

# Winter

2024 - 2025

## FUN GUIDE



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**Spectator**

Covering events  
and activities in  
Southeast SK and  
Southwest MB

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WITH GREAT  
DEALS  
INSIDE**





## Strength in Diversity

Nestled in the parklands between the Qu'Appelle Valley to the north and the Pipestone Valley to the South, Moosomin is a great place to stop and enjoy the beauty of the Prairies!

Moosomin is perfectly situated on the Trans-Canada Highway near Moosomin Regional Park, and has many other parks and attractions within easy driving distance.

Moosomin has a wealth of tourist services, including a wide range of accommodation options, including three new hotels built in the last few years, a wide variety of dining options, and some one-of-a-kind local stores

Moosomin is a growing regional centre with a full complement of professional services, first class medical facilities and a solid local economy.

### MOOSOMIN HAS FIRST CLASS RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:

#### NUTRIEN SPORTSPLEX

Brand new in 2016, and features:

- Bowling Lanes
- Billiard Table
- Pickle ball Courts
- Shuffle Board Table
- Darts
- Walking Track
- 4 Simulators (golf, hockey, baseball, cricket and more)

This building is fully licensed and also offers kitchen services.

#### HOURS OF OPERATION

Wednesday: 12 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
 Thursday: 12 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
 Friday: 10 a.m. - Closing  
 Saturday: 10 a.m. - Closing  
 Sunday: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

#### MIKE SCHWEAN ARENA

During the colder weather, our community rink becomes the heart of much winter entertainment. The rink hosts 15 minor hockey teams, a figure skating club, recreational hockey and senior hockey. We also have the Blue Moose Lounge Services, as well as a full kitchen service.

#### PARKS & REC

Equipment "Loaner" Program  
 Located at Moosomin Outdoor Arena  
 Includes: XSkis & Boots & Skates/PPE

#### OUTDOOR ARENA AND PETER NABHOLZ SKATE-WAY

One of the finest outdoor arenas in Rural Saskatchewan. The outdoor rink boasts a 80 ft X 160 ft playing area and a warm-up room for tying your skates.

#### NEW WINTER X-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS

Skis available to use at the Sportsplex

#### MOOSOMIN CURLING CLUB

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

#### MOOSOMIN CONEXUS CONVENTION CENTRE

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

- Multiple performing arts productions
- Sporting Events: Volleyball, Basketball, Floor Hockey & more!
- Graduation Ceremonies
- Trade Shows & Auction Sales
- Wedding Ceremonies & Receptions
- Cabarets
- Various Fundraisers and more!



## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Town of Moosomin  
[www.moosomin.com](http://www.moosomin.com)  
[twn.moosomin@sasktel.net](mailto:twn.moosomin@sasktel.net)  
 306-435-2988  
 Town of Moosomin

Moosomin Parks & Recreation  
[www.moosominparksandrec.com](http://www.moosominparksandrec.com)  
[mismn.rec.brd@sasktel.net](mailto:mismn.rec.brd@sasktel.net)  
 (306) 435-3622  
 Nutrien Sportsplex

Moosomin & District Regional Park  
[www.moosominregionalpark.com](http://www.moosominregionalpark.com)  
[moosominregionalpark@sasktel.net](mailto:moosominregionalpark@sasktel.net)  
 (306) 435-3531  
 Moosomin & District Regional Park

Diverse Population — Diversified Economy — Boundless Opportunities





The Creative Vision Productions performance of Footloose in November at the Convention Centre

## Convention Centre and Mike Schwean Arena a busy place all winter

Every winter, the Conexus Convention Centre and Mike Schwean Arena in Moosomin become hub of activity.

The Convention Centre was designed to be a multipurpose facility, and it has truly hit the mark. Once winter arrives, the facility plays host to a ton of events, from public gym nights to gymnastics and air cadets, and many, many private bookings such as trade shows and entertainment events.

For those looking for some indoor public skating and shinny time, both are available in the Mike Schwean Arena throughout the winter. Skating and shinny times can be found on the Moosomin Parks and Rec website at [www.moosomin.com/parksandrec](http://www.moosomin.com/parksandrec).

For adults wanting to indulge in a little bit of rec hockey there are options. Men's rec hockey is played each week. Times vary each week, but these programs are open to any adult.

The Mike Schwean Arena is also a great place to catch a local hockey game—be it minor hockey or a game between the town's senior team, the Moosomin Rangers, and one of their opponents in the Big Six Hockey League.

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



Rock Candy performing in the fall of 2024.

been a big hit over the years.

The Convention Centre and outdoor rink are fairly recent additions to Bradley Park, and Moosomin Rec Director Mike Schwean says everything has worked out the way the town hoped, with the entire facility humming with activity on a regular basis.

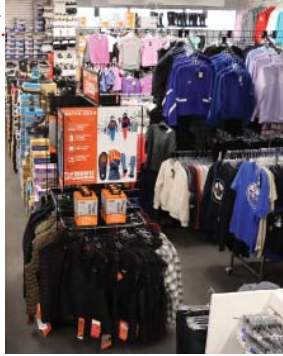
"It's exactly what we planned, it worked out perfect," he says. "It's busy all the time."

"It's not so much a revenue producer as it is payback to the community—lots of different groups have been able to use it."

**ON THE COVER:** Griffin Swallow with a walleye he caught all by himself fishing with his dad. Photo submitted by Tiffany Swallow.



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moosominse@gmail.com

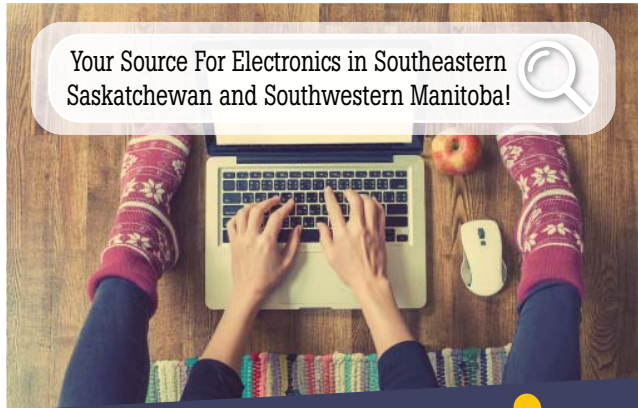


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# Sportsplex a winter rec destination

Moosomin's Nutrien Sportsplex is a unique venue that has been recognized with awards by both the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association.

"I'm thrilled, because it was a unique undertaking, and the fact that it has been recognized by both SUMA and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association shows that it was a good decision," says Moosomin Recreation Director Mike Schwean.

The Sportsplex had its start when the town had the bowling alley turned over to it, and a community needs assessment was completed. The needs assessment identified the need for a dedicated park space for community events, the need for nontraditional recreation opportunities, the need for winter leisure opportunities and the need for more diversified recreation opportunities.

Schwean says the facility—with everything from bowling lanes and billiards to a walking track, pickleball court and sports simulators—was meant to serve all ages.

"When we were planning it, we wanted to be able to offer programming for adults and seniors and kids. One of the biggest successes of the entire project has been offering programming to seniors. In the past we just didn't have winter programming for that demographic.

"When I look at it now, it's better than what I had envisioned. We were looking for diversity and to accommodate everyone, and I think between exercise classes and the walking groups, and the simulators, and the parties, we're working with all different demographics. With all the parties, we're bringing a lot of people to the community."

The Sportsplex now includes the pre-existing bowling alley, billiards, four sports simulators, an indoor walking track, two indoor pickleball courts, large raised decking, a large outdoor stage, ground level rubber decking, a flag garden, and a park area. Activities are hosted there on a regular basis, including weekly golf leagues, fitness classes, seniors programming, league bowling, and a large number of walkers make use of the walking track, which the recreation department has tried to make more interesting by starting challenges where walkers walk across the province or the country reaching certain milestones after a certain number of laps.

"For the people in town who use it, it's great," says Schwean. "There are so many people who use it, from walkers to golfers, and they all love it. We hear so many positive comments. It's provided exactly what we wanted it to. It's provided an opportunity to stay active in the winter for people who didn't have an opportunity for that before." The monthly schedule for events at the Sportsplex can be found online at [www.moosomin.com/parksandrec/sportsplex.html](http://www.moosomin.com/parksandrec/sportsplex.html)



Lunch Monday - Friday open 11:00 a.m. (Kitchen closes at 1:30 p.m.)  
Supper Monday - Sunday open 5:00 p.m. (Kitchen closes at 7:45 p.m.)

AVAILABLE FOR:  
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# Moosomin outdoor rink free to use

In the town of Moosomin, where indoor ice time is at a premium, there is an outdoor rink for people to enjoy during the winter months.

Moosomin's outdoor rink was built as an answer to the lack of time for public skating and shinny at Mike Schwean Arena, the town's indoor arena.

Since then the outdoor rink has been a busy place, used frequently for games of shinny and by children who just want to have some fun on the ice.

Recently Moosomin's outdoor rink has gained some attention. Canadian filmmaker Randy Frykas was in Moosomin to capture the town's historical outdoor ice rink as part of his 10-episode documentary series "Outdoor Hockey Club."

The series featured outdoor rinks on scenic lakes, frozen rivers, extraordinary backyard rinks, local community clubs, and more from all across Canada.

The Moosomin outdoor rink is 160 by 170 feet and located in Bradley Park, just behind the Communiplex on the south end of town.

Conceived, built, and maintained by volunteers, the



Kids playing shinny on the outdoor rink.

ice is reserved for public skating and shinny, and was built with wind breaks so skaters are more comfortable on chilly days. There is also a heated building on site for skaters to change into their skates or just warm up in, and the ice is cleaned regularly by a Zamboni.

The rink is lit at night so that skating can continue into the evening.

If there is an event on at the Communiplex, adjacent to the outdoor rink, there is a concession available inside the Communiplex for snacks and drinks.

The outdoor rink in Moosomin is open to the public completely free of charge.

An advertisement for Skout Brewing Co. The background is a solid orange color. At the top center is the Skout Brewing Co. logo, which consists of the word "SKOUT" in a bold, white, sans-serif font inside a white rounded rectangle, with "BREWING CO." in a smaller font below it. Below the logo, on the left, is a white silhouette of a beer glass. In the center, the text "THE BEER" is written in a large, white, serif font, with "From" in a smaller, white, cursive font below it. To the right of "From" is a white silhouette of a hop cone. Below "From" is the word "MOOSOMIN" in a large, white, serif font. At the bottom, the text "Taproom open Wed-Sunday" is written in a white, cursive font, followed by "1813 Celebration Drive, Moosomin, SK" and "www.skoutbrewing.com" in a white, sans-serif font.



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# Snowmobiling the Tri Valley Trails

Every winter a group of dedicated volunteers maintains hundreds of miles of snowmobile trails from Fleming to Spy Hill, ensuring local snowmobilers have a safe and scenic ride.

Tri Valley Trails is a local snowmobile club providing safe, groomed trails for riders. The club is also affiliated with Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association (SSA). Since TVT formed over 20 years ago it has maintained several miles of trail systems which connect three valleys—the Qu'Appelle, Assiniboine, and the Pipestone. The trail system also joins up with the SnoMan trails (Manitoba system).

Any snowmobile licensed in Saskatchewan also has their trail pass covered in Manitoba, and vice versa, allowing licensed snowmobilers to ride between provinces on one license.

The Tri Valley Trails are designated SSA trails, therefore trail users are required to register their snowmobile.

The club currently maintains 300 kilometres of trail in the Moosomin, Fleming, Rocanville, Welwyn, Tantallon and Spy Hill areas. There are three groomer operators who spend hours grooming the trails each winter, plus a number of volunteers who go out onto the trails at the beginning of the season to stake signs along the trails.

The trails provide a safer way to ride.

Warmup shacks are located at Moosomin, Rocanville, Welwyn, and Spy Hill, and are stocked with firewood for those wishing to take a break and build a fire. There



are also signs along the trails for local businesses who support the trails system, many who provide services to snowmobilers, such as meals, repairs, and accessories.

While a membership in the Tri Valley Trails club is not required to ride the trails, buying a membership is a great way to support the trails system and the club so that the trails can continue to be marked and groomed in the future.

For more information on the trails, visit the Tri Valley Trails website, which is regularly updated, at [www.trivalleytrails.com](http://www.trivalleytrails.com). (See page 45 for the Trails Map)

**Tri Valley Trails**  
Snowmobile Club

**SERVING: Moosomin, Rocanville, Welwyn, Spy Hill, and Tantallon.**

If you like sledding and want to get involved please attend the meeting in the next couple of months and join our committee.

**Watch the newspaper for the meeting date!**

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MONDAY-SATURDAY 11AM-8PM  
SUNDAY 8AM-8PM

Dennis Hack sets out on the cross country ski trails at Rocanville



## Beautiful, groomed cross country ski trails available at Rocanville

Ever winter, community members from Rocanville volunteer their time to maintain the popular cross-country ski trails that families and children go to for skiing. The trails are located south of Rocanville and are available for anyone to use.

Volunteers from Rocanville Cross-Country Ski Club spend their time not only in the winter but in the summer time too, preparing and maintaining the trails. Dennis Hack, the equipment co-ordinator of the club, says it takes him about an hour and a half to groom the trails, pack the snow and then create the ski trails.

"Quite a bit of work gets put in during the summer time, we're actually clearing trees, mowing grass. Dennis has taken a step further into the trails, he's actually ridden a lot of the trails to smooth and level them out," says Layne McFarlane, president of Rocanville Cross-Country Ski Club.

Hack, who has been skiing on the trails in Rocanville since he was a kid, says he loves everything about them.

"It's been a real blessing having this," he says. McFarlane says some winters there are as many as 2,000 people who use the ski trails in Rocanville. "People come from all areas to be here because it's unique. Between Kenosee and Madge Lake which is up north, it's really the only facility for skiing at this level that's in between."

With all five cross-country ski trails combined, there is a total of 8 kilometers of paths. Hack designed the route of the ski trails and created each trail to be of different lengths so that people of all ages and abilities, can be included. The shorter trails like Barney's Bend, is 0.9 km and is mainly meant for children, in case they are not able to ski for a long period of time. The longest trail, Beaver, is 1.6 km and goes in a full loop which then brings individuals back to the center, where all trails are connected.

"It's amazing seeing the birds come out here and also just seeing the families. I love seeing families and kids skiing and enjoying their time," he says.

Hack also says that there is rental equipment available for individuals who do not own their own skis, ski boots or ski poles. "We have about 51 pairs of rental skis and 76 pairs of boots for rental, but serious skiers have their own skis. When the rental skies come back (to the Club House) and the boots, and the poles, people put them in a bin and



Dennis Hack on the cross country ski trails.

I spray them with sanitizer."

The rental equipment used in the past has been donated to the club. However, McFarlane says because the facility has been doing so well, the club is now able to purchase any additional rental equipment that is needed.

The ski trails located just south of Rocanville, are available for anyone to use now. More information on rental equipment prices and other updates, can be found on the club's website: <https://rocanvillecrosscountrytrails.ca>



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# WELCOME TO St. Lazare & McAuley MANITOBA

## History of St. Lazare & RM of Ellice

St Lazare got its beginning as a Roman Catholic mission in the 1820's. It was founded by Oblate Father Jules DeCorby, who had immigrated from France in 1867.

Father DeCorby was at this time attached to the mission at Lebret, Saskatchewan. Father DeCorby named this new mission St Lazare to commemorate the place in France from which he departed on his journey to Canada.

The mission was located at the junction of the Qu'Appelle and the Assiniboine Rivers, approximately 3 miles north of the Hudson Bay Company's Fort Ellice. Church services in those early years were held in the homes of these early settlers, which were mostly Métis families. Since Father DeCorby was very nomadic, traveling from mission to mission, other missionaries from Lebret helped with the St Lazare mission, namely Fathers St. Germain, Campeau and Lepage.

In 1880, a log Church was built and Father DeCorby became the first resident priest. At about this time, a French Canadian, Delphis Chartier and family, arrived at Fort

Ellice via steamboat and settled at the mission. He eventually opened a post office, October 1st, 1895, and various other businesses. In 1895, Father DeCorby was replaced by Father Léon Favreau and in 1898 a new stone Church was constructed under the supervision of Mr. Chartier. The new Church was blessed by the Archbishop of St Boniface Adelard Langevin, in 1899. A stone rectory was also built at this time.

In 1900, Father Favreau conducted a census of the mission. The census which included men, women and children was 89 families, 456 souls in all broken down as follows. Métis 342, French Canadians 34, French 15, Irish 30, Scotch 19 and Germans 18. On May 13, 1909, the mission of St Lazare was declared a parish by the Archbishop of St Boniface Adelard Langevin.

On July 7, 1883, the Rural Municipality of Ellice was born, with its headquarters at Fort Ellice. With the decline of the fort and the emergence of St Lazare, its permanent headquarters were moved to St Lazare with the first meeting in the space rented from Father Favreau

on January 6th, 1902. In 1905, the merchants of the mission anticipated the coming of the railway and began relocating to what is the present day location of the Village of St Lazare. Records indicate the railroad opened in 1908.

Many businesses sprung up at this new site, general stores, barber shop, pool room, blacksmith shop, hotel. Eugene Fouillard started a Massey Ferguson dealership. In 1911, a grain elevator owned and operated by the Atlas Grain Company opened its doors.



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The town of Esterhazy has an outdoor arena right beside the DA Mackenzie Aquatic Centre, and the rink is well used every winter. The rink includes a warm up room for tying skates, and there are lights for skating into the evening. The rink is free for anyone to use. Esterhazy's skating path winds through the Esterhazy Regional Park, using the roads as a skateway. There's even a spot to stop along the way and have an outdoor bonfire, and the path is lined with lights.



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Esterhazy's Dana Antal Arena is a hub of activity in the winter. With 10 minor hockey teams, Skate Esterhazy Canskate and Bridging programs, three rec hockey teams, the Esterhazy Senior Flyers back in action this season, public skating and shinny, the rink is always a busy place!

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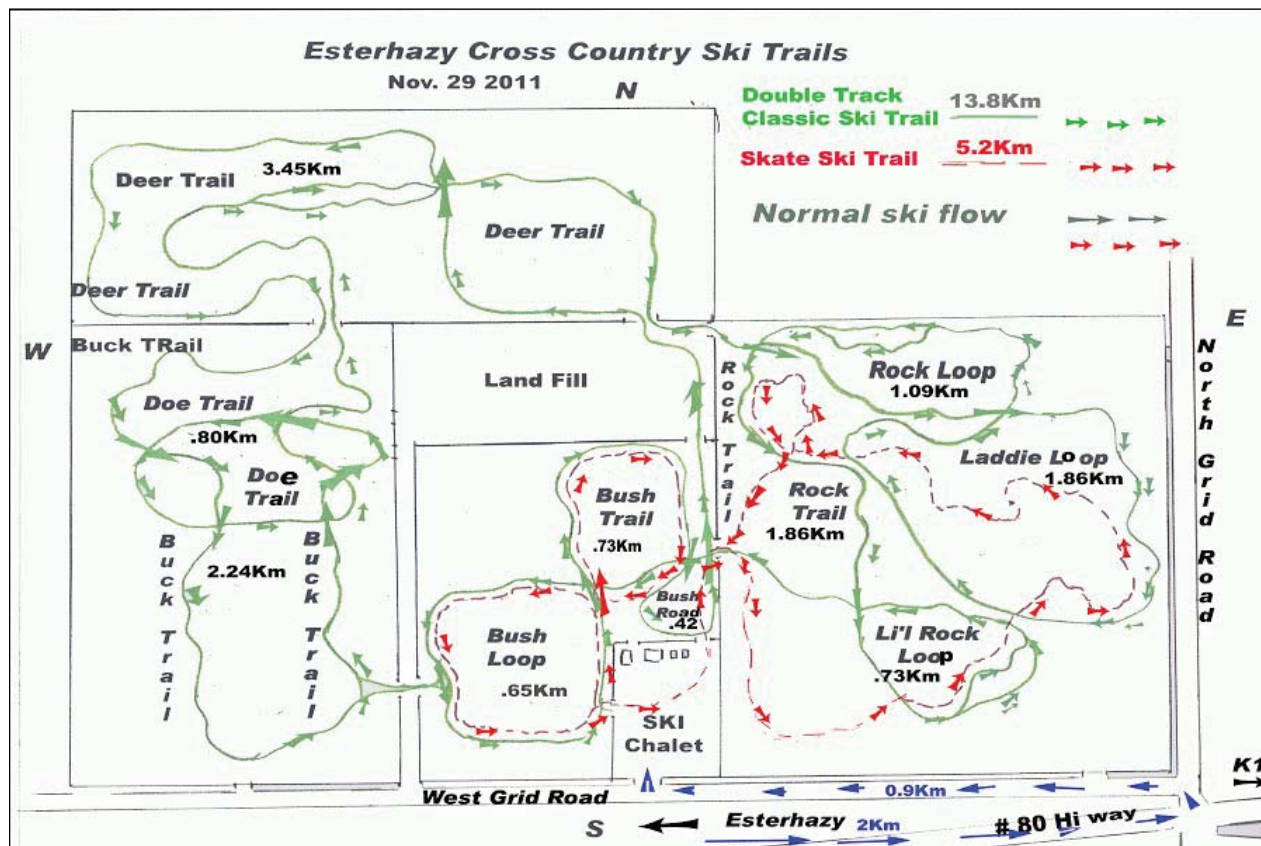
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# Cross country skiing at Esterhazy

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

The club is a volunteer-run organization and are a group who is excited to share their love of fresh air, exercise and beauty of the outdoors. Thank you to all those individuals who help clear and groom the 14 km of classic and 6 km of skate-ski trails, maintain equipment, clean and stock the ski hut, keep wood supplied for outside fires and our wood stove inside of the ski chalet, wax skis and any other jobs that are required to keep our club running.

If you need to access the ski hut or need any help, the executive will gladly answer any questions, but ask that you help by keeping the area clean, helping to replenish wood supply, respecting the equipment and facilities and being responsible for your own safety. As a member, your assistance with the many events and participation in a fundraiser would be greatly appreciated.

New members are always welcome. The club holds various events throughout the season which include

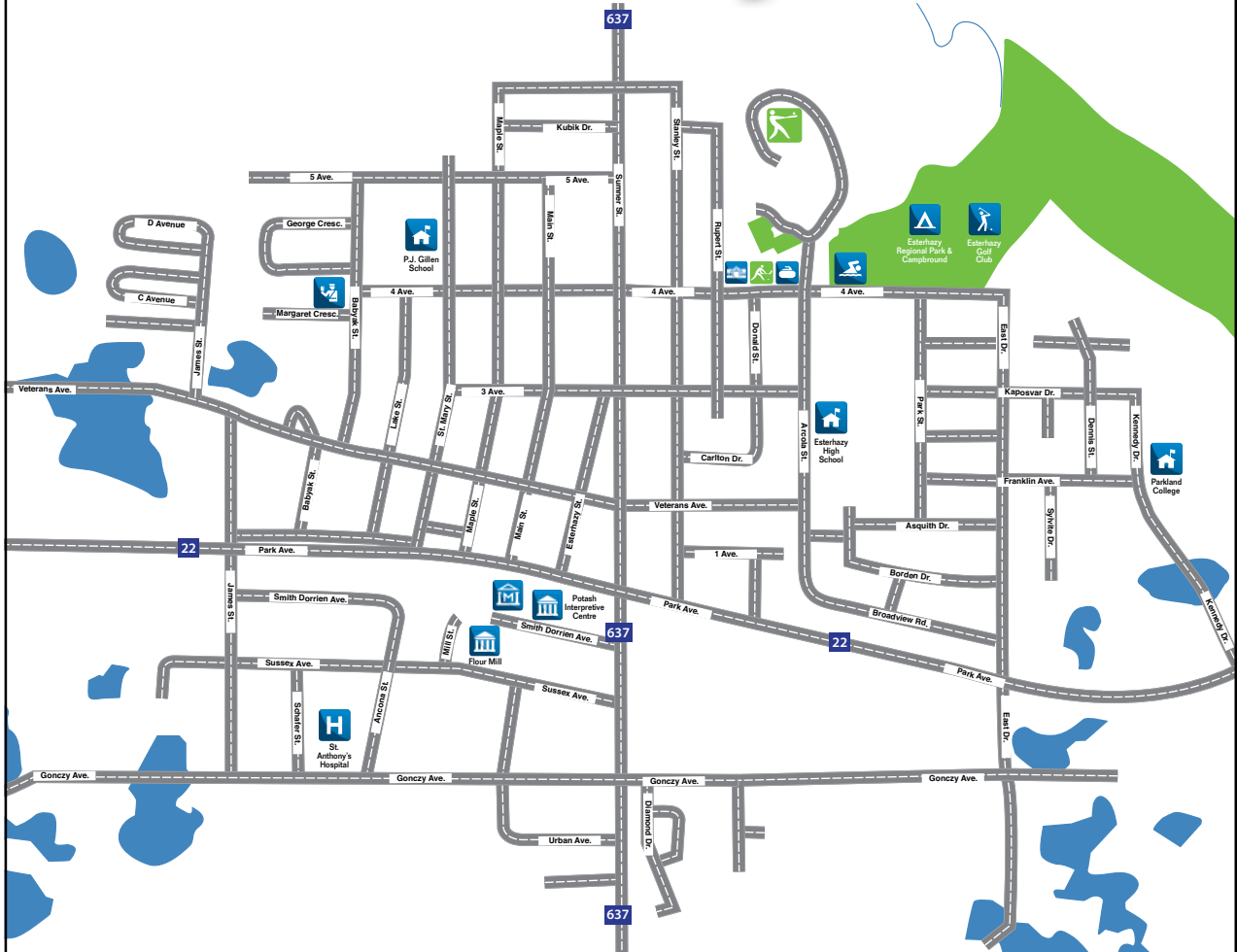
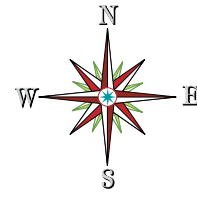


moonlight skis, wax clinics, poker skis, family fun days, ski tournaments, loppets and competitions.


The ski hut sits on the east side of the landfill site access road (see map), but is not visible from the road. The town maintains clearing of snow in this area. The clubhouse has a wood stove, plenty of wood, a fire pit, porta-potti and seating areas inside and out of the hut. Some ski equipment, a hot plate and hot beverages are available for use.


For more information on the Esterhazy Cross Country Ski Club, email [esterhazyCCSC@gmail.com](mailto:esterhazyCCSC@gmail.com)


# Welcome to Esterhazy





## Legend:


 Parks/Recreation Areas


 Baseball Diamond

 Hockey Rink

 Curling Rink

 Swimming Pool


 Campground

 Golf Course

 School

 RCMP

 Hospital

 S.N. Boreen Community Centre

 Community Museum

 Potash Interpretive Centre

 Flour Mill







A snowmobile outside of one of the warmup shacks.

# Esterhazy Super Sledders provide fun and safe snowmobile trails

For those in the Esterhazy area looking for a fun activity this winter, the Esterhazy Super Sledders are a group of dedicated snowmobilers whose members ensure their trails are in the best shape when the snow begins to fall.

From Esterhazy to Tantalton, the Randy Abdai Memorial Trail stretches along the Kaposvar Valley and into the Qu'Appelle Valley. The trail winds along parts of the old CN Rail Bed and follows much of the Kaposvar Creek.

Along the trail, you will find a mix scenery, creek crossings, and genuine Saskatchewan beauty! The trail is primarily a graveled trail, but you will find several sections to challenge your abilities, with sand, silt, hard-pack, hills and valleys to traverse. There is something for everyone!

The Esterhazy Super Sledders acquired the rail bed system 17 years ago, but have been grooming them and using them since the rail bed system was abandoned 27 years ago.

The Esterhazy Super Sledders is a non profit organization which provides fun and safe ATV/snowmobile trails, and hosts events with the help of its many members donating their time.

"We have a consistent group of members who help take care of the trails and groom them," says Esterhazy Super Sledders organizer Curtis Abdai. "As soon as we get enough snow to groom the trail—pretty much anything after a foot—we'll start grooming them and get our signs up and it will show up on the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association (SSA) website as open. The grooming is all GPS tracked so the SSA knows when we're out grooming and ready to go.

"We have a few warmup shacks throughout the valley for snowmobiling and we hold woodcutting days and all kinds of random work days with our members.

"The main contact for our members to stay in touch or for new members interested is our Facebook page," says Abdai. "We have about 35 active members and we're always looking for more members because they're what

keeps the trail system alive."

The Esterhazy Super Sledders charge an annual membership fee and the best way to get in touch with them is through their Facebook page.

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# Virден full of heritage buildings

Virден is well known for its many restored heritage buildings, dating back to the early 1880s. Architectural styles are varied with most of the heritage being of either fieldstone or brick construction. Many of the structures are unique in Western Canada, in architectural style and purpose.

Examples include the Aud Theater, which is unique in style as an example of a restored turn of the century opera house. Another example is St Mary's Anglican Church, whose unique fieldstone construction exemplifies 1800s English style construction using abutments and high pitched roofs.

Virден's unique history as an early railroad center has also left the community with a central business district, rich with heritage brick buildings, constructed at the turn of the century.

Following are a few of the heritage buildings that make Virден unique:

- Canadian Pacific Railway Station -  
425 - 6th Avenue S
- The Aud Theater -  
228 Wellington Street
- St Mary's Anglican Church -  
633 9th Street
- Goulding House - 677 -  
9th Avenue
- Virден Pioneer Home Museum -  
390 King Street

Be sure to check a few of these buildings out next time you are in Virден for a visit!

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The Virden Oil Capitals at a game at Tundra Oil & Gas Place.

# Virden winter attractions

## Ice Fishing

Ice fishing is a popular winter pastime on the Prairies, and Virden is no exception. Kenworth Dam is one of the hot spots for ice fishing in the area. Located northeast of Virden, one mile south of Kenton of PTH No. 21 and half mile west, the site of the Kenworth Dam has been developed for camping, swimming and fishing. Pickerel can be had here year round.

## Great Shopping & Dining

The Virden area is home to some of the best retailers and restaurants around. It's easy to take a day and go shopping in the area. If you're looking for a one-of-a-kind boutique shopping experience, you could start at Samantha's boutique in Elkhorn just 15 minutes west of Virden, then head to Virden to hit up Flower Attic and

Gifts, Shari Lyn Fashions, and Virden Footwear. As for food and drink, venues like MJ's Coffee Bar & Bistro, The Sweet Spot Bakery, and Brierwood Creek Café & Grill are the icing on the cake!

## The Virden Oil Caps

As the home of its very own Junior A team since 2012, the town of Virden is a hockey action hub.

Hockey fans can regularly see the Oil Caps play MJHL hockey at the beautiful Tundra Oil & Gas Place arena in Virden, which can hold up to 1,400 fans.

The Oil Caps play in the MGEU West Division against the Dauphin Kings, OCN Blizzard, Waywayseecappo Wolverines, Neepawa Titans, and the Swan Valley Stampeders.



# Virden winter attractions

## Snowmobile trails

Around the Virden area are many groomed snowmobile trails. These trails are maintained by an independent organization known as the Virden Valley Runners.

These trails cover areas all over Manitoba and can get you safely from one town to the next.

For more information on the location of these trails and others contact Virden Recreation & Watersports at (204) 748-2060 or visit [www.snoman.mb.ca](http://www.snoman.mb.ca)

## Outdoor rink

Virden's Junior High School has a beautiful outdoor skating rink located at 447 Princess Street West. This facility is run by the school and is open for public use. A

small building is located adjacent to the rink that offers benches and a warm place for you to put on your skates and equipment. For more information on this outdoor facility call (204) 748-1932 during school hours.

## Curling arena

The Virden Curling Arena is located at 170 Lyons Street East beside the swimming pool at Tundra Oil & Gas Place.

The arena consists of four sheets of artificial curling ice along with a licensed bar and kitchen area.

During the summer months, this organization rents this building out for many different events which can hold approximately 500 people. For more information or to book this facility call (204) 748-1745.

# Virden's Tundra Oil and Gas Place

A multi-purpose recreational facility, known as Tundra Oil and Gas Place, was built in Virden in 2011. This building contains a hockey rink, community hall, walking track, office space, meeting rooms, canteen and a fitness center.

This building has been set up to be mobility friendly with the installation of an elevator for those that are unable to use the stairs.

The hockey rink has 1,200 individual seats, an NHL sized ice surface, and provides a comfortable environment with climate control.

The rink is where Virden's MJHL team—the Virden Oil Capitals—hold their games.

During August this area is transformed into a rodeo arena which offers high classed performances for three days.

















An Oil Caps game underway at Tundra Oil and Gas Place

The community hall located within this building offers seating for 500 people and an exceptionally large kitchen to host any of your entertaining needs.

For more information concerning this beautiful facility call (204) 748-2736.



# Welcome to Virden

 Parks/Recreation Areas	<b>Legend:</b>	 Hockey Rink
 Baseball Diamond	 School	 Fitness Centre
 Soccer Fields & Track	 Campground	 Walking Track
 Hospital	 Curling Rink	
 RCMP	 Golf Course	
 Community Hall	 Swimming Pool	







# Curling: It's fun and healthy!

Curling is a staple in small towns and communities around Canada every winter, but few people give thought to how beneficial the sport is. Not only is curling fun, it's a way to keep healthy and active in the winter. It provides a great way to foster social interaction during the long, cold winter months, and it's also a great workout!

Some of the main benefits of curling are as follows:

**Aerobic fitness:** Working out in the cold can burn more calories, and since curling is played on ice and players are constantly competing and running back and forth from end to end, it will definitely increase your heart rate and improve the cardiovascular system.

**Strengthens your muscles:** Sliding on the ice and being in a constant squatting position strengthens the calves, glutes and quadriceps. You can also get a good core workout by practicing curling and sweeping vigorously ahead of the stone.

**Social interaction:** In many communities, curling clubs are among only a few recreational resources available. It becomes a place where they can talk with others, build friendships, and take leadership roles, increasing both their confidence and resiliency when coping with challenges.

**Flexibility:** The team member who delivers the stone in a curling game often stays very low to the ice before pushing the stone. Staying this low to the ice requires a great

deal of flexibility.

**Precision:** Curling requires precision. It has been nicknamed as "chess on ice" for the amount of strategy involved in winning a game. This is one of the reasons it is so popular among both players and spectators.

**Stretching and toning legs:** Stretching and toning your legs is a way the players workout before playing the game. The stretching and toning not only helps with flexibility for the game but it also carries out in day-to-day activities.

**Promotes weight-loss:** Sliding on ice burns a lot of calories, yet because you are playing on ice, you don't perspire as much. Curling requires a lot of sliding back and forth, which burns calories.

**It can be done by anyone, including the disabled:** Curling is a sport that can be enjoyed by everyone, no matter the age or ability. In fact, the Paralympic Games feature a Wheelchair Curling event.

**Fun and interactive:** It is a sport for both men and women and is played by both adults and kids of all ages. Not only is it a great way to meet people who have the same interest in curling, but it can be a great networking medium. In addition, many people with depression turn towards curling because it's a fun and interactive sport that opens up their social realm.

Check out your local curling club and give curling a try this winter!



# Asessippi Ski Resort: Your outdoor adventure awaits

Nestled in the heart of Manitoba's prairies, Asessippi Ski Resort isn't just a winter destination—it's a gateway to unforgettable experiences for skiers, snowboarders, and families alike.

## Largest ski resort on the Prairies

Asessippi is the largest ski resort in the Canadian prairies with 26 runs, 3 chairlifts, and a tubing hill with multiple lanes, appealing to thrill-seekers and families. It has two terrain parks and the magic carpet for beginners, showcasing inclusivity for all skill levels.

## Learn with confidence at our snow school

At Asessippi's Snow School, we believe learning should be as enjoyable as the slopes themselves. We offer one-on-one lessons for personalized coaching, perfect for beginners or those looking to refine their skills.

We also offer group lessons, ideal for families, friends, or school groups wanting to learn together.

Our lessons are taught by friendly and certified instructors, ensuring a supportive and safe learning environment.

We focus on building confidence and a love for winter sports, no matter the participant's age or experience level.

## Local appeal and accessibility

Asessippi Ski Resort works perfectly as a "bridge" to bigger resorts, ideal for people wanting to

build skills or enjoy a more affordable and local ski experience.

A major benefit of Asessippi is its accessibility for visitors from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and the U.S.

## Community & Group offerings

Asessippi's takes pride in its role in fostering community, especially its group services for schools, competitions, and lessons.

It's perfect for school field trips, team-building days or even Christmas parties.

## Food & Fun

When it comes to options other than the ski hill, there's plenty to choose from at Asessippi.

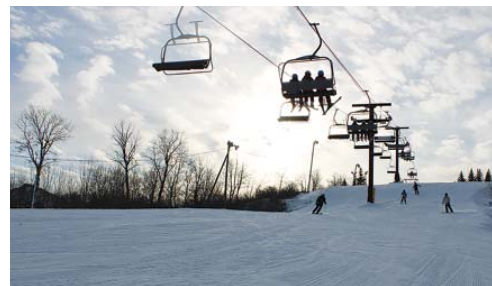
Our food court features Burgers, Pizza, Chicken, Poutine, and so much more! Be sure to check out the Bear's Den as well.

At O'Lifty's pub, the cozy atmosphere makes it perfect for an apres-ski or a place to hang while the kids are on the slopes. It's got great views!

Trail's End gift shop is the cutest little shop for all your Asessippi merchandise.

And for those who want to hit the slopes but don't want to ski, remember, the the tubing hill can make it fun for non-skiers too!

Whether you're a seasoned skier, a first-timer, or just looking for a fun day in the snow, Asessippi Ski Resort offers something for everyone. This winter, let Asessippi be your ultimate prairie escape!





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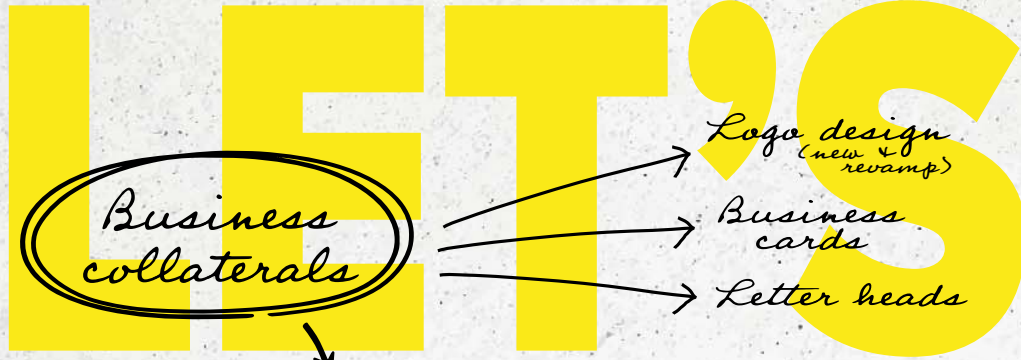


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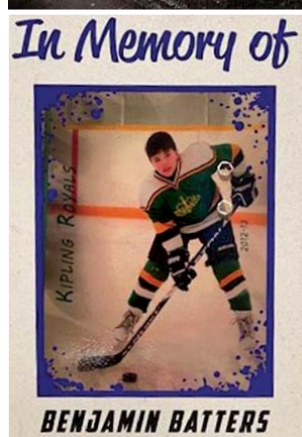
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Above, Kipling's outdoor rink, built by Allan Batters in memory of his son, Benjamin Batters, who passed away from Cancer at the age of 11. Left, the memorial sign on the Zamboni.

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

For the fifth winter, Alan Batters is building an outdoor rink for the people of Kipling to enjoy.

The first time he did it was in the winter of 2019-2020 for the Winter Carnival.

"They were looking for an outdoor rink and they approached me because I had this property across from my house. A lot of families were out there on Christmas Eve," said Batters.

The location of the rink the site of the former Kipling Union Hospital.

"There is a little bit of sentimental value to that land. That land used to be the Kipling hospital. My son died of brain cancer on Christmas day in 2013. He was only 11. He was born in that hospital and sadly passed away in that hospital. So, when they tore it down, I said that I would like to buy (the land) if it ever comes up for sale. I purchased it. It is a nice park area, it is right in the middle of town, it has trees. So there is nothing better than putting a rink there for kids to enjoy it. It is a little silver lining," said Batters.

"You can have lots of kids that would not normally go to the rink that are out skating. It is very informal. It is just an open thing for the public and the lights are on 24/7."

Any good rink needs a proper zamboni to keep the ice smooth and safe for those who want to skate on it. Again, Batters stepped up and got one for the rink.

"I bought a zamboni. It has my son's memorial photo on it, so whenever the zamboni is on the ice, he is on the ice," said Batters.

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The Whitewood Community Centre is the hub of Whitewood and houses an NHL sized ice surface, a curling rink with four sheets of curling ice, a kitchen, and licensed lounge.



**Above:** The curling rink portion of the building.

**Below:** The NHL-sized ice surface.



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# Carlyle will keep you busy!

Located just south of the Moose Mountains, the town of Carlyle, with just over 1,500 people, has lots of recreation opportunities available for anyone to take in and enjoy over the winter!

Carlyle Curling Club offers curling for seniors and league curling.

If it's hockey you are looking for, Carlyle has an active minor hockey program. The Carlyle Hooters and Carlyle Cowboys are recreational hockey clubs, and the Carlyle

Cougars is the town's senior hockey team competing in the Big Six Hockey League.

The Moose Mountain Snowmobile Club offers groomed trails, poker derbies and relaxing winter outings.

Carlyle Skating Club offers CanSkate, Bridging and Star Skate programs.

These are just a few of the options available. Visit [www.townofcarlyle.com](http://www.townofcarlyle.com) for more information on rec opportunities year round!



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# Ice fishing on the prairies

Ice fishing is extremely popular in Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba, with many people setting up their ice shacks on frozen lakes all winter long hoping to get that perfect catch at just the right time.

Moosomin Lake is known for some great fishing, with people pulling some impressive pike and pickerel out of the lake over the years.

One of the biggest ice fishing events in the area each winter is the Lake of the Prairies Ice Fishing Derby held at Assessippi Provincial Park. This derby draws fishermen from all over the area. Lake of the Prairies is

a man-made reservoir created behind the Shellmouth Dam. The lake experiences excellent walleye, perch, northern pike fishing and carp.

There is also great ice fishing at Clear Lake, located in Riding Mountain National Park.

Ice fishing at both Boundary Dam and Rafferty Dam near Estevan are also a hit, with ice fishing derbies held at both lakes over the years. Nickle Lake near Weyburn is also a popular ice fishing spot with annual derbies.

Round Lake, Crooked Lake and Kenosee Lake are three local lakes in Southeast Saskatchewan that also offer ice fishing opportunities.



Casey Miller showing off his very first ice fishing catch at age 5 on Moosomin Lake. At right is his dad Jason Miller



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# Catch some senior hockey action!

If you love a good hockey game, there are some great senior hockey teams to watch in Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba this winter.

The Moosomin Rangers, Redvers Rockets, Wawota Flyers, and Kipling Windthorst Oil Kings all compete in the Big Six Hockey League. All four teams are ready for a competitive season again this winter. The schedule and results for the Big Six Hockey League can be found at [www.bigsixhockey.com](http://www.bigsixhockey.com).

The Rocanville Tigers are back in action this season in the Sask East Hockey League, as are the Whitewood Orioles, the Wapella Blackhawks and the Langenburg Warriors. The Esterhazy Flyers have also iced a team in the SEHL again this year!

In Manitoba, the Tiger Hills Hockey League is the league to keep your eye on this season. The schedule and results can be found at <https://www.thhl.ca>

For Manitoba Junior Hockey League action, people in the area head to Virden where they can watch the Virden Oil Capitals compete against other MJHL teams. The team boasts a wide fan base, and draws from a large talent pool, with hundreds of people packing the stands at Virden's Tundra Oil and Gas Place.

So head on down to the rink to cheer on your local team!



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# Winter is alive in Estevan



## SNOWSHOEING & SKIING

Enjoy nature by taking advantage of our many local trails and paths on snowshoes or cross-country skis! Take some extras and have a day camping experience.



## ART GALLERY & MUSEUMS

Visit the Souris Valley Museum for a step back in time, Estevan Art Gallery & Museum to view their latest exhibits, or pick up a local piece of art.



## ICE SKATING

Winter in Canada means outdoor ice skating! Enjoy one of our outdoor ice rinks or hit one of our frozen bodies of water for a true experience.



## DINING & ACCOMMODATIONS

Discover all of Estevan's favourite restaurants. Polish cuisine, pizza or pub food...we have it all!



ESTEVAN.CA



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Estevan, SK  
tourism@estevan.ca



# Estevan: Your winter playground

Nestled in the southeastern corner of Saskatchewan, Estevan offers a unique blend of outdoor adventure and vibrant community events. Just minutes from the Souris River, several campgrounds, and two major bodies of water—Boundary Dam and Rafferty Reservoir—the city is a perfect destination for nature enthusiasts. During the winter months, these areas transform into a winter playground, offering a variety of activities to suit all interests.

## Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing

Just outside of Estevan, visitors will find scenic wooded areas along the banks of the Souris River. These landscapes are home to Woodlawn Regional Park, Rotary Park, Preddy Trails, and the Twister Totter bike path. These trails are maintained year-round, making them ideal for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter. Skiers and snowshoers can enjoy the tranquility of the woods, with frequent wildlife sightings and picturesque views of the winding river. When conditions are safe and the river is fully frozen, it also provides an excellent path for both activities. While cross-country skis must be provided by visitors, snowshoes are available for free loan at the Estevan Public Library to those with a valid Saskatchewan Library Card. As the sun sets early in winter, Woodlawn Regional Park becomes a charming destination, with lampposts illuminating the campground, making it an ideal spot for evening skiing or snowshoeing. The park also offers a cozy setting for a campfire, perfect for winding down after a day of outdoor activities.

## Ice Fishing

Located just 15 minutes from Estevan, Rafferty Reservoir is a premier destination for ice fishing. The reservoir, spanning 10 kilometers, offers ample space to find the perfect spot on the ice. Fishermen can expect to reel in Northern Pike, Walleye, or Perch. For those seeking a more guided experience, Prairie Pro Outfitters, led by renowned fishing guide Ralph Smart, offers exclusive guiding services at Rafferty. This winter, they will provide ice fishing excursions, along with equipment, shack rentals, and electronics, and are even planning to introduce ice camping experiences. For those who prefer not to camp on the ice, Estevan features a wide range of hotel and bed & breakfast accommodations to ensure a warm and comfortable stay, allowing visitors to enjoy multiple days of fishing.

## Twinkle Tour & Festival of Lights

Estevan truly shines during the holiday season. Throughout December, many local homes participate in a festive display of Christmas decorations, creating a dazzling spectacle for visitors to enjoy. Tourism Estevan has created a Twinkle Tour map to guide residents and tourists through the best light displays in the city. The grand finale of this festive journey takes place at Woodlawn Regional Park, where the Festival of Lights (running from December 15 to January 1) offers an enchanting display of holiday lights. Local businesses and organizations come together to create larger-than-life light installations, which can be enjoyed by driving through the campground's loop. Each year, the displays grow bigger and brighter, making this a must-see event for all.

Estevan's mix of outdoor recreation and holiday cheer offers something for everyone, making it a perfect destination for winter adventures and seasonal celebrations.



Skier near Preddy Trails



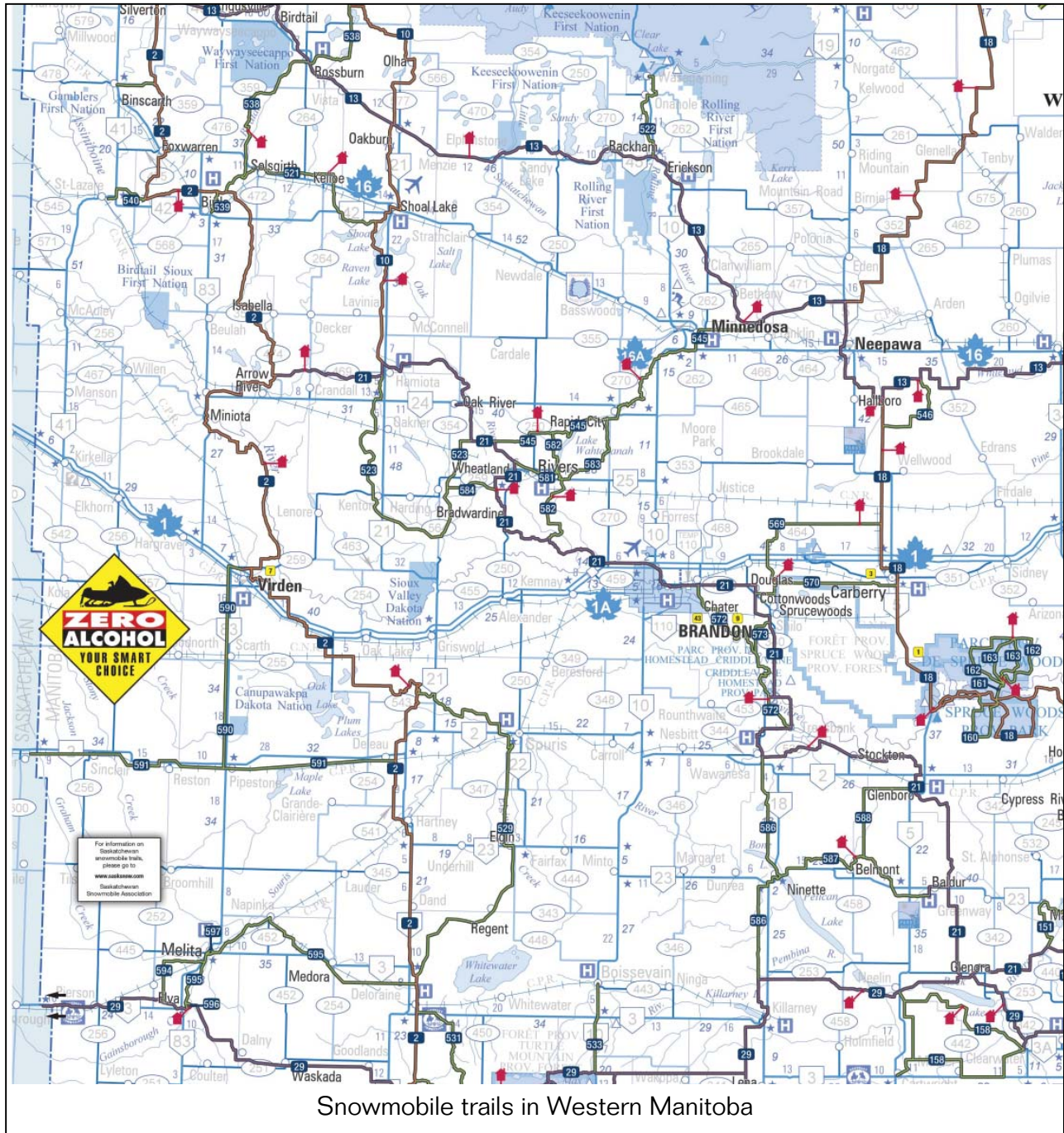
Part of the Festival of Lights display in Woodlawn Regional Park



Post ski fire at Woodlawn Campground



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**Left:** Hudson Hunter playing hockey on Round Lake. Submitted by Tracy Shire.  
**Above:** Gina Illustrisimo submitted this photo of ice fishing at Moosomin Lake.

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# Discovering winter fun in Minot: Your ultimate guide



As winter blankets Minot with its sparkling snow, the city transforms into a haven for fun and exciting experiences. Here's your ultimate guide to fun in Minot, North Dakota, during winter.

## Exciting Experiences

A unique twist on winter fun: enjoy a brew or two inside a cozy igloo at Atypical Brewery & Barrelworks. These new shelters make having a craft beer outside enjoyable, no matter the weather.

For a more intimate setting, warm up and relax at the downtown wine bars. Sample a selection of wines from near and far, and indulge in delicious goat cheese bites, tapas, and decadent desserts.

Dine on endless made-to-order sushi at Do Eat Asian Cuisine, Minot's newest restaurant, featuring all-you-can-eat sushi along with sashimi and Thai and Hawaiian entrees. Satisfy your cravings with a feast.

For a taste of spice in the winter chill, visit one of the three Mexican restaurants in town. From tacos to enchiladas, each place offers a unique twist on beloved dishes that will warm you right up.

Immerse yourself in the local scene by catching live music at pubs around town. Find everything from country, classic rock, folk, and blues. There's nothing like the sound of good tunes and the company of fellow music lovers to brighten up a cold winter night.

## Fun for All Ages

Bring the whole family to the Magic City Discovery Center, where interactive exhibits make learning fun! Kids can explore, play, and discover new things about science, history, and art in 12 galleries that feature over 150 hands-on exhibits.

Stroll through downtown Minot for a mix of shopping, dining, and activities. It has a vibrant atmosphere, especially

during winter months, with snowy streets leading to local clothing boutiques, antique havens, and hidden gems like a full-service western store.

Experience the magic of live performances by attending a symphony concert, with shows in February and March. The rich sounds of orchestral music will surely transport you into a world of inspiration and enjoyment.

Catch an adrenaline-filled hockey game with the Minot Minotauros. The excitement of live sports and cheering makes for a fantastic evening out, suitable for sports fans of all ages.

## Minot on a Budget

You don't have to break the bank to enjoy winter in Minot. Many of these activities are affordable, and there are often free events around town. Keep an eye on our event calendar for festivals and gatherings that can add extra excitement to your winter itinerary without costing a dime. [visitminot.org/events-calendar](http://visitminot.org/events-calendar)

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**Plan your getaway to Minot on our website: [visitminot.org](http://visitminot.org)**





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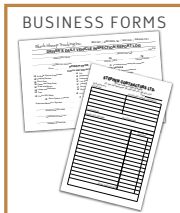
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# Explore Brandon with the Adventure Pass!

**Nestled in the heart of Manitoba lies Brandon, a city brimming with charm, culture, and now, exciting opportunities to explore and win big with the Brandon Adventure Pass.**

**Imagine strolling through Brandon's bustling streets, visiting its diverse merchants, and earning points that could lead to fantastic prizes. Welcome to a new way to experience Brandon, where every journey through the city is not just memorable but potentially rewarding.**

## Discovering Brandon's hidden gems

The Brandon Adventure Pass invites you to embark on a journey of discovery across Brandon. From quaint cafes and artisanal shops to museums and greenspaces, each merchant affiliated with the Brandon Adventure Pass offers a unique experience. Whether you're a local resident or a visitor, this platform encourages you to explore Brandon's rich tapestry of businesses and attractions.

## How points bring rewards closer

The premise is simple yet exciting: every time you visit a participating merchant in Brandon, you earn points. These points accumulate over time, increasing your eligibility for a variety of prizes. The more you explore, the greater your chances are to winning BIG.

## Discounts and deals

The Brandon Adventure Pass is also your gateway to several discounts. There are a plethora of merchants all over the city that also have discounts and deals that you can redeem with the pass! So not only are you earning points for prizes but you're saving money too!

## Supporting local businesses

Beyond the allure of prizes, the Brandon Adventure Pass emphasizes the importance of supporting local businesses. By encouraging users to patronize Brandon's merchants, the platform contributes to the city's economic vibrancy and fosters a sense of community pride. It's a win-win scenario where shoppers benefit from unique experiences while bolstering the local economy.

## Seamlessly integrated experience

Navigating the Brandon Adventure Pass is effortless. The platform's user-friendly interface makes it convenient to discover nearby merchants, track points, and redeem discounts/deals. Whether you're planning your route ahead of time or spontaneously exploring the city, the Brandon Adventure Pass ensures a seamless and rewarding experience!

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS YOUR PASS!**



At Chez Angela, receive a free cookie with a purchase of any signature sandwich lunch combo while using the Brandon Adventure Pass!

## Join the Brandon Adventure Pass community today!

Ready to turn your visits to Brandon into unforgettable adventures? Join the growing community of explorers who are discovering new favorites and earning points with every purchase through the Brandon Adventure Pass. Whether you're a local resident looking to support hometown businesses or a visitor eager to experience Brandon's hospitality, the Brandon Adventure Pass promises an enriching journey filled with rewards!

Don't miss out on your chance to explore Brandon, earn points, and win exciting prizes. Start your journey with the Brandon Adventure Pass today and see how every visit can lead to something extraordinary.



If you're using the Brandon Adventure Pass, you can receive 30 free minutes of PuttView with a purchase of one hour of the golf simulator at EVO Golf!

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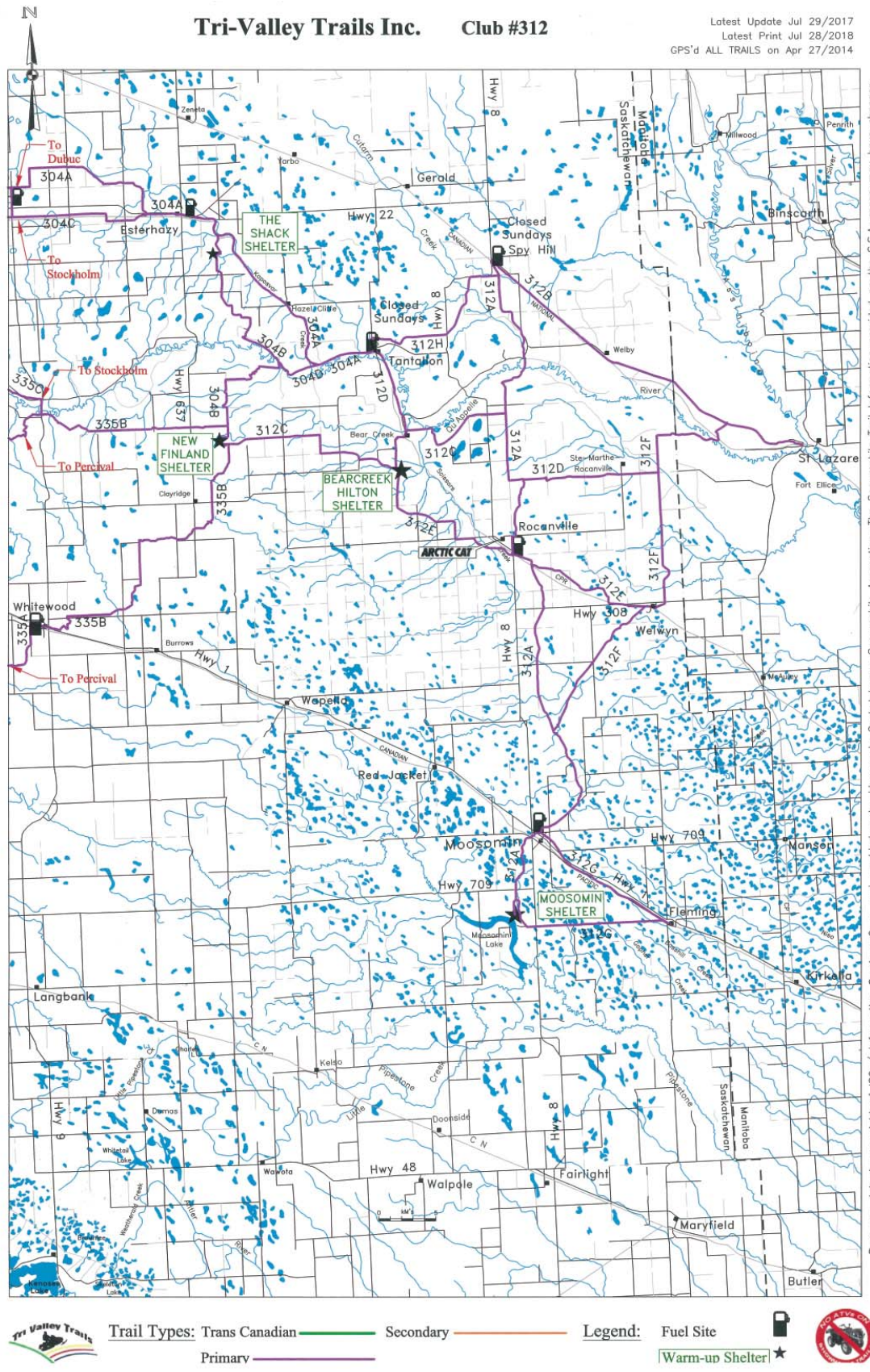
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