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WINTER FUN GUIDE 2021 - 2022

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TOWN OF MOOSOMIN

Strength in 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 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 HAS FIRST CLASS RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:

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.

MIKE SCHWEAN ARENA

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 ARENA AND PETER NABHOLZ SKATE-WAY

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.

NEW WINTER X-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS

Ski Rentals at the Sportsplex

MOOSOMIN CURLING CLUB

- Modern 4-sheet facility complete with multiple upgrades in past years.

MOOSOMIN CONEXUS CONVENTION CENTRE

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

- 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!



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Town of Moosomin
www.moosomin.com
twm.moosomin@sasktel.net
 306-435-2988
 Town of Moosomin

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

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

Diverse Population — Diversified Economy — Boundless Opportunities



Creative Vision Productions doing their musical performance of “All Together Now” on the stage at the Conexus Convention Centre in November of 2021.

Conexus Convention Centre and Communiplex a hub for winter activity

Every winter, the Conexus Convention Centre and Communiplex in Moosomin are a 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 at the Communiplex throughout the winter. Skating and shinny times can be found on the Moosomin Parks and Rec website at www.moosomin.com/parksandrec.

River Hockey is also available to children who want to play hockey without the pressure of league play. Kids can sign up for river hockey any time of the year, and shinny style hockey is played every weekend.

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 Communiplex 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 North Central Hockey League.

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

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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- Humidifiers
- Ice Fishing Supplies

DECEMBER HOURS

Monday - Friday:
9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday:
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday:
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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Welcome to Moosomin



Legend:

 Parks/Recreation Areas	 Curling Rink	 Soccer Fields
 Business Areas	 School	 Hockey Rink
 Golf Course	 RCMP	 Football Fields
 Campground	 Skating Rink	
 Hospital	 Baseball Diamond	
 Swimming Pool		





The Sportsplex was built for winter recreation. Above are people using the sports simulators.

Sportsplex a winter recreation 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 nine 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, pickleball court 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.

Continued on Page 8

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Thursday to Sunday 306-435-2325

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, 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."

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 Schwan. "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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People enjoying the Moosomin skating path at Bradley Park

Popular skating paths back this winter

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 again in 2021. 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'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!

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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

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Rocanville Skating Rink

You can view the full rink schedule online at www.rocانville.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.rocانville.ca

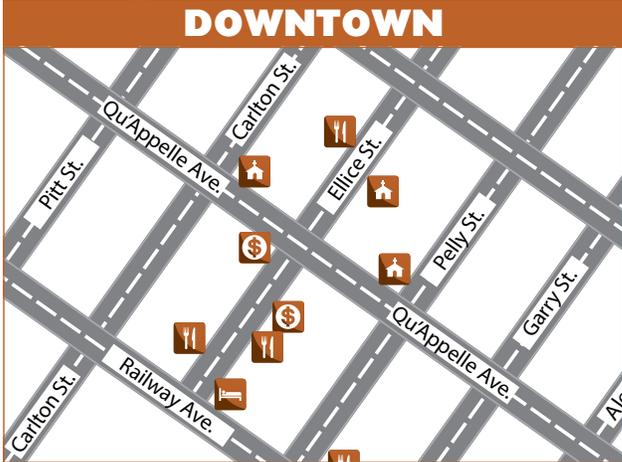
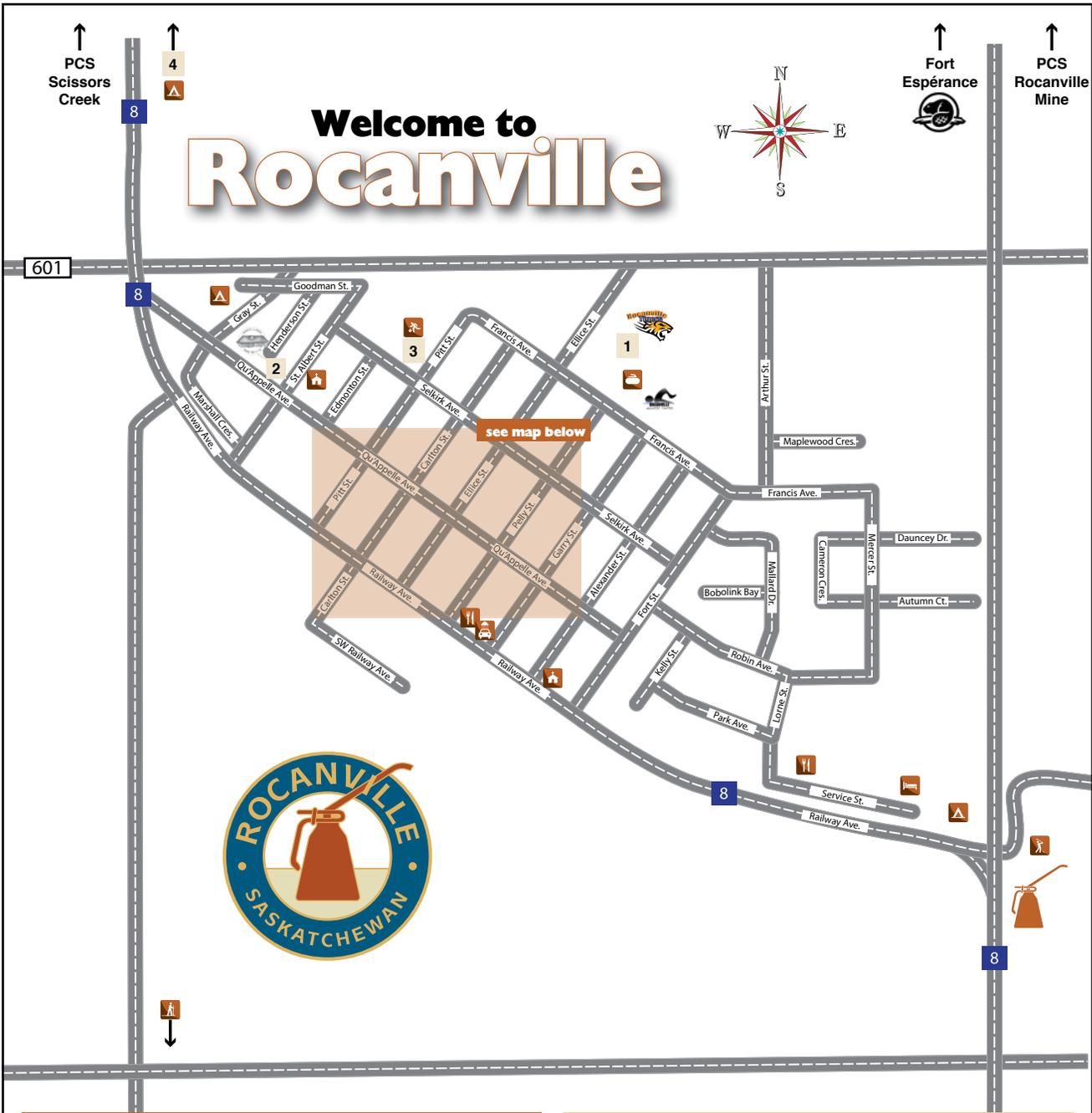
Senior Centre Activities

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Members & Non-Members of all Ages Welcome!

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

www.rocانville.ca  www.facebook.com/Rocانville



LEGEND

1) Rocanville Skating Rink Home of the Rocanville Tigers!		Campground
2) Rocanville & District Museum		Hotel/Motel
3) Wilkie Field		Bank
4) Valley RV Park		Restaurant
		Church
		Car Wash
		Park/Soccer Field
		Ski Trail



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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.

This year the Moosomin Rangers have joined the Big Six Hockey League along with the Redvers Rockets and Wawota Flyers. All three teams are gearing up for a competitive season.

The Rangers have added former NHL hockey player and Skellefeå AIK superstar Bud Holloway to their roster this season. The Rockets claimed the league championship in 2018 and have been icing a competitive team ever since, and the ever-scrappy Wawota Flyers were back to back league champions in 2016 and 2017 and are looking forward to another competitive season.

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. They will compete against Canora, Ituna and



Theodore in that league, which always promises some fast and fun hockey action.

In Manitoba, the Miniota-Elkhorn C-Hawks are one of the strongest teams in the North Central Hockey League, defending the league championship many times over. 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 head on down to the rink to cheer on your local team!

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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 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 Trails 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 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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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 non-members 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.

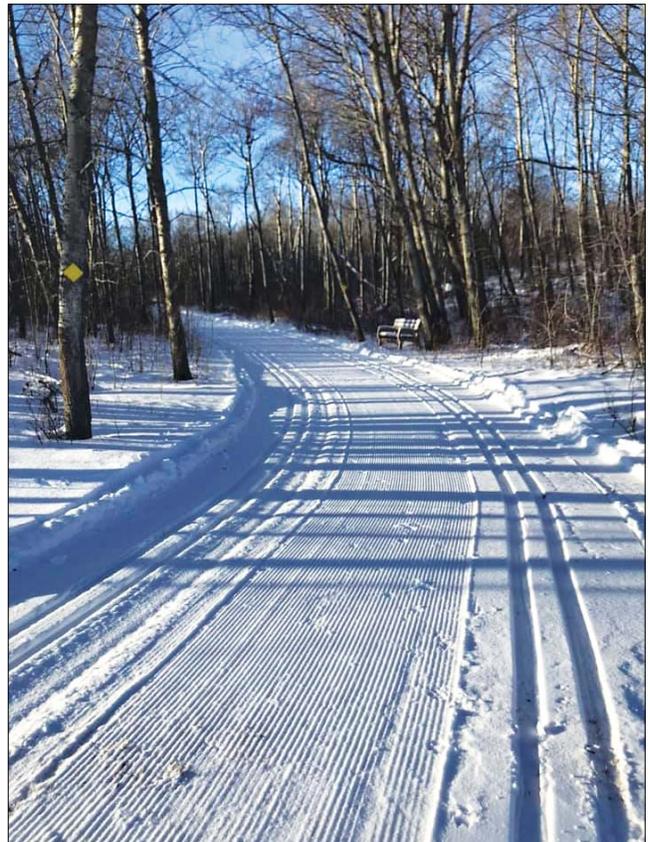
The clubhouse also has a wood stove for warmth, comfy chairs, and hot chocolate and marshmallows.

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 cross-country 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-



The groomed trails ready for skiers

ecutive members or by calling the Rec Office in Rocanville.



Esterhazy

SASKATCHEWAN



DANA ANTAL ARENA

- 8 Minor Hockey Teams
- Skate Esterhazy & Canskate
- 2 Recreation Hockey Teams
- Public Skating:
Check Arena Schedule for times
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

ESTERHAZY COMMUNITY CURLING CLUB

- **Mixed Curling**
Wednesday at 7 pm
- **Men's & Ladies Curling**
Thursday at 7 pm
- **Bonspiels in March**
For information:
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Check out facebook page: Esterhazy Super Sledders

Email: esterhazysupersledders@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Moonlight Magic

Thursday, December 2

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

- **Mayor Forster to light Museum tree lights**
- **Watch for Santa**
- **Town wide deals to start your Christmas Shopping**
- **Enter at participating businesses for a chance to win Esterhazy Bucks**

Light Up Hazy

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 13, 2021!**



HOW TO VOTE:

- Take a stroll to see the Christmas lights, Make a night out of it!
 - Take pictures of your favorite houses
 - Send us your top 3 pictures and addresses (if known) and e-mail to town.esterhazy@sasktel.net or mail to Box 490, Esterhazy or drop box. Include your name, phone number and the ranking!
- VOTES WILL BE ACCEPTED DECEMBER 13- 18, 2021**
ONE VOTE PERSON

FIRST PLACE:

\$200 Esterhazy Bucks

SECOND PLACE:

\$100 Esterhazy Bucks

THIRD PLACE:

\$50 Esterhazy Bucks

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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

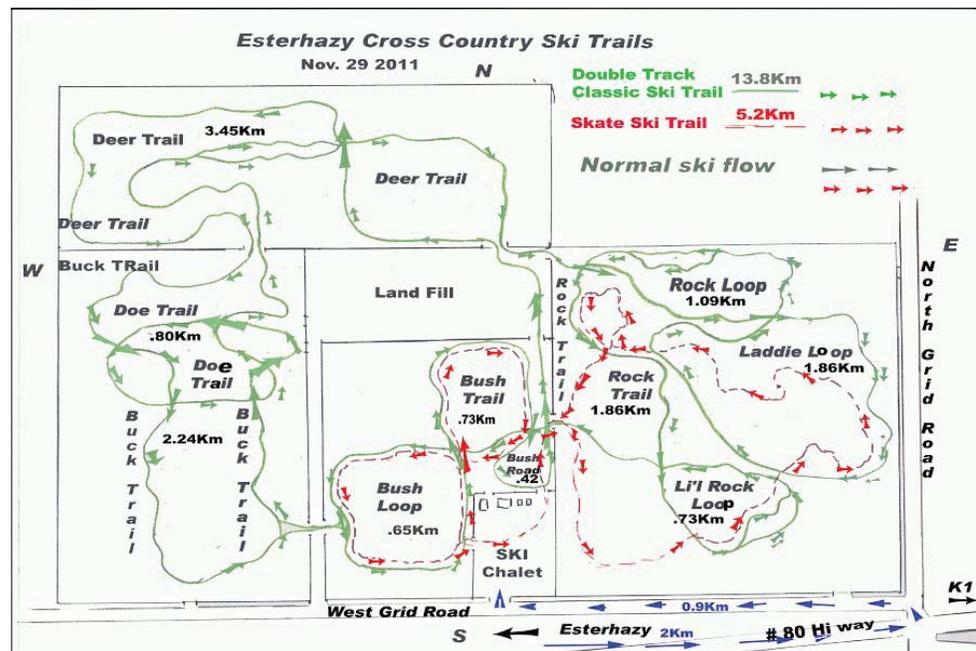
Esterhazy Cross Country Ski Club is a member of Cross Country Canada, its division Cross Country Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Ski Association. As such, the club's membership of over 130 skiers benefits from this association in a number of ways, some of which are liability insurance, map grants, newsletters,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

The club is a 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.

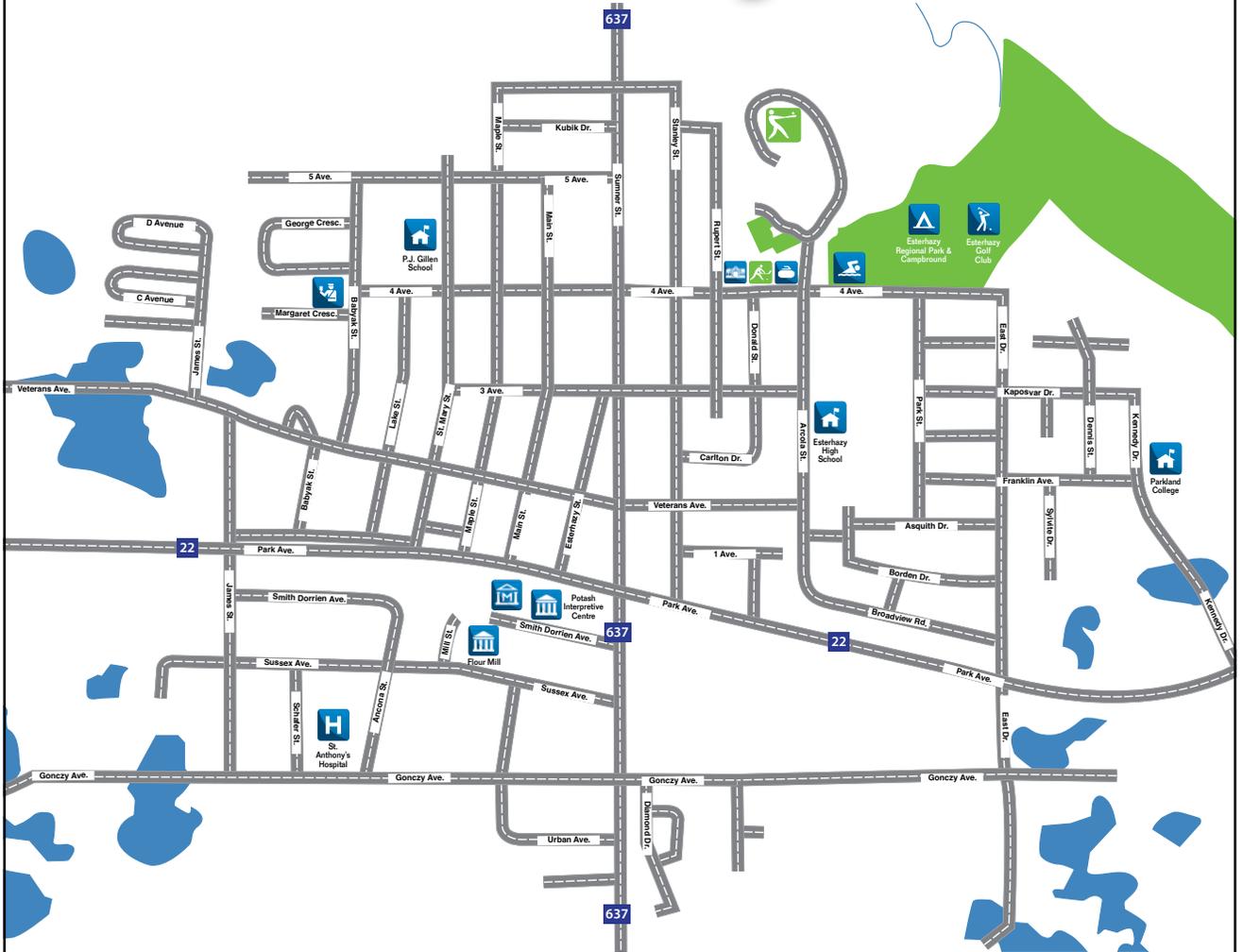
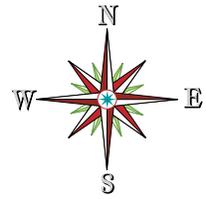
If you need to access the ski hut or need any help, the executive will gladly answer any questions, but ask that you help by keeping the area clean, helping to replenish wood supply, respecting the equipment and facilities and being responsible for your own safety. As a

member, your assistance with the many events and participation in a fundraiser would be greatly appreciated.

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.



Welcome to Esterhazy



Legend:

- | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
|  | Parks/Recreation Areas |  | Campground |  | Community Museum |
|  | Baseball Diamond |  | Golf Course |  | Potash Interpretive Centre |
|  | Hockey Rink |  | School |  | Flour Mill |
|  | Curling Rink |  | RCMP |  | Hospital |
|  | Swimming Pool |  | S.N. Boreen Community Centre |  | |



Snowmobiles outside some 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.

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.

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—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."

"Typically we have a few work days per year," says Abdai. "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. 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 approximately 100. The numbers are dwindling 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.

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

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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.

The town will be flooding the rink again this winter and looks forward to seeing people out enjoying it again during the winter months!



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Let's go skating!

Kids in Esterhazy enjoying the outdoor rink and skating path that runs through the regional park. Both are free of charge to use and will be available again this winter!



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History of St. 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 mission-

aries 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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Virден's Tundra Oil and Gas Place

A new multi-purpose recreational facility, known as Tundra Oil and Gas Place, was built in Virден 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 Virден's MJHL team—the Virден 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



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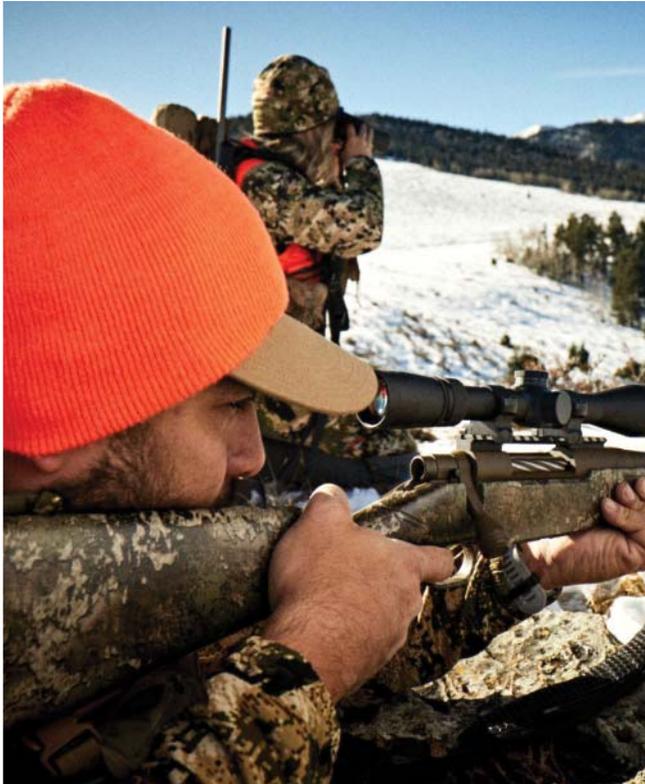
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Virден full of heritage buildings

Virден 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. Virден'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 Virден unique:

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.

Continued on Page 30



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Virден full of heritage buildings

Continued from Page 29

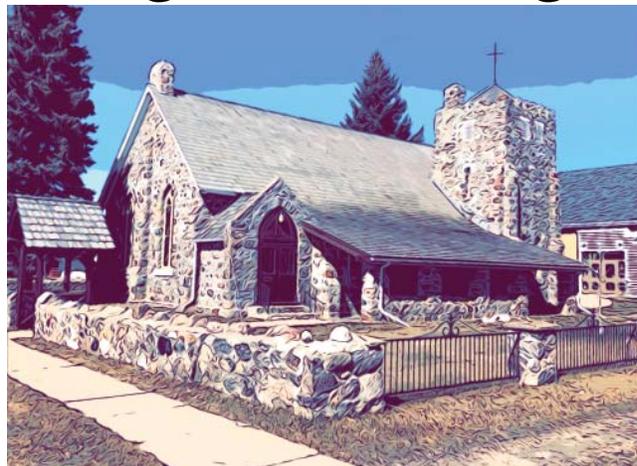
In the early years, many new immigrant farmers and businessmen would have first disembarked from the train at this location and passed through the doors of this station. Today, it houses community based organizations including the Virден and Area Arts Council and the Virден Chamber of Commerce. Also 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 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 Virден. 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



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

Photo illustration by Kevin Weedmark

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.

Virден 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 Virден'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.



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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.

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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



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

For the third 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.

Batters decided to build the rink again last year, and is building it for the third time this winter.

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.

"You can have lots of kids that would not normally go to the rink that are out skating. It is very informal. You can't have any organized events, you can't say you are having a hockey game. It is just an open thing for the public the lights are on 24/7. Last new on New Year's Eve we had people out there past midnight."

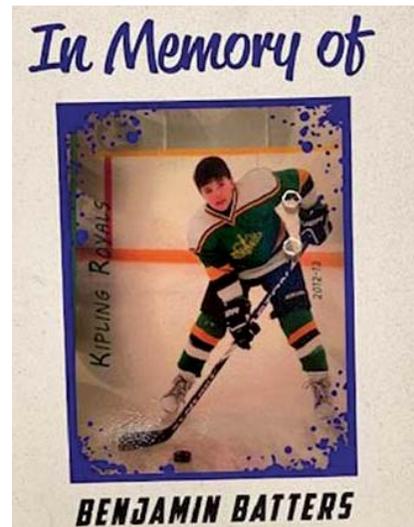
Any good rink needs a proper zamboni to keep the ice smooth and



Above, Kipling's outdoor rink, built by Allan Batters in memory of his son, Benjamin Batters, who passed away from Cancer at the age of 11. Right, the memorial sign on the Zamboni.

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.



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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 Aseissippi 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 Kenossee 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 Aseissippi to the Qu'Appelle Valley lakes and beyond



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Above: The curling rink portion of the building.

Right: The NHL-sized ice surface.

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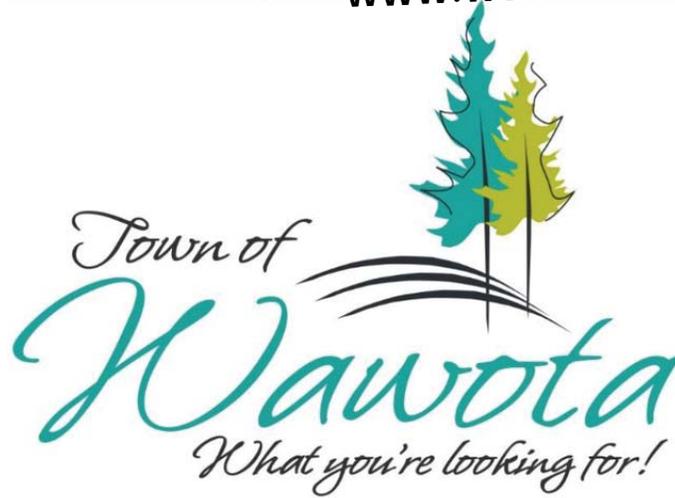
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From the entertainment options at the Bear Claw Casino to the trails at Moose Mountain Provincial Park, there is lots to do in the Moose Mountains in the winter.

Lots to do in the Moose Mountains in the winter

There is a lot to do in the Moose Mountains of south-east Saskatchewan in the winter months. There are lots of outdoor winter activities at Moose Mountain Provincial Park, there are dining options ranging from the Kenosee Inn and Club 19 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 shel-

ters, 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.

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 Monday and Thursday afternoon curling for seniors, Monday and Thursday night 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.

There is an indoor walking group through the winter months at the Carlyle Elementary School. They get together on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4-6 pm.

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 recreation opportunities year round!

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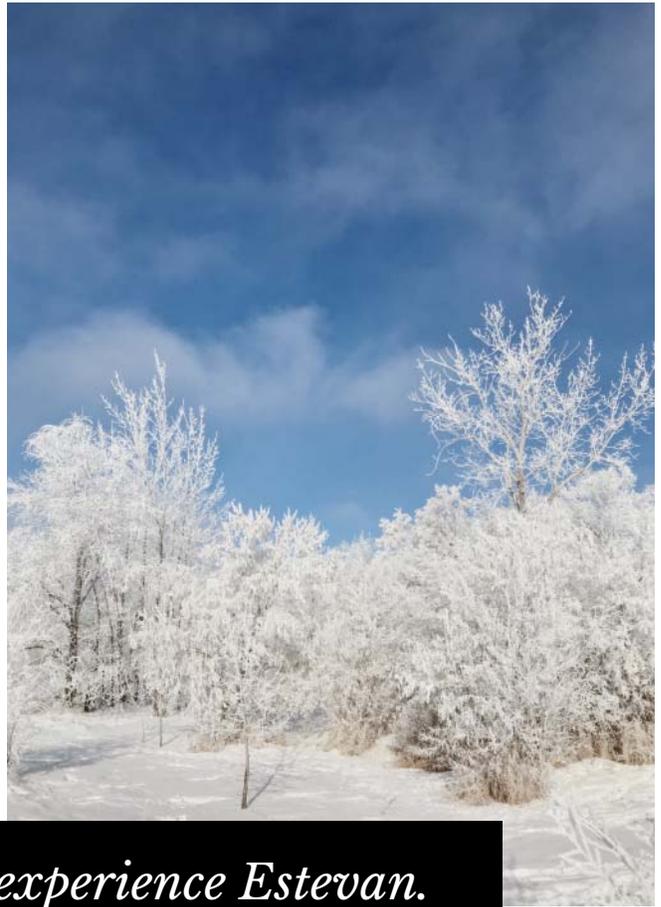


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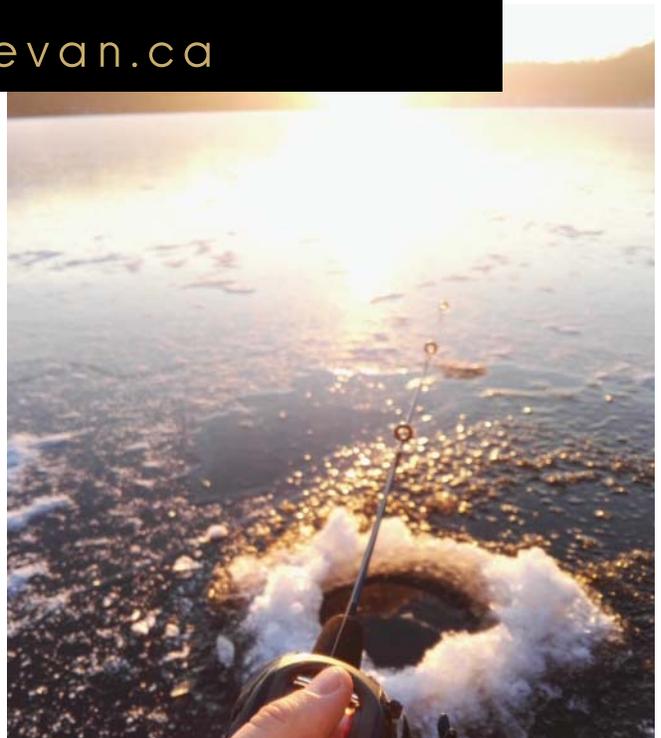


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Part of the Festival of Lights display in Woodlawn Regional Park

Experience Estevan this winter!

BY MONIQUE WILLMS

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 will 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 and 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 and the Estevan Mercury are partnering to sponsor a holiday decorating contest. Homes will submit pictures of their outdoor light displays for judging and each week the Mercury will add homes to the Twinkle Tour Map posted in the paper along with a fun Twinkle Tour Scavenger Hunt. While the contest deadline for participants is December 16 you can do the

Twinkle Tour any time. 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 8). Here, local businesses and organizations create light displays in the campground and cars can drive the loop to view the lights. Every year the displays get more creative and more grand.

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



Above: Skier near Preddy Trails

Below: Post ski fire at Woodlawn Campground





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The Moosomin area often gets beautiful hoar frost in the winter. Shown here are some frosty winter scenes!



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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.



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Things to do in Melita in the winter

As the weather turns to snow and ice the community of Melita turns into a winter extravaganza. There is always something for families to do on a cold winter night. The arena fills with laughing children and cheering parents. The local bowling alley is thunderous with birthday parties, leagues and tournaments.

During the winter months, Melita offers:

- An indoor and outdoor hockey and skating arena
- Curling club
- Bowling Alley
- Ice Fishing
- Snowmobiling
- Cross-country skiing

The Arena

Housed inside the Enns Brothers Communiplex, the Arena is an excellent community facility that is utilized by all ages. In the winter months it is home to many Minor Hockey Teams, rec teams and the Melita Skating Club. It contains a licensed concession area, washroom facilities and offers a large parking area. The arena is used for other off season events such as weddings, trade shows and dances. The arena was built in 1972. In 1974 an artificial ice surface was added. Its bleachers seat 800 and a lobby area capacity of 250 people and is fully accessible.

Curling

Housed inside the Enns Brothers Place, the Curling Rink provides a sport that is very popular in Melita. The community has an active curling league for men, women, mixed, seniors and school teams. This modern facility is located in the heart of Melita's recreation facilities. It is adjacent to the swimming pool, arena and golf course. The rink has four sheets of artificial ice, waiting and viewing areas. The rink sees a lot of action hosting curling bonspiels throughout the winter months.

Bowling

Melita has a six lane, five pin bowling alley located on Main Street. There are active leagues for men, women, mixed, seniors and school as well as open bowling. Parties and other event bookings are welcome! Open first weekend



The bowling alley in Melita

in September until the beginning of June. Off season bowling during Tuesdays at 2 pm.

Fitness Centre

Located at 73 Main Street at the south door of the bowling alley. A wide variety of machines are offered: Treadmills, Bowflex elliptical, free weights and more. The fitness centre is maintained and operated by a volunteer board. The hours of operation are 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Kinsmen Outdoor Arena

Located east of the Melita School, it features a heated change room and lighted ice surface. This area was built in 1984 and is still well utilized to this day.



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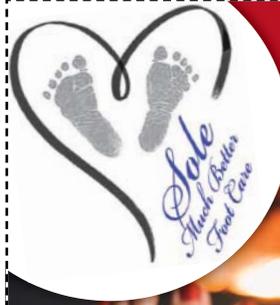
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