

ACCESS

Saskatchewan

Leaving a centennial legacy: Canada Celebrates Saskatchewan

"I would vision those vast prairies inhabited by a strong, independent patriotic people building towns, cities, and villages and making the stubborn prairie soil yield its wealth in order to provide happy and prosperous homes for multitudes, and helping to furnish sustenance for dwellers in less favoured regions, living in harmony and peace, and fulfilling their destiny as patriotic Canadians."

*Sir Wilfrid Laurier,
Prime Minister of Canada,
on Saskatchewan's creation,
September 4, 1905*

Congratulations Saskatchewan on reaching 100 years as a province. A century after Prime Minister Laurier's inauguration speech, you have surpassed his original vision and created a unique and thriving province.

In 2004, the Government of Canada announced the \$36.8 million Canada Celebrates Saskatchewan initiative to commemorate the centennial anniversary of Saskatchewan joining Confederation.

Since then, Western Economic Diversification Canada has been privileged to deliver federal centennial funding to community projects that will leave a legacy for future generations.

At the end of the centennial year, over 714 legacy projects were completed across Saskatchewan, benefitting almost every community. These included everything from centennial parks to memorial cairns that honour community founders and veterans. Communities of all sizes renovated their community halls, refurbished curling rinks, built tourist sites and upgraded playground equipment.

Saskatchewan, the Government of Canada is proud to have been a part of your centennial year and wishes you another prosperous century.



*Daniel Watson
Assistant Deputy Minister,
Saskatchewan Region,
Western Economic Diversification Canada*


Canada Celebrates Saskatchewan
1905 – 2005

by Cameron Zimmer, WD Communications, Saskatoon

Canada Celebrates Saskatchewan success stories



Eatonia used its Canada Celebrates Saskatchewan funding to restore its historic namesake—the Eaton House, ordered from an Eaton's catalogue.

Improvements in the Town of Eatonia

“With the money that the Town of Eatonia received from Canada Celebrates Saskatchewan funding, the town was able to have the Eaton House moved into town and replaced the deteriorating and unsafe playground equipment,” says Cheryl Bailey, Eatonia’s town administrator. “Both projects will be an attraction for anyone visiting or travelling through our community and will be an asset for economic development.”



RCMP Heritage Centre in the City of Regina

Canada Celebrates Saskatchewan invested \$13 million in the construction of a new RCMP Heritage Centre in Regina. The \$29 million Heritage Centre will be located on the grounds of the RCMP Academy and will serve as a Canadian and international tourist destination, teaching visitors about the RCMP’s history and role in policing.

“The Board of Directors and community volunteers have long had a vision to create an unparalleled heritage experience—one that showcases the pivotal role the RCMP has played in Canada’s past and the role they will continue to play in the present and the future,” said Frank Hart, chair, board of directors, RCMP Heritage Centre. “This considerable financial investment in the project is indeed the commitment that allows detailed design and construction of the centre to begin and, at long last, we’re bringing reality to the vision of this substantial Canadian project.”

Centennial park and clock in St. Walburg

“The Canada Celebrates Saskatchewan program was the springboard that launched the St. Walburg Centennial Memorial Park project,” says Antony Leeson, St. Walburg’s alderman. “The Park will provide a lasting legacy to the accomplishments of our pioneers who contributed to the development of our community.” ■



St. Walburg used its Canada Celebrates Saskatchewan funding to develop a community park and install a centennial clock that will provide a base for commemorative plaques.

A model photo of the future RCMP Heritage Centre

by Cameron Zimmer, WD Communications, Saskatoon

French fry fumes

Rudolph Diesel undoubtedly thought he was onto something when he welcomed a Paris audience to behold his invention of a new sparkless 'diesel' engine that ran on peanut oil.

Over a century later, Professor Barry Hertz, a mechanical engineering professor from the University of Saskatchewan, is following through with Diesel's ingenuity. Professor Hertz supervised the design of record-breaking 'super-mileage' cars that attained nearly 5,700 miles per gallon in the 1980s. Today, he has turned his research attention to alternative fuel sources.

With help from Saskatoon Transit Services, Professor Hertz and engineer Skip Munshaw have examined how ordinary diesel buses compare with 'BioBuses' that run on canola-blended biodiesel. The two-year study received \$199,040 from Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) as well as support from the Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission and the Canadian Canola Growers Association.

Saskatoon's signature sky-blue BioBuses traveled nearly 200,000 kilometers along city streets and Highway 11 to test the effects of canola-blended biodiesel on fuel economy, engine wear, engine operation and emissions. The City and Hertz are en route to some promising conclusions.

"We've seen a 40-70 per cent increase in fuel economy and regular efficiencies regarding engine wear savings," says Charles Stolte, Saskatoon's transit manager.

The study also found a significant reduction in smoke stack emissions. And thanks to the unique canola fuel blend, BioBus fumes smell more like french fries than exhaust.

It's this clean-burning efficiency that prompted Transit Services to purchase four biodiesel hybrid buses to add to its fleet. It estimates that the BioBus will save \$653,000 in fuel costs over the next 15 years.

"It's interesting, it's homegrown and it's truly a Saskatchewan project," says Stolte of the unique project. "It makes the City of Saskatoon a leader in meeting the Kyoto Protocol."

As positive as the results have been, the BioBus has encountered obstacles such as the premium price for hybrid technology and biodiesel, both costing nearly twice as much as ordinary diesel. But with increasing pump prices, the price barrier between consumers and cleaner fuel is disappearing, and demand is increasing.

With this renewed interest in alternative fuel, the City of Saskatoon is proposing a third phase of the BioBus study that would compare New Flyer hybrid buses with conventional buses that use different concentrations of canola biodiesel.

It looks like french fry fumes may linger in Saskatoon a little longer.

For more information on the BioBus, visit <http://www.city.saskatoon.sk.ca/org/transit/biobus.asp>. ■



by Colleen Gnyp, Freelance Writer, Saskatoon

Partners for a brighter southwest

For decades, the southwest region of Saskatchewan struggled with minimal economic growth. Loss of health care facilities and closure of schools forced seniors to move to urban centres and youth to tap into opportunities elsewhere.

"Our region was underdeveloped, the population on a decline and we had become complacent or insensitive to global changes," says Doug Howorko, member of the Action Southwest Business Networks Coalition (ASBNC). "The world is changing around us and we were forgetting to be competitive."

In 2001, Action Swift Current, a not-for-profit organization created to make the city's business sector a leader in economic development, conducted a survey identifying the need for the entire southwest region of Saskatchewan to grow to make the City of Swift Current more prosperous. ASBNC was established in 2004 to bring about strategic economic alliances, support the development of business networks and assist businesses in maximizing their partnering opportunities in the region.

"The coalition's approach involved three main goals," says Sandra Blyth, project manager, ASBNC. "We needed to begin thinking regionally, developing clusters through business networks and build-



Action Southwest Business Networks Coalition Steering Committee

ing community capacity by informing and educating citizens of our industries' needs and our shared goals."

ASBNC conducted substantial research to analyse the region's competitive advantage. A regional profile listed industries performing well and those lagging behind provincial standards. Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) provided \$107,000 for this research.

"Even though agribusiness is the leading sector in the southwest, research found manufacturing is the fastest growing sector. Its potential for growth is limited due to external factors," says Blyth.

ASBNC was convinced to change its perspective. "We have shifted gears from investment attraction to existing business development," says Howorko. "Eighty per cent of our time is dedicated to helping the local business base and building on the strengths we have."

In November 2004, four teams of 120 volunteers (representing the region's four key sectors of agribusiness, manufacturing, energy and tourism) developed a blueprint and action plans for 33 initiatives crucial to regional competitiveness.

For example, Cypress Hills Regional College will adjust its programs to support educational skills and reduce skilled labour shortages within the region.

On June 16, 2005, ASBNC and its volunteers received a Community Development Achievement of the Year Award from the Saskatchewan Council for Community Development.

To learn more about Action Southwest Business Networks Coalition, visit www.actionsouthwest.com or call (306) 778-6445. For more information about WD's programs and services, visit www.wd.gc.ca or call 1 888 338-9378. ■