



## Winter 2019/2020 Newsletter

### Activities

#### CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

This year, staff member Nadine proposed a “12 Days of Christmas” celebration that allowed participants to celebrate our community, to feel what Christmas is about, and to share the love. Various activities were planned: making lunch and delivering it to SARCAN; making and delivering food parcels for local seniors; taking plants to the ladies at the library; making Christmas decorations that were secretly left on doorsteps around town; and carol singing at the mall. Ideas are already being generated for next year.



PLUS Industries has a Christmas party every December for all the participants that attend PLUS. Throughout the year, various fundraising activities such as selling cookie dough, raffle tickets, succulent classes, chalk painting events and ladies nights raise money that buys every individual (over 63 people!) a gift and supports a party at which Santa (with the assistance of elf Christine) distributes the gifts. A “good” and “naughty” list is maintained for participants to add and remove names, providing a lot of laughter as we see how long some people stay on the “don’t ask” list!

The community support of our fundraising efforts that allow us to provide the Christmas party on an annual basis is very much appreciated. In addition, the board would like to recognize the significant time and effort that is required of staff to carry out this fundraising every year; and we want to express our appreciation that we are invited to attend – it is rewarding to see how much the participants enjoy their Christmas party each year!

## **REGULAR ACTIVITIES ON A-SIDE**

Our A (activity) Side group plans both regular and special activities for the 26 participants. Regular weekly activities include easy group exercises every morning, swimming Monday and Wednesday, cooking group on Wednesday, PAT (pets as therapy) every Thursday, daily computer access, memory games and literacy, shredding room work, and senior specific activities (memory lane discussions and individualized activities for those who need to take it slow.)

As well as regularly scheduled activities, other opportunities to be out and about are encouraged. Visiting the local library allows participants to pick out books to bring back for when participants discuss things in their own



“book club”. Visiting the day care, painting rocks and reading with them is lots of fun. As well, when weather allows, outside activities at local and area parks, such as Wapiti, or Saskatoon Glow or even a Riders game are enjoyed by all. (Photo taken at Wapiti.)

## **BOARD ACTIVITIES**

There were a number of changes in board members this year. Ed Bourassa has moved to Saskatoon, and Tony Gorchynski and Wayne Claggett have chosen to step down. We are happy to welcome new board members Ryan Anderson and Marianne Van Burck. The board meets monthly (except December, July and August). This year we have added the option for those of our board members who may be travelling to connect via technology, as our board room is set up to allow that. It worked extremely well at our January meeting, and allows us to continue to ensure quorum at our meetings even while some of our members are enjoying warmer weather than we are currently experiencing.

Work on our new strategic plan is well under way under the direction of former board chair Ed Bourassa. Both board members and staff have been providing input; we expect it to be ready for board approval in May and presentation to our AGM in June.

We are exploring ways to honour past board members/directors; but we have limited information prior to 2008. If you know the names and approximate dates of any former board members, could you please contact the office at 306 752-9329 or email [l.baerwald@plusindustries.ca](mailto:l.baerwald@plusindustries.ca) with the information. Thanks for the help!

## Other Initiatives

### **CONTRACT SERVICES**

Snow removal schedules have been adjusted to include work on weekends for businesses.

### **PLUS STUFF JUNCTION**

Our store has initiated a customized basket programme for every occasion. Delores continues to attend craft shows in the area to promote the store and PLUS Industries.

### **RECYCLING**

Our most recent report indicates that we processed 89 cardboard & paper bales in 39 days, for an average of 2.28 bales/day. We continue to work with the city of Melfort to provide community-wide recycling service.

### **SARCAN**

We shipped 3 semis in December. We shipped 13 containers of monitors, TVs, electronics, coloured/clear glass, and tin. In November 2019, we processed 7,268 more containers than in the same period in 2018. In December 2019, we processed 25,349 fewer containers and served 198 fewer customers than in the same period in 2018. We encourage all residents to NOT put deposit containers curbside, but return them to Sarcana.

### **WOOD SHOP**

Staff have formed a focus group to identify and implement new woodworking projects.

# Congratulations

- **Miles Head** celebrating 5 years of work with Prairie North Co-op
- **Participants Lorin Bussiere, Scott Earl and Rod Mitchell** who will be competing in Hamilton this month as part of the Special Olympics curling team from Saskatchewan
- To our own staff:
  - celebrating significant work anniversaries
    - **Five years:** Carla Biehn, Rhonda Edworthy, Brad Schaerer, Annabelle Canlas, Gerald Corbett and Jovelyn Olayvar
    - **Twenty-five years:** Lorne Argent
    - **Thirty years:** Melanie Erickson
  - **Nadine McFarlane and Rachel Smagata** for completing PBS training (positive behaviour support) and sharing their learning with other staff
  - **Janelle Leavitt and Chrissy Rogers** for completing “Tell It Like It Is” training, and facilitating group work with participants

## Did you know that:

PLUS Stuff Junction now makes gift baskets? Stop at our Main Street store and talk to our staff about your needs.

PLUS Industries has rental facility for meetings and special occasions available for rent, with capacity ranging from 12 to 65 plus? Information is available on our website ([plusindustries.ca](http://plusindustries.ca)) or call 306 752-9329.

Our wood shop takes custom orders? Contact Lorne at 752-6507 to discuss your wishes.

PLUS Industries is holding a St Patrick’s Day dance on March 13 as a fundraiser?

PLUS Industries is providing the meal at Melfort’s Chase the Ace on Thursday, April 9th? Come support our ongoing activities, enjoy a great meal and, if you choose to buy a ticket, support the 7 local groups who put on this event