of the outdoors. Thank you to all those individuals who help clear and groom the 14 km of classic and 6 km of skate-ski trails, maintain equipment, clean and stock the ski hut, 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.

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.







### Esterhazy Super Sledders always welcoming new members

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.

The scenic trails are located in the Qu'Appelle Valley stretching from Grayson to Rocanville down the old rail bed (the trail map can be viewed at https://ssa.evtrails.com/#).

The Esterhazy Super Sledders acquired the rail bed system 15 years ago, but have been grooming them and using them since the rail bed system was abandoned 25 years ago.

"We have a consistent group of members who help take care of the trails and groom them—of course we need some snow before we can do that! We're hoping for some of that this year," said Esterhazy Super Sledders organizer Curtis Abdai. "Pretty much as soon as the snow hits the ground we're out grooming, signing, and getting the trails open.

"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."

The Esterhazy Super Sledders group membership fee is \$30 per year for a family and the best way to get in touch with them is through their facebook page (https://www.facebook. com/groups/181109108567937/).

"Typically we have a few work days per year," he said. "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. We just moved another shack out by Round Lake, it's yearly participation, more or less! You come when you can and help is greatly appreciated.

"The main contact for our members to stay in touch or for new members interested is our Facebook page. Everybody's electronic these days and it's the best way to stay informed," said Abdai. "We have about 35 active members. We used to have approxi-



mately 100. The numbers are dwindling and we're always looking for more members because they're what keeps the trail system alive."

Abdai doesn't expect there to be much change this season amid the Covid-19 pandemic. He's suspecting there might be an increase in those taking advantage of the trails and becoming members of the Esterhazy Super Sledders because snowmobiling is one of the few activities where there's no close contact involved.

"I wouldn't think it (Covid-19) will have much of an impact," he said. "You're in your own helmet and your own gear. The warmup shacks are kind of off limits due to Covid-19, they're for emergency use only right now.

"There are still outdoor fire pits that can be used at the shacks too. I've seen an increase in trail use through the ATV community in the spring, summer, and fall here. This year there's been a ton of people out buying quads and side-by-sides and there's always a ton of people out on the trails.

"Our trails run year round for that, but we don't groom them or sign them except for snowmobile season.

"We're hopeful it's a busy season with plenty of snow!"



# Curling rinks are the centre of rural communities in the winter

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 cardiovas-cular 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!





### **Esterhazy's outdoor** rink gets lots of use

In 2019, the town of Esterhazy erected an outdoor arena right beside the DA Mackenzie Aquatic Centre, and the rink has been well used ever since.

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.



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There aren't a lot of places around the region where you can go bowling, but both Esterhazy and Moosomin have bowling alleys with five-pin and traditional bowling, as well as glow bowling. Esterhazy runs both adult and youth league bowling as well as public bowling, although this year Covid-19 may have resulted in some changes. Moosomin has also started league bowling, and offers public bowling as well as glow bowling.

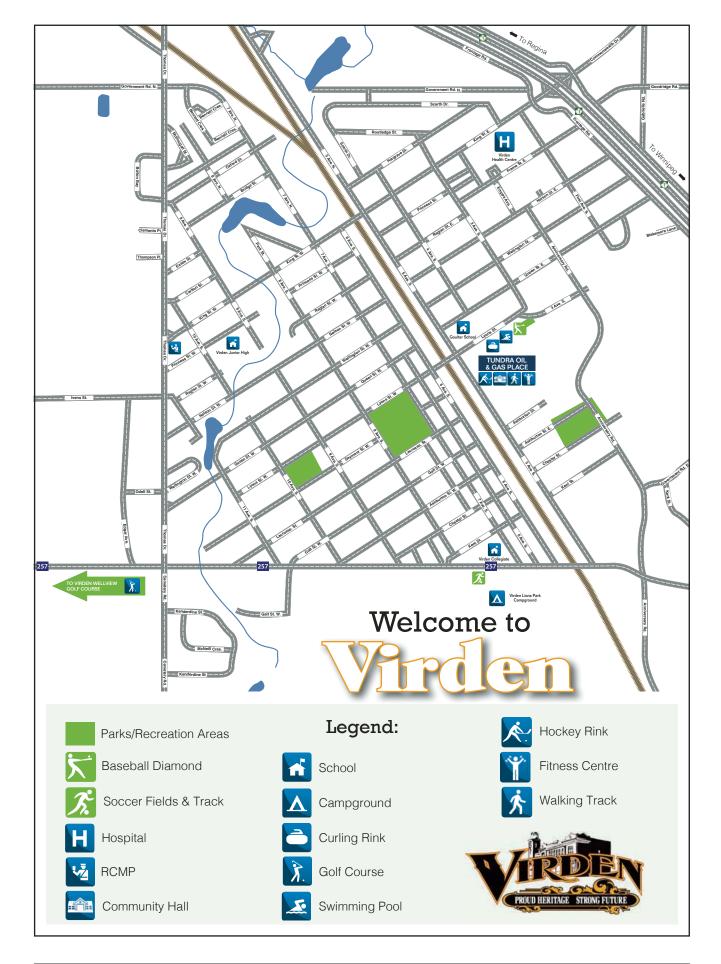


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### Virden's Tundra Oil and Gas Place

A new 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 handicap 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 days.

The community hall located within this building offers seating for 500 people and an exceptionally large kitchen



An Oil Caps game underway at Tundra Oil and Gas Place

to host any of your entertaining needs.

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

Tundra Oil and Gas Place holds facility tours showcasing how the construction of the facility followed the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. To schedule a tour call (204) 748-2736 ext. 1.





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# 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 is a bit more detail on just a few of the heritage buildings that make Virden unique:



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

### Canadian Pacific Railway Station

Located at 425 - 6th Avenue S, the Canadian Railway Station was constructed in 1900 after the original wood frame station burnt in 1899. It has been restored and declared a heritage building in 1994. Its unique fieldstone and overhanging eaves style was common with many rail stations in larger centers. In the early years, many new immigrant farmers and businessmen would have first disembarked from the train at this location and passed through the doors of this station. Today, it houses community based organizations including the Virden and Area Arts Council and the Virden Chamber of Commerce. Also included is an art gallery and a separate board room area.

#### The Aud Theater - 228 Wellington Street

The Aud Theatre was built in 1911 as part of the municipal building. The building was open to the public on February 29, 1912. The building consisted of a government telephone exchange room, new court room, three large offices, and the opera house, costing \$32,500. The population at this time was about 1,500. The Aud Theatre was built by W.T. Manser. The comedy "the Misogynist" was the first to play in the theatre. The Great Eastern Sign Painting Co. of Toronto supplied the 22x30ft curtain. During the '30s and '40s the Aud was a movie theatre. The ceiling on the stage was originally 40ft high but it was lowered to 24ft to save heat. The building was originally heated by steam which was replaced with electric heat in 1984-85 after the renovation and re-opening in 1983. When the theatre fell into disrepair it closed as a movie theatre and the town council was preparing to demolish it. A local steering committee was formed to save it, and after substantial renovations, it was re-opened in 1983. The lower level consists of 257 seats and the upper level consists of 210 seats. The majestic curve of the balcony gives the audience a panoramic

Photo illustration by Kevin Weedmark

view of the stage. On either side of this are two double decker boxes or loges which add an air of sophistication.

#### St Mary's Anglican Church - 633 9th Street

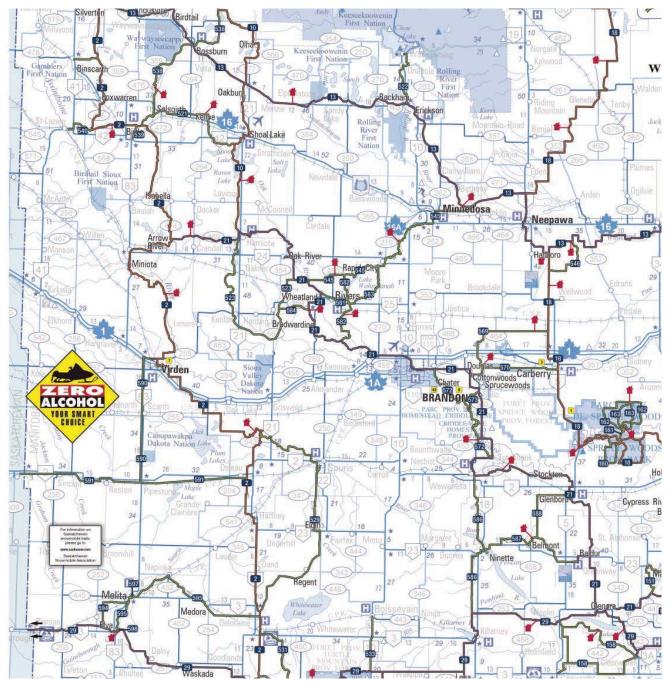
This structure is a great example of fieldstone construction. Much of the stone for the fieldstone construction came from along the top of the Assiniboine River Valley. The first church was a frame structure built by Clayton and Sons in 1885. This was the first church building in Virden. Masonry work was done by Mr. Saul of Carberry with carpentry done by Mr. Harrington of Winnipeg. Walter Chesterton, a Winnipeg architect, designed this notable structure while building the school across the street. The cloister and fence were added in 1952. The church features two stained glass windows created by famous artist and sculptor Leo Mol. The church also features a stained glass medallion window. This window was presented by the city of Brugge, Belgium to honor the 12th Manitoba Dragoons.

#### **Goulding House**

Located at 677 - 9th Avenue, this house is today a private residence. Built in 1893 by Dr. Goulding, the fieldstone house represents a prime example of early prairie architectural designs with bi-level verandas and upper look out.

#### Virden Pioneer Home Museum

Located at 390 King Street, and Established in 1970, the museum holds over 6,000 items relating to the Victorian era of Virden's history as displayed in the main house. The original home itself was constructed in 1888 and the three additional annexes were constructed at a later date to display items from subsequent eras depicting our local heritage and culture.



Snowmobile trails in Western Manitoba



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### Asessippi Ski Area and Resort Outdoor adventure awaits!

Are you ready for a good time? Well, you don't have to travel far for resort-style winter fun! Pack up the kids and your gear and head for Asessippi Ski Area and Resort, a short drive north of Russell, Manitoba.

Featuring 26 runs, three lifts, and two terrain parks for skiing and snowboarding, plus a downhill snow tubing park with four downhill lanes, there's lots to explore!

Visitors will find some new additions this season when they visit Asessippi, including a slope side pavilions, multiple warming shacks and an expanded seating area with heaters and fire pits in the courtyard.

Asessippi will also feature a "tailgate area" where families can park and picnic.

For the comfort of social distancing, Asessippi has redesigned its rental area and have added 10 selfserve ticket kiosks as well as a new online food and beverage ordering app.

The food court offers a wide range of options—salads, soup of the day, daily lunch specials, burgers and pizza and so much more!

O-Lifty's Pub n' Grub 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 newly revamped menu!

Check out the Trail's End Gift Shop where there is something for everyone!

The lower level of the chalet features a full rental and pro shop, so you'll be fully geared up for your day on the slopes.

Asessippi Ski Area and Resort has become one of the most sought-after venues for couples saying their "I Dos" and offers beautiful locations and outstanding service, not only in summer but in winter as well!

Be sure to check www.asessippi. com for additions and updates.

Accommodations are available at The Russell Inn (1-800) 665 0678 as well as in the neighboring communities, a full accommodations list is available at asessippi.com

We'll see you on the slopes!



Above: Snowboarders enjoying the slopes Below: A snowboarder tests their skills





Above: Snow tubing at Asessippi.

Below: The resort village



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2020 - 2021 Winter Fun Guide

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From the entertainment options at the Bear Claw Casino to the trails at Moose Mountain Provincial Park, there is lots to do in the Moose Mountains in the winter.

### Lots to do in the Moose Mountains in the winter

There is a lot to do in the Moose Mountains of southeast Saskatchewan in the winter months. There are lots of outdoor winter activities at Moose Mountain Provincial Park, there are dining option ranging from the Moosehead Inn at Kenosee Lake to Growler's at the Bear Claw Casino, to The Office at nearby Carlyle, and there are snowmobile trails connecting the Moose Mountains with surrounding areas. The two biggest draws to the area in the winter would be Moose Mountain Provincial Park and the Bear Claw Casino.

Moose Mountain Provincial Park is home to lots of winter activities including:

#### **Cross-Country skiing**

Moose Mountain has 5 km of trails, five warm-up shelters, is groomed for classic, skate skiing, and 4 km of night skiing

Snowmobile Trails

Moose Mountain Provincial Park includes 93 km of groomed trails

Toboggan and Snowshoe

Moose Mountain has a winter recreation complex, groomed toboggan hill, warm-up shelter with camp stoves, and snowshoe trails.



# THE BACKROADS OF ESTEVAN

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### Discover hidden gems and rich history on the Backroads Estevan Audio Tour!

BY MONIQUE WILLMS

Many of us grew up in the era of the "Sunday drive." Hopping in the vehicle on a Sunday afternoon with no real destination in mind (a surprising lack of snacks by 2020 standards) and following backroads past abandoned farms, rolling hills, fields of wildflowers and through small towns was a popular weekend activity.

Though it seems as though those slower times have since been replaced by the hustle and bustle of life, Tourism Estevan has created a Backroads of Estevan Audio Tour to take you back to this simple pastime. The tour guides you through local landmarks and to hidden gems while weaving in rich layers of history and interesting information.

With everything being free of charge, you can head to the City of Estevan page to the download link for the app "Tripvia" and download the tour to your phone. The app uses your location services (GPS) to track where you are and it will automatically give you directions and narrations about your location, so make sure you follow all directions on the app to set up your automatic notifications.

Additionally, before you start we recommend a full tank of gas, sufficient snacks and outfitting yourself in proper gear for the weather so that you can get out and explore. The tour is greatly enhanced by stopping, get-



ting out and exploring the stops, so you'll want to be prepared. Be sure to clear your schedule, as if you only drive the tour it should take approximately 1.5 hours and if you explore it could easily occupy 3-4 hours. The tour begins close to Estevan

The tour begins close to Estevan and you'll get a look at various historical monuments, remnants of our evolution as the Energy City and symbolic sculptures/carvings. From there you'll head out of town and weave through backroads introducing you to diverse terrain. Rivers, dams, rolling hills, reclaimed land, ravines, woods and sandstone outcroppings are some of the features you'll see and the changing landscape keeps you wondering what



you'll find down the next road. Native wildlife is also in abundance and we're sure you'll spot many deer, various birds and if you're lucky we hope you get a peek at the buffalo raised in the area.

By connecting the audio to your vehicle you'll be treated to narrations of the history of things like the NWMP, riots, coal mining processes, land reclamation, ghost towns and more. Sprinkled in are also bits of folklore and music featuring local artists whose lyrics add to the narrative. We hope you'll come spend an

We hope you'll come spend an afternoon exploring our backroads and unique history. Whether you're a visitor or have called this area home your whole life, we're sure you'll discover something new and enjoy this afternoon of adventure.





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Check out www.weyburntourism.com for more winter fun activities



**NOVEMBER 30, 2020 TO JANUARY 2, 2021**  A sparkling tour through River Park Campground. No Cost | Lights are on once the sun goes down. 403 Confederation Drive, Weyburn, SK.



#### NEW for 2020, A Holiday Home Sparkle Tour!

Want to see more lights? From Dec 15 - Jan 2, head to our website or Facebook Page and get your digital copy of this additional map for a self-guided driving tour of Holiday Homes around Weyburn, that ends at River Park Sparkles!



People fishing in the Lake of the Prairies Ice Fishing Derby.

# Ice fishing a popular prairie sport

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.





Ice fishing is a popular pastime across the area, from Moosomin Lake to Asesippi to the Qu'Appelle Valley lakes and beyond

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