

Feature Member

Name: Annette McGovern, Director
Organization: Portage Vocational Society

What is the Portage Vocational Society?

Established in 1991, the Portage Vocational Society assists people with mental illness to acquire employment by providing them with vocational training. Through a contract with the City of North Battleford, the David Laird Campground is operated by the staff and clients of the Portage Vocational Society.

With regards to the David Laird Campground, what are your expectations for the 2011 summer season?

After receiving a power upgrade and renovations to the concession and shower areas in 2010, the David Laird Campground will add 6 to 7 new RV lots this year, plus wireless internet and an onsite laundry facility. McGovern also notes that she hopes to see more functions at the campground this year, including weddings and reunions. Every year the campground welcomes back several annual visitors including some from Maine and Connecticut that stop on their way back from Alaska to deliver some fresh fish.

When does the campground open?

The campground is open starting May 1 and closes mid-October. They will be hosting a Spring Fling at the David Laird Campground May 6th.

Members are drawn at random. Battlefords Tourism has 90 members.



Marketing

Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence

Congratulations to the following Battlefords Tourism members, they were selected as finalists for the SK Tourism Awards of Excellence for 2010; Business of the Year Award (under 50 full-time employees) -Table Mountain Regional Park and Human Resource Development Award – Gold Eagle Lodge. Table Mountain Regional Park was awarded Business of the Year.

Tourism Saskatchewan TAD

Tourism Saskatchewan's Turnaround Document has been sent to all industry members and partners to complete. All of the information collected is used to update Tourism Saskatchewan's print and online listings. The return deadline is June 1, 2011. If you are a member and have not received the TAD or for more information, please contact Kathy Rosenkranz at (306) 787-2312.

2nd Annual "Best of the Battlefords" Photo Contest

Starting May 2nd, Battlefords Tourism and our partner, the City of North Battleford, will launch the 2nd Annual "Best of the Battlefords" Photo Contest. We are inviting shutterbugs of all ages and skill levels to submit their photos for a chance to win hundreds of dollars worth of prizes in 4 categories: Battlefords Vacation, Events, Urban Life and Sports & Recreation. Please visit www.battlefordstourism.com to enter. Contest closes August 12th, 2011 and judging will take place during the week of August 15th. Thank you to our sponsors: Bannerman Photo Studio, Canadian Tire, Porta Bella Restaurant and Wal-Mart North Battleford.

"Summer Teasers" e-newsletter Contest

As a thank you, Battlefords Tourism will be offering our readers a chance to win some fantastic prizes during June, July and August in our new "Summer Teasers" e-newsletter Contest. Each month we will feature clues pertaining to three member businesses. Guess which business is featured in each of the three clues and email your answers to admin.battlefordstourism@sasktel.net. All correct entries will be entered into a monthly draw for prizes sponsored by the participating member businesses. This contest is only available through our e-newsletter, so play for your chance to win some great prizes!

Visitor Guide Survey Results

A total of 7 respondents completed the online survey; all of which were completed by members. When asked which features they liked the most; comments included: *colourful, attractive, easy to read, love the new design, variety of activities, organized well, better layout, good pictures, etc.* When asked which features they liked the least; comments included: *disappointed with the calendar of events as there are no specific dates, none and mistakes.* We appreciated all the comments and will certainly take them into consideration for next year's guide.

Membership/Admin

When it works it's brilliant, but when it doesn't...

Technology is great...when it's working properly. Some recipients on our distribution list may have received more than one copy through their e-mail. A computer malfunction was to blame and the problem has now been resolved. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Contact Us

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LISTEN: Tourism Radio 100.5FM

Board of Directors

Claudia Baptiste – Chairperson
Candice Brown – Vice-Chairperson
Scott Whiting – 2nd Vice-Chairperson
Laura Ruby Stade – Secretary/Treasurer
Ray Fox – City of North Battleford Representative
Susan McLean-Tady – Town of Battleford Rep.
Jackie Starling - Director
Jane Shury - Director
Donna Challis - Director
Priscilla Farmer – Director
Marcus Miller – Director
RoseMarie Nyholt - Director

Events: May 2011

Week One

- 1 Under the Rainbow Spring Fair & Trade Show
- 7 Catholic Family Services 19th Annual Charity Auction and Dinner
- 7 2nd Annual Champion of Mental Health Awards Banquet

Week Two

- 10 BBEX Awards
- 12 Flick Fest 10

Week Three

- 15 Pee Gee Man River Run
- 15 MS Walk

Week Four

- 25 Shrine Circus
- 26 Fort Battleford Ghost Walk
- 27-29 CPCA Races
- 28 20th Annual Soap Box Derby

Director's Corner

Name: Marcus Miller

Director Since: 2011

How has Battlefords Tourism influenced your outlook on the industry?

Battlefords Tourism has made me appreciate the efforts of people who work hard to put the Battlefords on the map. I believe North Battleford's two public galleries are a tremendous asset to the area and are symptomatic of a very enlightened community.

What is the single most important issue facing tourism in the Battlefords today?

As a newcomer I'm just starting to become familiar with the rich history and beautiful landscape of the area. My gut feeling is that a revitalized downtown would have huge spin-off benefits for tourists and residents alike.

Why did you become a board member?

The Allen Sapp Gallery is already a big draw in the Battlefords and the Chapel Gallery hosts events that bring in artists, writers and teachers from across the province. I need to work with other key people here so the galleries are integrated into and contribute to the big plans for the area.