

Western Canadian Championship Snow Drag Races

The Western Canadian Snow Championship Snow Drag Races were a Venture Project approved by SAASE - below is the article submitted by Prairieland Park on the project

In 2014, the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Racing Association and Prairieland Park team up to host the Western Canadian Championship Snow Drag Races in Saskatoon at Marquis Downs Racetrack. Mother Nature did not provide any support for this event as there was minimal snow fall in February and warm temperatures leaving a dirt track to deal with. Two weeks of snow hauling and manpower provided a perfect surface for this championship event.

The challenges did not end there, going into the March 1st and 2nd weekend the temperature and wind chill dipped to the minus 50's which was far too extreme to go ahead with this outdoor event so it was postponed to the following weekend (March 8 & 9).

Even with all the challenges it was a great event with sleds competing from Manitoba and Alberta as well as Saskatchewan. Fans from Saskatoon and area were treated to a great weekend of speed and excitement.

Photos courtesy of Rick Elvin.



Moose Jaw Exhibition Burrowing Owl Centre Relocation Project

The Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Centre located on the Moose Jaw Exhibition grounds was one of the first projects supported by the SAASE Venture Project Program. Since then the Centre has expanded, both in construction and in programming. In 2014/15 the Centre is once again going through some big changes, as the Centre relocates and once again expands programming. Below is an article submitted by the Moose Jaw Exhibition.

The Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Interpretive Centre (SBOIC) opened its doors to the public in 1997 with the mandate to promote conservation of the endangered Burrowing Owl and its native prairie habitat through education, eco-tourism and stewardship. Over the years the Centre and its travelling education program, Owls-on-Tour, have increased in popularity and as a result, have outgrown their current facility. The relocation is important for the Centre's residents and staff as they are in need of additional indoor enclosures, a medical treatment room, upgraded interactive displays, and a theatre-style presentation area that can host larger groups. The Centre consists of five separate buildings and is in the process of consolidating these buildings under one roof with the renovation/refurbishment of an existing 5000 square foot building, called the "Diner", on the Moose Jaw Exhibition Grounds.

History of the Diner

The MJ Ex Co hasn't always existed in its present location. When the Company moved to Thatcher Drive in Moose Jaw, the Diner building was moved on sight along with the rest of the facility. The Diner was originally part of an "H-hut" used for housing soldiers during training for WWII. As part of the MJ Ex Co, the building was rented for community events and more recently for storage. The MJ Ex Co is proud to be taking a more environmental approach by "upcycling" an unused building.

The Future

SBOIC is excited for the relocation/renovation as it will improve the health and welfare of the Owls currently in their care. This will allow the Centre to be open more throughout the year as there will be indoor viewing enclosures – the current arrangement only allows the Centre to be open during the summer months with their off-site visits year round. With the updated interactive displays, the Centre will be able to offer a state-of-the-art education program, taking the Centre's mandate to the next level. SBOIC should also see an increase in the amount of tourist visits and elevate their already high standing in the community as a tourist attraction.

The Moose Jaw Exhibition Company is committed to helping this endangered species and does so without any government funding. The MJ Ex Co, SBOIC and their Board of Directors would like to thank SAASE for their generous help over the years as well as their Corporate and Citizen supporters! For more information on how you can help these fragile birds, please visit the MJ Ex Co and SBOIC websites at moosejawex.com and skburrowingowl.ca, and "like" them on Facebook!



Prairieland Park Hosts Beef Expo

The Saskatchewan Beef Expo held at Prairieland Park on April 5 and 6, 2014 is an exciting new event established to promote youth in agriculture.

More than 100 participants from across the province participated in education and competition components specifically for youth involved in the beef industry. Kirk Stierwalt, world renowned cattle fitter, educator and judge, spent Saturday sharing his secrets to success with the participants and their families. Participants registered on Friday and were designated into two groups. On Saturday morning they were treated to breakfast, then went to their respective stations. Representatives from Merck, Masterfeeds and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine were on hand to offer their expertise on topics such as herd health, feed and animal care and proper use of implants. After a great lunch, co-sponsored by many of the breed associations the education continued and the day wrapped up with a team grooming competition.

Show ring competitions on Sunday allowed the participants to demonstrate some of their newly-learned skills as well as a warm up for their club or regional 4H show.

Committee members and the Agriculture department at Prairieland Park were more than pleased with the number of registrants and are already planning for the event in 2015 that will be held on March 28 & 29, 2015.



95th Annual Pride of the Prairies Bull Show & Sale

The Lloydminster Exhibition has been running the Pride of the Prairies Bull show and Sale for 95 years with great success, but this show is a perfect example of how you have to constantly be looking for ways to improve and change your show, as everything around us changes. With the changes that have been taking place in agriculture and the ways that cattle are shown and marketed, the Lloydminster Exhibition made the bold move of making major changes to an established show. Below is an article submitted by the Lloydminster Exhibition on this year's show.

The Pride of the Prairies Bull Sale has provided a valuable marketing opportunity to farmers and ranchers in Western Canada for many years. While this bull sale is steeped in tradition, the LAEA is moving forward with a new marketing opportunity for farmers and ranchers with the Purebred Bull Pen Show and Sale.

This change positively impacted the industry as a whole and enhanced the 95th Annual Pride of the Prairies Bull Sale here in Lloydminster. With the ever-changing face of agriculture, the Lloydminster Exhibition has literally “taken the bull by the horns” to lead the charge in this new concept of presentation and marketing,” remarked Dan Skeels, Sale Auctioneer. We are looking forward to continuing with this initiative for our 96th Annual Pride of the Prairies Bull Show & Sale – March 8 & 9, 2015



SAASE/Tourism Saskatchewan's Venture Project Program Undergoes Changes

Over the past 4 years the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport - Tourism Saskatchewan have partnered with SAASE on expanding the Venture Project program. Each year an additional \$50,000 was added to assist in the development of new events/programs, enhancing existing events, as well as for the development of new Agricultural Societies and the development of communities. The program was tremendously successful with the seed money being used for many successful Agricultural Society projects over the past 4 years.

Earlier this year Tourism Saskatchewan announced a new event hosting strategy. As a result SAASE members will be able to apply for funding directly from Tourism Saskatchewan for community events. The event funding is available in 4 separate streams - Community Annual Events, National and International Events, Marquee Annual Events, and Special Tourism Products. Go to www.industrymatters.com to get the criteria for each category of funding. The funding through Tourism Saskatchewan will allow SAASE members the opportunity to access more funding for eligible events than was available through the previous expanded Venture Project program. Ken Dueck from Tourism Saskatchewan did a presentation at this year's SAASE convention outlining the new program, as well as the opportunities the program



will present to SAASE's members. There are 3 deadlines per year, and if you are looking at an event that fits the Tourism Saskatchewan criteria you are encouraged to get the application in early. The 3 deadline dates are - March 31, August 31 and November 30.

SAASE's Venture Project Program will have a few changes to it. The funding available through the SAASE program will revert back to the \$45,000 it was prior to Tourism Saskatchewan's involvement 4 years ago. Those Agricultural Societies receiving funding through Tourism Saskatchewan for an event will not be eligible to receive funding from SAASE's Venture Project program for that same event funded through Tourism .

In order to give SAASE's Board of Directors a better opportunity to review the Venture Project applications there will be 3 SAASE Venture Project deadlines introduced. They are January 1, May 1 and September 1. These dates correspond with the SAASE Board meetings. As far as forwarding the funds - 75% of the approved funding will be forwarded once the project has been completed, with the remaining 25% being awarded after a presentation on the project has been done at the SAASE annual convention. If you have any questions, or would like to get some feedback on your project give the SAASE office a call.



Biggar Adds Cultural Component to Fair



The Biggar Rec Valley Board participated in a pilot project partnering with SaskCulture and SAASE. The project involved bringing the various multicultural groups in the Biggar area to work on a cultural event designed to bring better understanding of everyone's culture. The event that took place was focused around children and children's activities and was held with Biggar town and Country Days. Below is an article contributed by Biggar RecValley.

The 2014 Biggar RecValley Culture Celebrations were a huge hit. We had many activities going on to show case the different games and entertainment of the various culture's that make up our town. The whole town came together to enjoy the day and learn a little about what their neighbours do for fun. Below is a listing of the different activities held:

- Filipino food delicacy tasting
- Children's games from various cultures (Chinese skipping, British bull dog, marbles, hacky sak)
- Folk Music from local artists Neil Penny and friends
- Canadian Ball Hockey
- Filipino Children's games
- Western Games
- Ukrainian Dancers
- Native American singers and dancers
- Children's dance with various genres of music
- English Rugby demonstration
- East Indian Cricket demonstration
- Czar Bomba Alternative music

Without the generous funding of Sask Culture this event could not have happened on this large of a scale, so thank you to Sask Culture and SAASE. It was a wonderful day spent enjoying the diversity of our community.



X-Treme Redneck Day a Big Hit in Perdue



The Perdue Agricultural Society had run their Redneck games the night before the fair and it always had excellent participation. It was felt that they would be able to make it bigger and better and make it a standalone event. The Perdue Ag. Society applied and received seed money to help them out with the event. The Redneck Day was a great success and plans are underway for next year. Below is the report from Annaleigh Lebruno - one of the event organizers.

The sun was shining as competitors and spectators started filling up the South Grounds in Perdue, SK on July 1st 2014. With approximately 500 people through the gate to enjoy our 3 major events along with the TNT Monster Truck Ride, which was a hit with both young and old!

We started our day with Lawnmower Racing in the Sand Arena, with 7 competitors, 3 local and 4 from the Lawn Mower Fanatics Alberta Organization. We ended with a kids race on battery operated kid's toys, although we only had one lone competitor, in that category but he sure had a blast!



Our next event was the Mudfling we had several competitors in each category as well as the ATV's. Once again the Foot Race was a highlight through the mudpit. Our final event was our Redneck Games, having done this for the past 3 years it always draws a large crowd. Not only does our linguistically talented announcer Jason Shields entertain the crowd with his antics but everyone enjoys watching the participants work their way towards the coveted crushed beer can trophy. The highly anticipated Greased Pig race was once again a huge success as the crowd cheered on the competitors to quickly catch those little piggies.

We ended the day with a delicious Pig Roast supper, the music from the cabaret featuring "The Mudmen" and a final Fireworks show. A huge thank you to all the organizing committee's and volunteers who made this day a huge success. Everyone certainly had a great day, many promising to be back next year. Mark your calendar's for the 2nd Annual Perdue X-Treme Redneck Day July 1, 2015 in Perdue!

Frontier Days 2014 - Multi-Cultural Pavilion Celebrating Community



SAASE worked with SaskCulture, as well as the Moose Jaw Exhibition, Biggar Ag Society and the Swift Current Ag and Ex on a cultural pilot project beginning last year. Below is a article submitted by the Swift Current Ag and Ex on their cultural project.

The Swift Current Frontier Days theme, “Saddle Up for the Ride of a Century” celebrated 100 years of the City of Swift Current on June 26, 27, 28, 29, 2014. This memorable Ride of the Century began with the traditional Burning of the Frontier Days’ Brand Pancake Breakfast, and continued throughout the next 4 days with something for everyone. Events included the CCA rodeo, 4H Livestock and Equine competitions, (Miniature horses, Ranch Horse, Heavy Horse, Lighthorse); Doc’s Town Heritage Village, Commercial Exhibits, Celebrating Past / Present/ Future Parade, International Grandstand entertainment, family entertainment,

cabarets, local musicians, beer gardens, Saloon, fair food, and spectacular fireworks closed the event in good ol’ Western style. Added attractions featured free stage entertainment at the SIGA Pavilion, a Heritage Pavilion and the Multi-Cultural Pavilion.

Frontier Days welcomed support from the Community Initiatives Fund and Sask Culture towards the Multi-Cultural Pavilion. This Centennial Year offered an ideal opportunity to celebrate our growing rich diversity with many stories and traditions being exchanged. A tented venue was provided for visitors and participants throughout Southwest Saskatchewan to connect with our rich Western history and the variety of cultural societies. Invitations were sent with the request for groups to showcase their communities through interactive displays and presentations.

Each group made a commitment of 1, 2, 3, or 4 days. The hours were from 4:00 pm – 7:30 pm on Thursday, and on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday - 12:00 noon to 7:30 p.m. The confirmed times and informational materials was printed in the Frontier Days Program. The exhibits included wall hangings and table collections, flags, pictures, music, dance, art work, food and crafts – all were set up around the tent pavilion. This family atmosphere also included a stage, technical equipment, and audience seating in the center.

Representatives of a variety of cultural societies and service clubs participated: African – Ngala Odiyo (exhibitor, Swift Current); Columbian Dancers (dance group, Regina); Filipino (Music



group, Swift Current); Scandinavian (Exhibitor, food, Swift Current); Metis (Exhibits, food – Swift Current; Fiddler and Jigger from Saskatoon); Bollywood Dancers (presenters, Swift Current); Newcomer Welcome Center (display, Swift Current); Aboriginal drummers and dancers (Southwest area); and the Kent Family Circus – International cultural presenters of multi nationalities (Exhibitor and performers). The 26,000 visitors to Frontier Days had the opportunity to visit the pavilion. Numerous guests toured the pavilion, interacted with presenters and enjoyed the variety of stage performances.



Swift Current's biggest summer attraction Frontier Days – Regional Fair and Rodeo, continues to be the Show Window of the Southwest. The Swift Current Ag & Ex, along with the City of Swift Current, welcomes everyone home for Frontier Days 2015 – June 25th-29th. See you down the trail!

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Yorkton Exhibition Mud Flings

The Yorkton Exhibition held their first ever Mud Flings June 21 - 22. The event was approved as part of SAASE's Venture project program, with the following article written by Randy Brenzen appearing in the Yorkton This Week paper.

Engines were roaring and mud was flying as over 50 trucks took part in three categories, Stock, Mod and Open, at the first ever Painted Hand Casino Mud Fling held at the Cornerstone Raceway in Yorkton on Saturday and Sunday. The Mud Fling, hosted by the Yorkton Exhibition Association, drew nearly one-thousand spectators over the two days of action despite less than ideal weather conditions. "The weather hasn't helped us a lot but there were over 500 people here the first day through the rain storms," offered YEA General Manager Shaun Morin, continuing, "but 500 people coming out (per day) in poor weather makes you think there might be quite a bit more coming out if the weather was nice."

While the weather affected the attendance, one thing it didn't affect was the actual action. In fact, the wet weather aided the event, making things more wet and muddy than ever. "While we do want it to be nice out for the spectators it's still a mud fling," mentioned Morin. "So the added water and mud really didn't hurt the event in the long run." And although the added mud didn't hurt the overall competition, it did cause some trouble for certain trucks as Morin mentioned that "there were some trucks breaking down and getting stuck" but that it was to be expected, seeing as "they do three runs each per day".

Results

On Saturday it was Steve Shotter's 'Skinny Nuts' truck that took home first place in the Stock Class, closely followed by Wayne Weber's 'Blue Thunder' truck and Daniel Schick's 'Schick-kicker'. Bad Habit, driven by Terry Leippi, finished in fourth while Shotter's teammate Alvin Askomitis finished in fifth place with his truck 'Old Nuts'. 'Shocker', driven by Joe Mocassin, took home first place in the Mod Class while Milt Fedak's 'Renegade' machine was named runner-up. Mud Money (Chris Sykes), Blue Thunder (Wayne Weber) and Pitbull (Trin Smith) rounded out the top five in the Mod Class. The final class of the day was the Open Class, where any truck could enter in hopes of taking home first place; however it was 'The Reaper' driven by James Smith that took home the Open title, followed by Wayne Wallis' 'Mopar Missile' in second and Trin Smith's 'Pitbull' in third. Mason Hollinger's 'The Beast' finished in fourth while Tex Davis' wonderfully named truck 'Devil's Grin' finished fifth.



On Sunday Wayne Weber's 'Blue Thunder' moved up one spot from Saturday to finish first while Terry Leippi's 'Bad Habit' also moved up one spot for a second place finish. 'Tetanus', driven by Rodney Richards, made its first appearance in the top five with a third place finish while Old Nuts (Alvin Aksomitis and Saturday winner Skinny Nuts (Steve Shotter) finished fourth and fifth respectively. In Sunday's Mod Class competition it was Joe Mocassin and 'Shocker' who repeated as champions, while Wayne Willis' 'Mopar Missile' and Milt Fedak's 'Renegade' trucks rounded out the podium. Blue Thunder (Wayne Weber) and The Beast (Mason Hollinger) also finished in the top five. James Smith and 'The Reaper', much like they did on Day One, dominated the Open Class en route to the first place finish. Tex Davis and 'Devil's Grin' finished second while Sunday's Mod Class winner Joe Mocassin and 'Shocker' finished in third. Mopar Missile (Wayne Wallis) and Renegade (Milt Fedak) also made the Open Class top five on Sunday.



Yorkton's Pony Chucks "Dash for the Cash"

The Yorkton Exhibition received Venture Project funding for the Pony Chuck's - "Dash for the Cash" The following is the report submitted by the Yorkton Exhibition.

The Painted Hand Casino - "Dash for the Cash" Pony Chuck Wagon Weekend Report – Aug. 29-31, 2014

The weather was great for the 3 days of the Chuck Wagon event. We had 36 wagons attend. The daily attendance was not what we had hoped for but each day there were 400 plus spectators. The races were very competitive and the times for the combined 3 days were very close. We don't think the long weekend is the weekend we will use in 2015 but do feel the event has a very good chance of growing into a great weekend for our organization into the future.



Moose Jaw Exhibition Celebrates “Christmas at the Ex.”

The Venture Project program is intended as a program to help supply seed money to get a new event or program up and running and relieve some of the financial uncertainty that comes along with that. If the new event is successful hopefully it can be turned into an annual event, but if it is not so successful the funding will minimize any losses. With that in mind the Moose Jaw Exhibition introduced Christmas at the Ex. Christmas at the Ex. is a 2 night Christmas themed light show set to music with equine and canine performances. Objectives for the program were:

- To develop a multi-year event through corporate sponsorship so as it can sustain itself in the future.
- To help build awareness of the Moose Jaw Exhibition and what they offer to the community.
- To provide the community with a free all-ages event during the holiday season.
- to help build awareness of some local charities.



The community involvement consisted of Fur-Ever Fun (Dog Agility), Local tenants from riding facilities in MJ, Cornerstone School Choir, Salvation Army and the Saskatchewan Burrowing Owl Centre. Donations were taken for both the Burrowing Owl Centre and the Salvation Army.

3 performances took place with over 400 people taking in the shows. It is an excellent start for the first year, and George Fowler - General Manager of the Moose Jaw Exhibition - has said that the plan is to make Christmas at the Ex. an annual event.

