

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM 2012



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TOWN INFORMATION

Location

Assiniboia is located in South Central Saskatchewan approximately 105 km south of the city of Moose Jaw and 72 km north of the United States boundary. Most major centers in Saskatchewan are within two hours driving distance of Assiniboia.

Historical Background

The original Northwest Territories' District of Assiniboia, which encompassed Southern Saskatchewan from South of Saskatoon to the United States border, was named after the Assiniboine Indians. The word Assiniboia is Saulteaux (Plains Ojibwa) meaning "one who cooks with heated stones". Incorporated in 1912, Assiniboia grew in population to reach 2,774 in 1991. The population has since declined to the current number of 2,306.

Community Profile

We think Assiniboia, located in the heart of Southern Saskatchewan, has "got it all"! You will find the town 72 km north of the American border, along highway number 2.

Assiniboia is a thriving community of 2306 people. It offers many amenities. A full range of services including retail, professional, medical, educational, recreational and cultural are waiting to serve you.

Whatever your shopping needs, be it basic supplies or specialty items such as agricultural supplies, furniture or auto repairs, Assiniboia has a wide variety of friendly retailers who are readily available to help you. The professional services available include law offices, accounting firms, insurance agencies, Veterinary Clinics, and an RCMP detachment.

With 3 doctors, 2 Nurse Practitioners, 2 dentists, 2 optometrists, a chiropractor, massage and physiotherapists, ambulance service, long-term care facilities, personal care home and hospital. Assiniboia is able to provide top quality health care locally to its citizens.

The South East Regional College, located on the 2nd floor of the beautiful Prince of Wales Recreational and Cultural Centre, offers a wide variety of post secondary courses and special interest classes. On the floor below, the Palliser Regional library provides a multitude of resource materials and internet access. Assiniboia also has 3 schools encompassing grades K-12.

Culture abounds in Assiniboia! Many volunteers use their time and talents to produce many cultural experiences. You can step back in time at the museum, or appreciate works of art from all over the world at the renowned Shurniak Art Gallery. Take in a movie at the Olympia Theatre or enjoy fine dining at one of the many restaurants. Courtesy of the Arts Council, you can sit back and be entertained at one of the many concerts offered, or kick up your heels at the annual Polkafest.

Swimming, skating, curling, gymnastics, golf, hockey, karate and baseball are just a few of the sporting activities you can participate in, or sit back and watch the action. The Prince of Wales Centre has hosted the Scott Tournament of Hearts and the Southern Men's Playdowns,

No traffic jams! No pollution! No traffic noise! Safe neighborhoods! Friendly people! Assiniboia is a great place to be!

Recreation facilities

Located within the township is the Prince of Wales Recreational Facility that encompasses a library, curling rink and lounge, Movie Theater, fitness gym, martial arts club, the community college, and a large auditorium.

Assiniboia is also home to the Shurniak Art Gallery where a magnificent art collection can be viewed. The tourism information center displays a rare collection of mounted African safari animals, and the museum captures an abundance of Saskatchewan's and Assiniboia's history.

These assets, as well as an indoor and outdoor skating rink, a beautiful regional park and golf course, a swimming pool, three playgrounds, tennis courts, beach volleyball court, basketball court and horseshoe pits, combine to create a beautiful town that is enjoyed by residents and visitors. Anglers are given the opportunity to test their skills at Perrin Dam and Willows Dam.

The replacement of playground equipment behind the town office is to take place this summer. The new equipment is intended for children of all ages.

Other facilities

The education of children is well served by Assiniboia's three schools. The Southeast Regional College provides post-secondary education in a number of areas. The faith community is well represented by several churches including Catholic, Lutheran, United, Jehovah's Witnesses, Anglican, Baptist, Alliance, Apostolic and others. A hospital and the attached extended care facility help to provide the health needs of our community. Also included in the town is a nursing home. Three doctors, an optometrist, a denturist, two dentists, an orthodontist, several public health nurses, a chiropractor, massage therapists, home care, counselors, and an ambulance operation also provide health services. Several independent individuals and a daycare facility provide daycare services.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Assiniboia Communities in Bloom committee has adopted the mission statement of the National Communities in Bloom Committee “committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility, beautification and improving the quality of life through community participation and the challenge of a national competition”

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Tidiness

Tidiness Municipality

The town has implemented several initiatives to aid in the overall tidiness of Assiniboia. In the spring to the fall the town assists the residents in cleaning up properties by collecting several types of garbage not normally collected. This includes discarded appliances, furniture, tree trimmings and other items. In prior years, this service was offered once in the spring and then the fall. Beginning in 2008, the town offered this service monthly starting in May.

Notices are also placed in the Municipal section of the town paper, reminding residents to cleanup alleys and dog owners to clean up after their pets. Property owners are required to remove any bushes or other vegetation if it encroaches on the sidewalk. When required, the town cleans up these properties and charges the taxpayer as applicable. Residents are also reminded of their responsibility to keep weeds under control according to the Noxious Weed Act. Non-compliant properties are cleaned up by town employees and the property owner is billed accordingly. Increased fines for cleanup of untidy properties were implemented in 2010.

A regular street sweeping program is implemented as well as street and sidewalk repair. Local improvements are put in place to replace, as necessary, residential sidewalks and paving. In 2010 new pavement on 3rd Ave West and Comfort Jubilee Crescent as well as the Civic Centre parking lot on the east side was installed.

The town makes available the town equipment when requested to aid residents in organized cleanup. The town’s three-ton truck is often used to accumulate refuse. The town then takes

responsibility to transport and dump the truck at the landfill site. Bylaws are in place to ensure that the town maintains a neat and appealing appearance.

The Parks and Recreation Department ensures that town properties (park, boulevards etc.) are regularly maintained. Garbage and Recycling containers are repainted as necessary to maintain a neat appearance.

The landfill boasts a new waste handler caterpillar, capable of high levels of compression for waste compaction. The town made a conscious effort to upgrade or replace traffic signs and completed line painting to provincial specifications in 2009. New garbage cans were constructed and placed along Centre Street, creating attractive, highly visible containers to collect garbage.

The new containers are easily emptied creating greater efficiencies for garbage collection. Additional garbage cans were added in 2010 and 2011.

The town hired a contractor in 2010 to repair the damaged areas of the Cenotaph located at the town office. Benches and garbage cans throughout the downtown were oiled to improve their appearance. Benches located in the town office park were repainted in 2011.

The Parks and Recreation department has increased their effort in keeping the Kinsmen Park tidy around the fence lines and tennis courts where garbage and dead vegetation had accumulated in prior years. The hedges were trimmed in the park to improve their scruffy appearance and encourage new, more attractive growth.

Tidiness

Commercial/Industrial Sector

The commercial/industrial sector has also initiated steps to cleanup the overall condition of the Centre Street area. The merchant's association encourages all businesses to maintain their business premises, including overall cleanliness, maintenance and graffiti removal as necessary. Since the Communities in Bloom initiative was implemented, noticeable improvements have been made to back alleys and weed control along Centre Street. Other businesses have improved the overall appearance of their businesses by adding their own flower containers, new signage, garbage removal and painting. One business on the corner of Centre Street replaced the broken glass on their store front window after leaving it broken for many years! A Community in Bloom initiative was implemented in 2009 called "Five Minutes a Day". Businesses were asked to commit to 5 minutes a day picking up garbage, pulling weeds and carrying out other "tidying". A vast majority of the businesses have signed up to participate in this initiative. Prairie Rubber contracted the town to plant dozens of trees along their fence line to help beautify their property and create a more appealing visage. Taylor's Autobody, PMP and Nelson's have all responded to requests from the CiB committee to clean up their business premises.

Tidiness

Service Clubs, Schools, Churches and Not-For-Profit

Service clubs, schools, churches and not-for-profit groups have all been very supportive of the communities in bloom initiative. The communities in bloom committee organized a cleanup of weeds growing along the curbs on the side streets along Centre Street. The committee also organized "Operation Clean sweep" where residents were invited to participate in a spring cleaning of Assiniboia. Designated areas were weeded and garbage was removed. 35 Participants in 2012 were photographed and displayed in local newspaper in recognition of their participation. Participants were also treated to a sponsored refreshment break by one of the local businesses. For the last two seasons of "Operation Clean Sweep" a barbeque fundraiser for the Community Garden has followed.

The Assiniboia Beavers group painted the garbage cans throughout the Kinsmen Park and the Regional Campground, making the cans attractive and ensuring that they are very visible. The entire student body of the 7th Avenue School participates in an annual cleanup of the school grounds and local park area. The Assiniboia Childcare Services, on Earth Day, have the children participate in cleaning their surroundings and lessons are given on the role the children should take in keeping the Earth clean.

Tidiness

Residents/Citizens

The residents of Assiniboia have been very enthusiastic about Communities in Bloom. Many participated in the spring cleanup, making concerted efforts to cleanup yards and alleys. Painting fences and buildings, additional landscaping, regular grass cutting and weed removal have improved yards. Noticeable improvements have been made to the houses in town, with many adding new siding or painting. Several of the older, dilapidated houses have been torn down, greatly improving the look of many blocks. One resident obtained permission from CP rail to remove the chain link fence along the railway tracks. The fence was in poor repair and acted as a garbage trap for all types of debris. This was a great improvement to a main traffic corridor. Residents walk with garbage bags and pick up garbage.

Environmental Awareness

Environmental Awareness Municipality

The town collects cardboard and commercial paper from the businesses to recycle at the town's recycling facility. Residents are encouraged to recycle cardboard and paper by using the several "blue bins" throughout town to deposit these items for town pick-up. The recycling efforts expanded to include tin in 2010. In 2011 we were dumped seven times.

The town provides a drop area at the town shop for used oil, which is then collected for recycling. The town installed solar panels to help heat the swimming pool, resulting in reduced energy costs and natural gas consumption.

Also implemented in Assiniboia is a water restriction program, enabling the town to conserve water resources. The town has two water collection sites to facilitate water retention. Extensive water treatment plant upgrades were installed in 2010 to optimize the efficiency of the water treatment plant. Also in place is a water meter replacement program to upgrade water meters to ensure accurate measurement and charging for water consumption. The charges for water consumption were increased to help encourage residents to conserve water.

Over the past several years, the town had embarked on a light replacement program to replace old lighting with new, energy efficient fixtures. Town employees are encouraged to attend conferences to ensure they stay informed regarding new methods and technologies.

Also owned and operated by the town is a regional landfill site. The Village of Limerick and the RM #73 share this site. The site is well managed, with refuse being segregated to best make use of the space available. Hazardous materials, wood products, metal and regular garbage are segregated and handled for optimum disposal.

In 2008 the town participated in a Hazardous Waste Collection Day. The day proved to be successful and Council decided to continue on an annual basis to continue this program. For the 2009 Hazardous Waste Day, participation increased by 25%. Christmas trees are collected and shredded aiding the residents in disposing of the trees.

The town also participates in the "in motion" initiative, which in turn encouraged residents to "walk, not ride" and helps reduce vehicle fuel consumption and emissions.

The town has entered into a voluntary habitat agreement with Nature Saskatchewan for "Shrubs for Shrikes" at Mount Hope Cemetery, to help repopulate this endangered species. . The town also participates in an annual elm tree pruning program to reduce the possibility of elm disease.

In 2009 the town replaced the forklift at the recycling facility from a diesel powered unit to an electric unit. As well, the large bobcat was fitted with a new exhaust system to reduce emissions.

For 2010 the town employees implemented a “no idle” policy for all town vehicles. All paint used in line painting is environmentally friendly.

In 2010, to increase water conservation, the town implemented several new programs. Rebates are now offered towards the purchase of low flow or dual flush toilets. Water saver kits are offered for sale at the town office. As well, rebates are offered towards the purchase of rain barrels. Through grant funds received from the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, the town hosted two Xeriscape seminars to encourage citizens to consider low water alternatives in their yard landscapes. The Town has constructed a Xeriscape demonstration landscape adjacent to the west side of the town office. Brochures were delivered to all residents in their water bills with information on “how to” create a Xeriscape. As well, water conservation tips were sent in water bills to aid in the water conservation efforts.

The town agreed to participate in the “Black Gold Rush”. This initiative, implemented by Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation, enables anyone within the municipality to contact the town with their location and number of tires, in order to have Scrap Tire remove and recycle the tires.

The Aquatic Centre boiler replacement was approved by Town Council in 2011 and work was completed in the spring of 2012 to reduce the energy demand and heat the pool more efficiently. The boiler is already connected to a solar heating system that has been incorporated into the new system to further increase efficiency and reduce natural gas consumption.

Environmental Awareness Commercial/Industrial Sector

Businesses are encouraged to segregate cardboard for pickup to aid in the recycling of this product. SARCAN operates within Assiniboia to collect glass and plastic bottles. As well, SARCAN initiated a paint collection program to assist in dealing with this hazardous waste. Electronic waste is also collected at SARCAN for recycling.

Operating in Assiniboia is a composting business that regularly collects grass clippings and bagged leaves. The bags are placed on the curb on specific days to enable pickup at the homes of residents. Several of the businesses contact farmers to pickup “old” foodstuffs that cannot be sold but make excellent animal feed, thus preventing these items from being dumped in the landfill.

The new Nelson Motors building is being constructed, to be opened in 2012 with energy conservation in mind. The exterior lighting will be LED as well as in many areas inside. The new building will be also more efficient to heat reducing energy demand.

The Southland Co-op Ltd. accepts plastic bags and egg cartons for recycling and encourages customers to purchase reusable grocery bags. When customers bring their own bags for groceries five cents per bag is donated to a charity, the local Community in Bloom Committee. Signs are prevalent throughout the store asking customers “Do you have your green bag?” The Southland Co-op also compresses and wraps their cardboard and trucks it on backhauls to the city. In 2012 a Poly Water tank was used to collect rain water from the roof of the hardware building to water plant materials in the green house area.

Assiniboia Rubber Recycling processes over a million tires a year to create product that is used in mulch for playgrounds, rubber for asphalt, landscape mulch, mats stepping stones, rubber pavers, and the list uses grows all the time. Their product has been used at Taylor Field in Regina, Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton, CenturyLink Field in Seattle. The plant employs 20 people

Environmental Awareness

Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for-Profit Groups

The teachers at the Assiniboia Elementary school made a conscious effort to review the entire school for potential hazardous waste to participate in the hazardous waste day, which resulted in the cleaning out of the chemical laboratory of numerous toxic chemicals.

The properties belonging to the churches and other service clubs are subject to the watering restrictions imposed by the town, and the regulations are willingly followed to conserve water. The Prince of Wales Cultural and Recreation Center created a landscape design requiring very little water, and correspondingly, it has both low water consumption and costs.

The Salvation Army located on Centre Street contributes to the recycle effort by collecting used furniture, clothing and various other items to resell. These reusable items are kept out of the landfill.

The CiB committee, in partnership with the Town and the High School, took a lead roll in implementing the “Project Porchlight” to encourage residents to change light bulbs to compact florescent bulbs. The CiB committee partnered with the Food Security Committee to build an Eco shed at the new Community Garden site which was completed in 2010. The gardens were enlarged in 2010. The garden is sold out in 2012, which has led to further expansion for the 2013 season.

In partnership with the Town and Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, the CiB committee organized the Xeriscape workshops and created the Xeriscape plan to be constructed at the town office. The Information Processing Class at the high school was asked to develop a brochure to be sent to all residents on the “how to” of Xeriscaping. The brochures were entered into a contest where CiB committee members chose a first and second place brochure. The winners were presented with a small prize and recognized in the newspaper.

The 7th Avenue School recycles cans, bottles and juice boxes regularly. They also recycle paper regularly and students participate in a recycling contest where phone books are collected for recycling. The school collected the second highest number of phone books in the division in 2010!

Many of the classes and the Assiniboia Daycare visit the local SARCAN to help the children develop an awareness of the importance of recycling. The Assiniboia Daycare staff encourages children to use the water from the play center or water table to water the plants in an effort to conserve water.

In 2010 the CiB committee received a donation of a small half-ton truck From Nelson Motors for the season, and has provided a truck each year since. A watering tank was purchased and a pump was donated by Bourassa & Sons. These items are used to more efficiently water the planters throughout town. Prior to this donation, the planters were watered with the town's three ton truck. The new truck, pump and tank allow the CiB committee to reduce the environmental footprint created when watering and allowed volunteers do the watering.

Environmental Awareness Residential/Citizens

The residents of Assiniboia support the cardboard and paper recycling program by regularly depositing these materials in the "blue bins". The bins are usually completely full each Monday and are emptied by town employees. Citizens also regularly patronize SARCAN to recycle their glass, plastics and electronic waste. Residents have also embraced the new tin recycling. In most cases, the citizens also observe the water restrictions imposed. Many households have rain water collection systems or rain barrels to save water. Rebates have been requested for rain barrels and toilet replacements.

Some citizens do their own composting and many support the composting business by appropriately placing applicable materials for pickup. Residents use the Salvation Army to recycle used goods to keep these items out of the landfill where possible. Many residents have replaced boulevards with Xeriscapes to reduce watering and mowing. Front yards have also been Xeriscaped by residents to reduce water used many others capture their rain water in tanks and barrels for use in their yards.

Local residents have organized a Farmers Market for this season. The First annual Red Coat Trail Farmers market will allow local residents to purchase fresh produce and other goods produced locally.

Community Involvement

Community Involvement Municipality

The town supports many community initiatives, both with cash donations and services in kind. The civic center parking lot is available, at no charge, for campers during the annual Polka fest.

The town inserts a weekly information section in the local newspaper, which provides recreation information, town operation times, Communities in Bloom judging date, West Nile facts and many other items of interest. The insert also recognizes citizens or businesses, and congratulates them for specific achievements. In 2010, three citizens rescued an elderly man from a burning building. These residents were presented with certificates in appreciation and thanks for their bravery.

The town hosts a large Canada Day Celebration as well as a volunteer appreciation evening annually during the summer. For the past four years the town has held a “new comers” social to welcome any new residents to Assiniboia. A staff Christmas party is also hosted to thank the town’s employees for their hard work and dedication. Service awards to employees are presented at this event.

Supported through the budget and also directly by committee is the promotion of Assiniboia as a desirable tourist destination. In 2010, the town’s tourism committee developed a brochure in partnership with Saskatchewan Southwest Tourism, highlighting several of the businesses in Assiniboia. The brochure highlighted the cultural, history, and nature of the community and region. The brochure also included businesses as “tourist attractions” where the business had a specific link to arts and culture.

The town of Assiniboia also supports recreation and sports by providing and maintaining the necessary facilities. The town recently completed the fourth sign to ensure that all of the entrances have “Assiniboia” signs. The town council has supported the creation of Central Park on Centre Street. Flowers, trees, compost and other materials as well as water are supplied through the town budget. This project with the exception of some labor from town employees to deliver materials and to remove a large cement block across the front of the property was constructed almost entirely from volunteer help. (The sprinkler system and the electrical were paid for.) The upkeep of the park is accomplished with many hours of volunteer help, and donations of equipment and goods.

In 2009 the town hosted the first annual First Responders Appreciation Day that was very well attended and has been successful in the years following. In 2010 and 2011 the town hosted a “summer fun festival”. This event was free and targeted children of all ages. Balloon tying, games, tattooing, caricatures and face painting were some of the events the children could participate in. A large blown up obstacle course was rented for the children as well as a smaller “bounce house” for younger children. The festival is popular with all ages of children which makes the event the huge success that it is. It is to be incorporated into the 2012 Centennial Celebration.

Also sponsored by the town is the Family Day Snow Festival held at the Family Fun Park in February. Lights are placed in Central Park by town employees for the Winter Lights Parade held by the Chamber of Commerce each year. Since the fall of 2009, the town hosted a lunch to celebrate Senior’s Week. A free lunch is provided to 250 seniors in appreciation of their past and current contributions to the quality of life in Assiniboia. High school students assisted with the lunch by serving soup and desert to the seniors. Entertainment was provided using YouTube, where programs from the forties and fifties were shown.

A municipal employee (and member of the CiB committee) made a presentation at the CiB provincial workshop, outlining the creation of Assiniboia’s Central Park. We were extremely honored to have the opportunity to tell our story at a Provincial level.

Community Involvement Commercial/Industrial Sector

The commercial/industrial sector has embraced the Communities in Bloom initiative. The businesses have also assisted by repairing storefronts, cleaning up back alleys, and adding their own floral displays.

The businesses in Assiniboia are very generous in supporting the events hosted by the service clubs and not-for-profit groups as well as the sporting events. Minor ball, minor hockey, lacrosse, speed swimming, and golf tournaments all receive strong financial support from the businesses.

The annual Festival of Trees, through the generosity of the Assiniboia business community raises thousands of dollars to support the South Country Health Care Foundation and The Prince of Wales Recreation and Cultural Centre. The Relay for Life received many sponsorship donations from the local businesses.

Central Park received many donations of materials and labor from the businesses of Assiniboia. The gazebo in Central Park was added through the donation of labor from one of the construction companies and materials from one of the building material suppliers. Several of the newly added benches were sponsored by businesses for \$500 each.

The greenhouses in town have assisted with a “Bloom Sale” fundraiser and helped raise money for the purchase of flowers. The Royal Bank held a fundraiser lunch in support of the Relay for Life. The Toronto Dominion Bank employees sponsored a chili lunch to help with the Wood Mountain Rodeo. The South Country Dance studio visits both Prairie Villa and the Nursing home with the dance students and a show is performed at each location.

Thousands of dollars were raised in 2010 to replace the playground equipment at the 7th Avenue School, through the generous support of local businesses. Mom’s Florist promotes the sale of daffodils where the proceeds are donated to cancer research. A “good neighbor day” is also held where roses are purchased and exchanged throughout the community with the proceeds donated to the Salvation Army Food Bank.

The gracious donation of a truck from Nelson Motors each season for watering, a pump from Bourassa & Sons New Holland, and a poly water tank purchased for use by the CiB committee to water flowers, trees, and pots is another example of the generosity and support of the business community.

Community Involvement Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-For-Profit

Assiniboia is home to many service clubs and not-for-profit groups. These groups contribute time and resources that greatly enhance the quality of life in Assiniboia. The Club 55 provides recreation for seniors. The Arts Council hosts regular concerts for citizens of all ages to enjoy. The members also volunteer at The Shurniak Art Gallery to provide necessary manpower to operate the gallery at a reasonable cost. The Assiniboia Car Club hosts a Canada Day Derby annually as a fundraiser. The day provides entertainment for many citizens and the funds are donated to support other community events. The Civic Improvement Association hosts an annual Polka fest that brings dancers from many other communities to Assiniboia. These are just a few examples of the groups in Assiniboia.

Many of the successes that Assiniboia enjoys are due to the efforts of volunteer groups. A lunch was organized by the Assiniboia Economic Development Authority to recognize the efforts of the volunteers involved in these groups. A booklet was also published that lists information about each group. The AES visits the nursing home twice a year, once to carve pumpkins for Halloween and a second time in the spring to plant flowers. The 7th Ave School visits Eastside and Westside Court (senior’s apartments) twice a year, once to sing Christmas carols and a second visit to prepare a craft.

The local CiB committee has been extremely fortunate in obtaining support from local businesses through the donation of many of the supplies needed for planting and watering. The committee acknowledges these supporters through an advertisement in the local paper. Posters and pictures are also used to acknowledge the generous support received. The Assiniboia Rotary Club has purchased a clock that has been added at the front entrance to Central Park the clock was installed July 17 of 2012.

In 2011 the RCMP held their first annual golf tournament to help raise funds to replace the playground equipment at the Family Fun Park. The 2012 tournament was filled soon after it was announced.

The Red Coat Stampede committee hosted another very successful annual Bull-O-Rama, the Kinsman club took over organizing the event in 2011. The 2012 event expanded into two nights.

The Art Gallery hosts a “tongue in cheek” auction to fund raise for the library. The event is ran by volunteers and attended by many individuals to assist in increasing the funds available to purchase books for the library.

Community Involvement Residential/Citizens

Volunteer groups and service clubs are made up of individuals. Without these individuals most of the sports, culture and recreation in Assiniboia would cease to exist. Minor hockey, minor ball, curling, Junior B hockey, live theater, rodeo, the Polkafest, swim meets, etc. are all organized and run by volunteers. These individuals become coaches, ticket takers, bar tenders, janitors, cooks, dishwashers and more. Assiniboia is second to none with regard to volunteering.

A plant exchange is held in the spring of every year sponsored by the Library. This exchange allows gardeners to trade with others their gardening joys and accomplishments.

In 2011 the town received two separate donations from private citizens for the purchase of trees to be planted in the cemetery. The donations were made to assist in the addition of trees to beautify the cemetery as it expands.

Assiniboia played host to the Provincial Men’s Curling Finals in February of 2012. The event was a success in large part to the volunteer help provided by community members.

Over the past several months, the CiB committee has received assistance from many individuals to help weed, plant, and haul compost, pick up garbage and other numerous tasks. As well, the community has come out in force to participate in the fundraising events held by the CiB.

A new program starting in August will be a “Community Night” at the Prince of Wales Cultural Center. The new program will allow residents to participate in volleyball, basketball, and other games on a weekly basis. The program will involve people at the facility that before this has not occurred.

Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation

Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation Municipal

The Town of Assiniboia is fiscally responsible for the local Assiniboia & District Museum and maintains the museum's grounds. The museum contains an extensive collection of Assiniboia and area historical memorabilia, information and display items. Recently added to the exterior is a mural of the historical skyline of Assiniboia's downtown buildings. Recent fundraisers have been able to raise \$16,000.00 to build outdoor display area for the agricultural equipment. Plans are also in progress to create pathways outdoors around the displays to enhance and encourage more viewing of the outdoor displays.

Outside of the Town office is a monument commemorating the hero's of world war. Located in the center of the Kinsmen Park is a time capsule. The capsule was created in 1976 and will be opened at the celebration of Assiniboia's 100th birthday. Plans are currently in progress for celebrations to honor the 100th birthday of Assiniboia.

Through the initiative of council, efforts have been made to restore the Prairie Rest cemetery outside of the town and create a historical accounting of the pioneers buried at this site. Many grave markers were added during the last year thanks to the efforts of one of the town's councilors.

One of the oldest churches in town is located on Centre Street. Council budgeted \$20000 in 2010 to begin the process of restoring this building to a usable condition in order to preserve it.

Donated to the Tourism Information Center and now on display in the Assiniboia & District Museum is a bale stoker. Bale stokers were invented by a local resident, (now deceased), Wilf Prentice. The display captures an important part of Assiniboia's past. Enhancing the display is a wall mural created by two local residents depicting a hay field after baling. The bales are small and square...the result of using the bale stoker.

The municipality made a proclamation to declare "Day of the Honey Bee" in recognition of the importance of bees, and to increase awareness with regard to the concern over declining numbers.

***Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation
Commercial/Industrial Sector***

Assiniboia contains a beautiful Court House at the south end of Main St. that has been designated as a heritage site. Court was held in the building until 2010. In 2011 a restoration project began to upgrade the facility to a Condominium housing complex. Another building that has local heritage importance is the original Toronto Dominion Bank building. the original Toronto Dominion Bank built in 1917 is still in use, current tenants include our Member of the Provincial Legislature .

A local Bed and Breakfast business has just been given their heritage status. The Bed and Breakfast is decorated and restored to display its pride in the heritage and culture held with the property.

Many of the businesses in town display pictures of Assiniboia in the early years as a reminder of the “way we were”

***Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not for Profit***

A board of directors manages the museum that work as volunteers to restore items for display, generate ideas, provide tours and are available on call to show the museum. The board is diligent in gathering information and displaying items to continually expand the museums collection. The museum operates a school program to educate young people about the traditions of the past. Endeavors such as butter making are taught to the students. The Museum also has a seniors program where a display is transported by suitcase to the nursing home on a regular basis to stimulate their memories of our past. The museum board implemented two new projects in 2008. The first is the preparation of a three hour exhibit that encompasses three storylines centered around “Churches of South Central Saskatchewan”. As well, a compilation of information was created entitled “Kitchens of Early Settlers circa 1920’s”. Information and viewing can be enjoyed at the museum. These projects will preserve the past for the future. Assiniboia’s history will be forever captured within the walls of the Museum. Currently, a local citizen is working to compile a history book for the 100th anniversary celebration a “year book” which will contain highlights of events that happened in and around Assiniboia each year for the last 100 years.

The Shurniak Art Gallery is a non-profit entity. The collection contains several paintings created by members of The Group of Seven. Also in the gallery are paintings depicting the Saskatchewan prairies and our farm heritage, recently, the collection was changed to showcase local Saskatchewan artists in as exhibit called “Prairie South Art”. The gallery operates a summer program that teaches art to young children at no charge. The gallery is dedicated to Mr. & Mrs. Shurniak, long time farmers near Assiniboia.

The Assiniboia Car Club annually hosts a “Show & Shine” where restored cars are on display for all to view. The fire hall proudly displays one of the first fire fighting wagons. In 2010, the Cib committee, with the assistance of a local farmer, created a display of old wagons to create a reminder of our history.

Many events held in Assiniboia on an annual basis reflect and preserve our history. The Group of Ten hosts a photography show and competition annually. Many of the pictures depict farm life and preserve our present culture for future generations. In 2010, the 50th annual Carol Festival was held at the Prince of Wales Center. Children from the 7th Ave. School participated in the Missoula children’s theatre. Music is performed and remembered through the annual Music Festival. The Arts Council hosts an annual “Mistletoe Arts and Crafts Sale” where homemade items are displayed for viewing and sale. The event is very well attended. The Arts Council also presented “Stories of Canada’s Great Depression 10 Lost Years” to entertain and preserve the past.

The Shurniak Gallery hosts a volunteer appreciation event at Christmas. Attendees listen to readings from classic stories and sing traditional Christmas Carols. In 2010, the Club 55 held their first annual Bazaar and Bake Sale, offering homemade crafts and baking for sale. The Shurniak Gallery obtained a painting by Sandra Styranka depicting a historic illustration of the Franklin Hotel, which tragically burnt down in December of 2008. The picture will continue to remind residents of the hotel, which was an important gathering place for almost 100 years in Assiniboia.

The Daycare implemented a “Butterfly Project” where larvae were obtained and the children were able to watch the stages that are passed through by a butterfly to end up in their final state. The Prince of Wales Cultural and Recreation Centre displays a picture painted on one of the first plows used in farming. Inside the building is a display of Prince Charles during the ground breaking ceremony of the POW.

In 2011 our town Public Works shop had a mural painted on an interior wall depicting the Prairie setting and included the town Logo by a Katimivic volunteer working with the town. The Katimivic group of volunteers were also responsible for a wall mural in the gym at the High School.

Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation Residential/Citizens

Located within Assiniboia are several character houses that residents have restored to preserve the architectural influences of the past. These homes are a beautiful part of the town’s residential component.

Assiniboia bi-annually hosts a quilting show that attracts quilters and admirers alike. By featuring the beauty of quilting, an important skill from our past is being brought forward to the future. In the same way, the Prince of Wales Recreation Center hosts “Old Thyme” dances and also arranges for lessons so that the dances from past generations are still being performed. The annual Polkafest contributes to the preservation of our heritage.

Citizens recognize the importance of history, and many families have applied for and received the Century Family Farm Award. A local resident found and captured a rare local species of moth and prepared a write up in the local paper to educate others with regard to the moth. Some residents depict our culture in their yards through the display of agricultural and other ornaments.

A plaque was just unveiled at the Eastside Court housing unit to commemorate the old school that previously was on the site.

Tree/Urban Forest Management

Tree/Urban Forest Management Municipality

In 1996 the Town of Assiniboia in partnership with Green Streets Canada, purchased and planted ash trees on all the streets and avenues of Assiniboia. At the same time, evergreen trees were planted in Wood Crescent and Empire Place.

The town has a tree replacement program whereby trees are planted annually. Assiniboia's town employees maintain all trees through a regular maintenance program. For the last few years the town has also participated in the Dutch Elm Disease cost share program. Employees have attended the Dutch Elm Disease information workshop to gather additional knowledge in protecting the town's trees. Employees have attended training courses with regard to tree maintenance.

A yearly pruning program was established in 2010 the goal is to have every town owned tree pruned at least once every seven years.. In 2009, many of the town's evergreen trees required spraying, resulting in the contracting of a Tree Service out of Moose Jaw. The company uses environmentally friendly chemicals.

In 2010 the town employees began digging out wells around existing town trees and filling the wells with mulch. All new plantings follow this practice as well. These modifications will encourage growth, reduce competition with the grass and prevent damage from mowers and trimmers. Tree bases not yet mulched were also sprayed with glysophate to reduce mechanical injury. Tree debris from pruning is chipped during spring and fall pruning and is stockpiled for use as mulch.

Tree/Urban Forest Management Commercial/Industrial Sector

The Provincial Court House employs a caretaker to maintain the trees and grounds surrounding this beautiful heritage building. Prairie Rubber contracted the town to plant 200 trees in 2010 along the fence surrounding the tire yard. The majority of trees planted have survived and will enhance the site as they mature.

Our tree planting program also saw a corporate donation from Home Hardware that will enable us to by purchase trees to plant in the fall of 2012.

The TD Friends of the Environment grant provided us with funding to plant the 60 apple tree orchard at the community garden, and 30 flowering shrubs and trees at the cemetery.

***Tree/Urban Forest Management
Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for-Profit***

The Assiniboia Regional Park maintains beautifully treed campground and park. The trees receive regular maintenance including pruning and spraying as necessary. In 2009, 34 new trees were planted throughout the golf course. The Regional Park also has a tree nursery established at the golf course. As well, the trees beautifying the course are maintained regularly. More trees will be added this fall from proceeds contributed by Home Hardware.

The Assiniboia Composite High School has a tree “forest” located at the entrance to the high school. The trees help to shelter the entrance from the wind.

The local Communities in Bloom committee sponsored a Tree Pruning Clinic in 2011 that enabled residents the hands on opportunity to learn the proper pruning techniques to enable them to properly maintain the trees and shrubs on their property.

***Tree/Urban Forest Management
Residential/Citizens***

Residents are given the opportunity to hire the professional tree pruners that are hired by the town after town trees are completed. A list is compiled between visits of the pruners; this allows the resident to hire a reliable person at reasonable rate because the pruning people are here and can save travel expenses to the resident.

A new tree pruning service started this season has allowed citizens to have the lower pruning of trees to be hired locally. The citizens have been removing hedges and trimming trees to take advantage of the new service.

Floral Displays

Floral Displays Municipal

The town budgets approximately \$5000 for the purchase of flowers and planting materials. The town constructed several new planters to add to the existing stock of planters to display flowers along Center Street and Railway Avenue. The planter along the front of the town office has been planted to provide an attractive show of color at the municipal building.

Employees planted the flower bed located in the front of the water treatment plant. This bed is maintained by the employees. The corner lot on Centre Street has numerous planters to brighten the area. The cemetery is maintained on a daily basis. A memorial was constructed and placed at the entrance of the cemetery and is surrounded by flowers. Flowers and vines have been added to the cross structure.

Flowers were added to the Kinsmen Park in the newly constructed raised flower bed to create additional color in the park. Hanging planters were purchased to hang on several light standards along Main Street.

Town employees constructed the brackets to hang these planters. Employees hang the baskets in the spring and remove in the fall. Central Park displays an abundance of color with the many perennial and annual plants in the park.

Planters were added on Dominion Road to spruce up this area with some much needed color. Twenty additional barrels were purchased and planted in 2010. These barrels were placed at several locations throughout Assiniboia.

Flower beds were created in front of the Cenotaph at the town office after removing the shrubs that were in place previously. The Cenotaph can now be seen clearly and the new flowers in front of the Cenotaph add additional color.

Floral Displays Commercial/Industrial Sector

The Communities in Bloom contest has triggered participation with businesses along Centre Street and the adjoining side streets. Some businesses have added planters to the entrances or frontage at their business location. Several planters were added to the Assiniboia Union hospital and are maintained by the nursing staff. Hanging planters are maintained at 121 Steakhouse. Cup and saucer planters are planted at Andy's restaurant. Business water the planters provided by the town in the front of their stores.

New planters added in 2011 and 2012 include Homestyle Flooring, Club 55, Tesse's Trends, Friends Fitness, 121 Steakhouse, Ross Funeral Home, Piche Hawkins Grondin Funeral Home, and the Southland Co-op.

Floral Displays

Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for-Profit

Several of the churches have placed floral displays in planters, beds and borders for a beautiful show of color. The Oasis Church has an impressive display of flowers and planters. The Shurniak Art Gallery grounds contain many colorful flowers and other greenery.

The Regional Park Golf Course has created several new flowerbeds displaying a variety of annual and perennial flowers. The Prince of Wales Center have two floral display areas to their landscaping in the current year.

During the annual "Clean Sweep", planters and beds throughout Assiniboia are planted by volunteers. This includes the planters on Main Street, the circle at the Kin Hut, beds at Harvey's and the planter at the town office.

The bed along the sidewalk at the Kinsmen Park was prepared with the addition of top soil and compost. Perennials will be added in the fall. The CiB committee organizes a perennial exchange in the spring.

The hospital has seen the addition of a "Healing Garden" work began in 2011 and was completed in 2012. The garden is a quiet area that visitors and patients can sit outdoors and enjoy flowers trees and shrubs one of the raised beds has been planted with vegetables.

In 2012, the CiB committee chose "shades of pink" as the color to be used in all planters and beds.

Floral Displays

Residential/Citizens

Throughout Assiniboia, residents have created beautiful floral arrangements in both their front and back yards. Several residents have brightened up the town's boulevard areas with flowers and shrubs. Many residents have shown their support for the CiB initiative by adopting the 2012 CiB colors. The effort made by the residents is very evident.

The residents and citizens are responsible for the upkeep of Central Park, Not only is it well maintained, but additions are implemented yearly.

Landscaped Areas

Landscaped Areas Municipal

In 2006 the municipality purchased a corner lot on Centre Street for the development of a new park. The building on the site was demolished in early July of 2007. The purpose of the park is to create an outdoor space to enjoy coffee, lunch, or simply the opportunity to be outside. During 2007 and 2008 construction efforts continued on the park. On July 9th, 2008 the official grand opening of the park was held. The park received its sign in 2009 that spans the front entrance as well as the gazebo that was added for protection from the weather. The park is named “Central Park” as the sign proudly displays. Efforts have been ongoing to add annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees. In 2010, labels were purchased to place beside many of the plants to inform users of the park as to the names of the plants and trees. The park will see the addition of a clock donated by the Rotary Club in 2012. Drip irrigation is also being added to reduce water consumption. The first 200 feet was added in 2012 to begin the project.

The Kinsmen Park located in the center of town creates an open and beautiful landscape for the use of walkers and sports enthusiasts. The local RCMP, in June the last two seasons, holds an annual golf tournament to raise funds to replace the playground equipment in the park.

The playground and picnic area attached to the town office is a well-landscaped area. The segregation of playground equipment is accomplished with the use of landscape ties. The area enclosed with the ties is filled with colored crumb rubber creating an attractive appearance. The use of the crumb rubber contributes to the recycling effort. The playground equipment has been approved for replacement in 2012. The work is scheduled to be completed before the Centennial festivities.

In 2010, the Xeriscap feature at the town office was approved, creating an attractive, low maintenance landscape. The project began in 2011 and was a combination of volunteer help and municipal workers. The bridge was added in 2012 as well as the art feature.

Landscaped Areas Commercial/Industrial Sector

The Prairie Villa, a senior’s care residence, has created an inviting and relaxing outdoor environment for the resident’s, staff, and visitors. The Vila added an underground irrigation system as well as other landscape improvements to their entrance in 2012.

The Shurniak Art Gallery has a very impressive variety of plant materials located in their landscape. The landscape is made up of a pleasing variety of color and texture.

Landscaped Areas

Service Clubs, Schools, Churches, Not-for-Profit

The Prince of Wales Cultural and Recreation Centre undertook the landscaping of the facility to ensure an attractive and unusual display. To conserve water usage, limited grass was added to the landscape.

The Shurniak Art Gallery is beautifully landscaped. The Assiniboia Composite High School is partnering with the town by creating a mosaic art work that will be displayed at the Xeriscape located at the town office.

The South Country Health Care Foundation approved the plans to construct a “healing garden” at the front of the hospital in 2010. The construction began in the summer of 2011, and was completed in the spring of 2012. Fundraising efforts and donations of goods and services contributed the necessary funds to build the garden that will be enjoyed for years to come.

Landscaped Areas

Residential/Citizens

Many residents have expended a great deal of effort to landscape their yards. The senses are all engaged when viewing many of these yards. The sight of beautiful or unusual flowers, the sound of water trickling or birds singing, the smell of pine or flowers, the feel of soft grass, contribute to a wonderful feeling of wellbeing.

Many yards contain creative use of paving stones, natural rock, decking and colored shale. Several citizens generously allowed their yards to be viewed for The Yard Tour fund raisers conducted by the CiB committee.

Turf and Ground Covers

Turf and Ground Covers Municipal

Assiniboia contains many green spaces that contain large lawn areas. These spaces are well maintained by the town employees. Cutting practices were altered in 2010 to ensure that the grass was not cut too short. Included in these areas are the green spaces in Wood Crescent and Empire Place and the Kinsmen Park. The boulevard along Dominion Road also contains a grass median maintained by the town. The cemetery is yet another grass area well groomed by town employees.

The Town is currently implementing a program of replacing tilled areas around trees with wood mulch from tree pruning. This ground cover around our trees is preventing most mechanical injuries to the trees, decreases weeds, and the product also conserves moisture in the soil.

Turf and Ground Covers Commercial/Industrial

A spacious well-maintained lawn area surrounds the Assiniboia Union Hospital. The Southland Co-operative Ltd, South Country Equipment, Piche Hawkins Grondin Funeral Home and Classic Home Improvements regularly cuts the grass in the ditches along their property at the North entrance of town. The ditches are also maintained on the west entrance by Bourassa and Sons and Young's Equipment. Prairie Villa has beautifully groomed grounds.

Turf and Ground Covers Service clubs, schools, churches and not-for-profit

The Assiniboia Regional Golf Course is a nine-hole grass green course, well maintained by trained personnel. The Assiniboia Elementary School also takes excellent care of their grounds.

The Assiniboia Housing Authority operates two seniors' buildings that have regular upkeep to provide residents with a very appealing surrounding. The lawns are managed in such a way as to keep them green and groomed.

***Turf and Ground Covers
Residential/Citizens***

Most residents are diligent in maintaining green space. Lawns are groomed regularly. The majority of citizens maintain their property to a groomed standard. Since the beginning of our involvement in the Communities' in Bloom initiative there has been a growing number of people who keep their properties maintained better than in the past. The number of property complaints have become virtually non-existent.

People in the last few years are converting their landscape to Xeriscaping. It has become very popular in our community rather than turf ground covers there is a variety of gravel and stone being used as covers in their landscapes.