GRAND COTEAU
HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT





2025



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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The GCHCC is located on traditional lands. Specifically, we are located on Treaty 4 Territory, the original lands of the Cree, Ojibwe, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and on the homeland of the Metis Nation.

We respect and honour the Treaties that were made on all territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we are committed to move forward in partnership with Indigenous Nations in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Brent Michelson, GCHCC President

The Grand Coteau Heritage and Cultural Centre grew in 2025 and deepened it's connection to the people of Shaunavon. Our Centre continues to serve as a vital hub where history is preserved, culture is celebrated, and the community gathers to find inspiration.

The past year was defined by several landmark achievements that have set a new course for our future. Most visible is the Grand Opening of our Musical Playground. What was once a vision is now a vibrant, melodic reality, providing a unique space for intergenerational play and artistic exploration. Seeing this project come to life has been a highlight for our board and a wonderful addition to our grounds. Thank you to the many people who have made this dream a reality.

Equally important was the development of our new Strategic Plan. This process was rooted in the voices of our residents. Through several information sessions and meetings, we listened to your ideas and aspirations for the Centre. This roadmap ensures that our programming and preservation efforts remain deeply relevant to the community we serve.

None of these milestones would be reachable without the collaborative spirit of the Town of Shaunavon. We are incredibly grateful to Town Council for their steadfast support and deepening partnership. Their commitment to the GCHCC is an investment in the cultural heart of our community, and we look forward to continuing this vital relationship in the coming year.

I must also extend my deepest thanks to our talented staff and tireless volunteers. Whether they were facilitating the multicultural events, leading school tours, or hosting our signature "Me Time" and coffee chat sessions, their passion is what makes the Centre feel like home.

As we move into 2026, we do so with a clear vision and a renewed commitment to enriching the lives of everyone in Shaunavon. Thank you for walking this journey with us.

Brent E. Michelson, M. Ed., B. Sc.
President, Grand Coteau Heritage and Cultural Centre Board



TOURISM

The GCHCC is proud to serve as the Tourist Information Centre for the Town of Shaunavon. As such, we provide visitors with travel advice and tips on the community and local area, as well as travel resources and maps. The GCHCC is also a convenient rest stop offering amenities such as washrooms, picnic tables, Wi-Fi, souvenirs and gifts.

2025 VISITOR STATISTICS



TOTAL VISITORS 10,408:
Local: 1,908; Tourists: 554; Programs/Events/Services: 6,676; Schools: 1,270

NOTES to 2025 Visitor Statistics:

- The above numbers reflect actual visitors through the doors or that could be approximated at large community events and fundraisers like Canada Day, Boomtown Days, and Culture Days.
- In addition to the numbers above, a review of our social media and website posts showed strong analytics.

ABOUT US

The Grand Coteau Heritage & Cultural Centre (GCHCC) has been an integral part of the Shaunavon community for nearly a century. The Grand Coteau Museum was first established in 1931, laying the foundation for what would become a dynamic, multi-purpose cultural facility. In 1977, the Grand Coteau Management Committee proposed an expansion to the Town Council to include an art gallery and a regional library branch. This vision was approved, and on July 12, 1980, the newly developed Grand Coteau Heritage & Cultural Centre officially opened under the guidance of a Board of Directors, with a dedicated Curator as its first staff member.

Today, the GCHCC serves as a vibrant cultural hub, bringing together the Shaunavon Branch of the Chinook Regional Library, an art gallery, natural history and heritage museum exhibits, and a welcoming community meeting space. Open year-round, the Centre offers diverse programming and engaging experiences that celebrate the region's history, creativity, and community spirit.

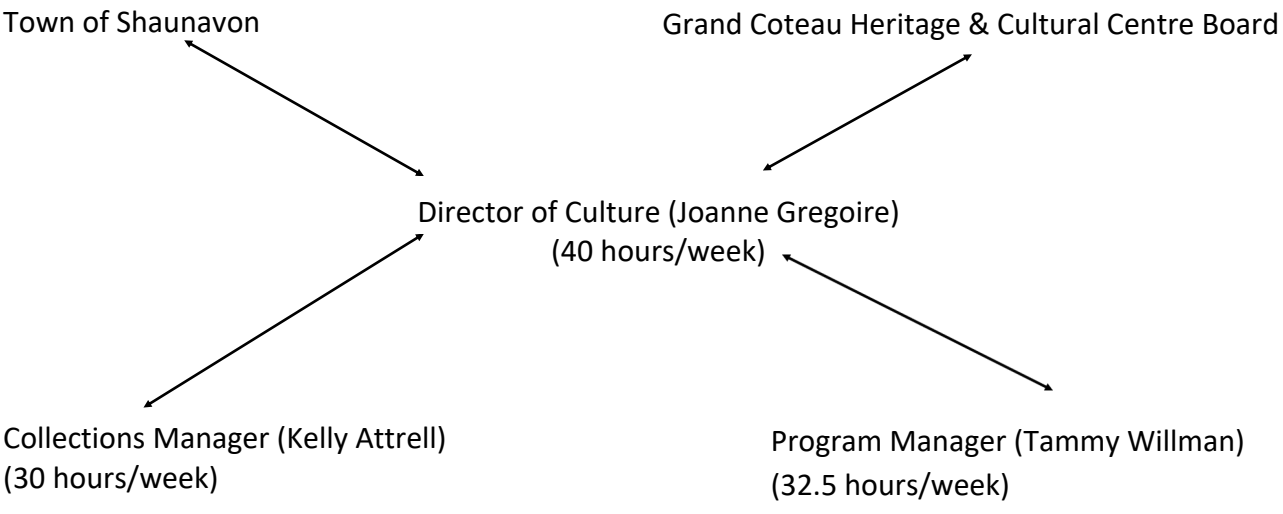
As a municipal museum, the GCHCC receives core funding from the Town of Shaunavon, which supports facility maintenance and the salaries of three permanent staff members. Day-to-day operations programming, exhibitions, and special projects are made possible through grants, donations, and ongoing fundraising efforts. The Centre operates as a registered non-profit organization, governed by a Board of Directors consisting of six to ten members. The Board works collaboratively with the Town through the Chief Administrative Officer and Council representatives, ensuring strong communication and shared stewardship of this valued community asset.



2025 HOURS OF OPERATION

January 7 to April 30: Tuesday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
May 1 to June 30: Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
July 1 to September 13: Monday to Friday from 9:00am–5:00pm; Saturdays from 9:30am-4:00pm
September 14 to December 19: Tuesday to Friday from 9:00am–5:00pm
December 20 to 31: Closed for Holidays
The Museum & Gallery were open for a total of 227 days in 2025

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The volunteer Board of Directors of the Grand Coteau Heritage & Cultural Centre (GCHCC) recognizes that a clear and effective governance framework is essential to supporting both strategic direction and operational success. Acting as the “eyes and ears” of the community, the Board provides guidance, encouragement, and informed perspective to staff, ensuring the organization remains responsive to community needs and aligned with its mission.

The Board serves in an advisory capacity, while overall organizational leadership rests with the Director of Culture. Responsibility for day-to-day operations remains with GCHCC staff.

In 2025, the GCHCC Board held five regular meetings (January, April, May, June, and November). In addition to its regular governance work, the Board played an active role in the organization’s strategic planning process, including forming a steering committee and participating in both board and community engagement sessions.



GCHCC Board of Directors 2025

STANDING (LEFT TO RIGHT):
Lisa Schmit (Town Councillor),
President Brent Michelson,
Mayor Cal Vance
Director Penny Kirkpatrick

SITTING (LEFT TO RIGHT):
Director Sandy Fritz,
Secretary Jenna Hiebert,
Director Tara Lingenfelter,
Director Hester Groenewald

INSET: (TOP TO BOTTOM)
Pamela Bahnuick (Town Councillor)
Vice-President Robert Anderson

STRATEGIC PLANNING 2025



In 2025, the Grand Coteau Heritage & Cultural Centre undertook a comprehensive strategic planning process to guide the organization’s future direction and ensure continued relevance as a dynamic community hub.

The GCHCC engaged Michèle Stanners, a consultant who specializes in the non-profit sector, to guide the GCHCC board, steering committee, and staff through the process which was grounded in community engagement and collaboration. The Centre hosted four engagement sessions involving approximately 60 participants including board members, staff, Shaunavon town council, community partners, and residents, reflecting the Centre’s role as a multi-use facility.

The result was a renewed strategic framework that will guide decision-making, program development, and resource allocation over the coming years, ensuring the Centre continues to support arts, culture, and heritage in Shaunavon and southwest Saskatchewan.

(see more on page 6)



STRATEGIC PLAN 2025 - 2029

MISSION TAG LINE
Where History, Art, and Community Meet

MISSION STATEMENT
We connect the past with the present and inspire learning and creativity, while nurturing a shared sense of belonging for all.

VISION STATEMENT
We are a welcoming center that inspires community connection through heritage, culture, and the arts – celebrating our past, engaging in the present, and shaping our future.

VALUES

Museum Excellence:
We care for and preserve the museum collection for future generations, ensuring their long-term integrity and accessibility.

Inclusion:
We are committed to being an inclusive space that reflects and celebrates the diverse voices, experiences, and histories of our community. We treat all individuals with respect and dignity, fostering a welcoming, accessible, and safe environment for staff, visitors, and partners.

Relevance and Innovation:
We actively involve the local community in our activities and programming, reflecting the community's needs and interests. We stay true to the GCHCC's mission and values while embracing new ideas and approaches to exhibits, programming, and operations.

Curiosity and Creativity:
We create engaging and educational experiences that inspire inquisitive thinking, creative exploration, and meaningful discovery through the experience of art and local history.

Collaboration:
We develop mutually beneficial relationships with partners to enhance our program diversity and outreach.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL
The goal of the strategic plan is to identify strategic directions, goals, and priorities to guide the work of the organization over the next 5 years.

Framework:
The Strategic Plan is anchored by six proposed Strategic Pillars defining the strategic priority areas of work:

1. **Pillar One:** Governance
2. **Pillar Two:** Community Engagement and Inclusion
3. **Pillar Three:** Capacity Building and Sustainability
4. **Pillar Four:** Museum Excellence
5. **Pillar Five:** Programming
6. **Pillar Six:** Enhanced Visibility

MANAGEMENT & STAFF



Joanne Gregoire, Director of Culture

The overall operation of the GCHCC is the responsibility of the Director of Culture, Joanne Gregoire. The Director is part of the larger management team of the Town of Shaunavon and attends weekly meetings with the Chief Administrative Officer; the Director of Wellness & Leisure; the Economic Development Officer; the Director of Communications & Tourism; the Director of Public Works; the Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities; and the Regional Bylaw Officer.

The GCHCC Board encourages professional development through a variety of means, and funding for these opportunities is made available through our budgeting process and through the Town of Shaunavon for specific opportunities.

The Director attended the Museums Association of Saskatchewan (MAS) Virtual Annual General Meeting, where she was elected to the MAS Board of Directors. She also participated in MAS Virtual Community Chat sessions focused on repatriation, as well as a SaskCulture Culture Days webinar. In addition, she attended the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils (OSAC) Fall Showcase, which included two visual arts workshops, and took part in a marketing presentation offered by Golden West Radio.

Program Coordinator Tammy Willman completed WHMIS training as part of ongoing workplace safety requirements. She also attended the OSAC Fall Showcase, where she participated in two visual arts workshops, further enhancing her program development skills.

Collections Manager Kelly Attrell continued to contribute to both local and regional heritage initiatives. She serves as Secretary for the Town of Shaunavon's OHC Committee and holds multiple leadership roles—Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer—within the Prairie Trails Museum Network, supporting collaboration and knowledge-sharing through its biannual meetings.

The GCHCC maintains memberships with SaskCulture, the Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists, Museums Association of Saskatchewan, Canadian Museums Association, Prairie Trails Museum Network, Heritage Saskatchewan, and Shaunavon Chamber of Commerce. In 2025, following the dissolution of the Shaunavon Arts Council, the GCHCC became a full member of the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils which provides us with the benefits of program grants and incentives, consultative services, workshops and training, visual arts exhibitions, and networking opportunities.

Two summer students were hired in 2025: Darci Egland (Program Assistant) and Lindsey Phillips (Museum Assistant). The Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations student grant program provided funding assistance for these positions. Several projects were key responsibilities of the students including managing summer children's programs; organizing and updating collections records; and assisting with weekly Markets, fundraising activities, and community events such as Canada Day and Boomtown Days.



Students Darci Egland and Lindsey Phillips

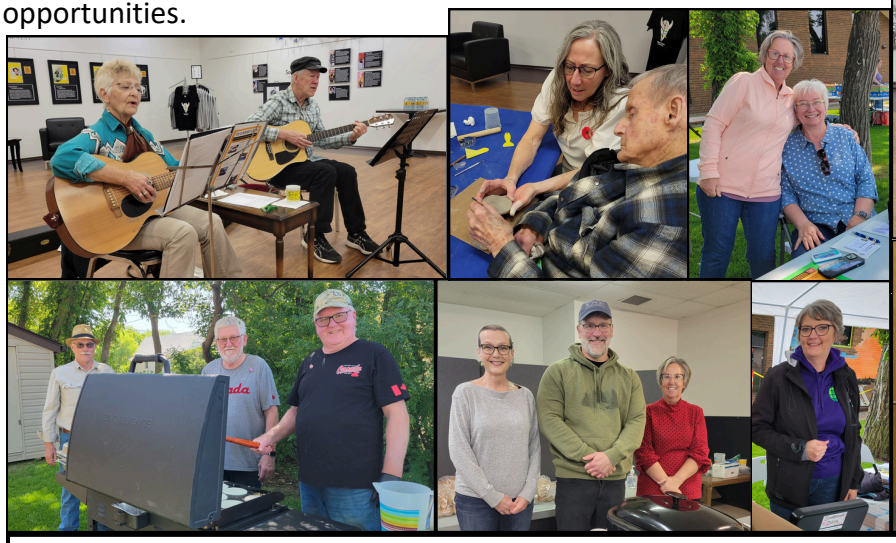
VOLUNTEERS

Along with our volunteer Board members, the GCHCC enjoys the services of long-time dedicated volunteer Kathleen East. In 2025, Kathleen logged 822 hours investigating research requests received and assisting with a variety of other tasks including assisting with fundraising events. Thank you!

Our volunteers generously contributed their time and talents assisting with school and community programming, fundraising activities, workshops, community events, and much more. Their willingness to answer the call to help out when needed makes a positive impact on the lives of others and increases GCHCC's capacity to serve the community.

We encourage anyone who may be interested in volunteering with us to reach out to learn more about available opportunities.





IN MEMORY OF KIM ANDERSON

Kim Anderson, a cherished friend, volunteer, and leader whose warmth, laughter, and dedication enriched every aspect of our work, passed away on March 13, 2025. Through contributions to programs, fundraisers, and behind-the-scenes support, Kim made a lasting difference in our organization and the wider community. Her presence was a true blessing, and her memory will remain a treasured part of the GCHCC's story.



PARTNERSHIPS

The GCHCC partners and cooperates with many organizations and groups including:

- Chinook Regional Library, Shaunavon Branch
- Shaunavon Wellness & Leisure Committee
- Shaunavon Economic Development Committee
- Town of Shaunavon
- Age Friendly Shaunavon
- Shaunavon Arts Council
- iImagine Arts - Ty Hunter
- Shaunavon Chamber of Commerce
- Southwest District for Culture Recreation & Sport (SWDCRS)
- Shaunavon Long Term Care Centre
- Local schools & homeschool family group
- Great Plains College
- Yorkton Film Festival
- Darkhorse Theatre
- Local Hutterite Colonies
- OSAC Saskatchewan
- CARFAC Sask.
- Southwest Newcomer Welcome Centre (SWNWC)
- Museums Association of Saskatchewan (MAS)
- Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCOS)

FUNDING AND GRANT SOURCES

The GCHCC's 2025 revenue primarily consisted of **grants totalling just over $82,850** from a variety of funders, as detailed in our financial statement on page 19 of this report.

Grants received included:

- **$30,000** from the Museum Grant Program through SaskCulture funded by SaskLotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation
- **$13,073.74** from the Government of Canada Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations for summer student wage subsidy
- **$12,000** grant from the Town of Shaunavon to assist with maintaining and expanding program offerings
- **$7,500** from Community Initiatives Fund Summer Grant Program for children's summer programs
- **$4,100** ArtsVest matching funds for sponsorships secured during the program
- **$5,000** Western Financial Group Community Infrastructure Grant for Musical Playground
- **$2,628.69** SaskLotteries Community Grant for Art Gallery exhibitions
- **$2,500** Affinity Credit Union Member Council for stackable chairs
- **$2,000** MAS Small Project Grant for National Indigenous People's Day and National Day for Truth & Reconciliation activities
- **$1,750** OSAC Program Grant for gallery exhibition programs and projects
- **$300** SCAA Grants $200 for Archives Week

The remaining revenue was earned as follows:

• **Donations $15,527.16:** collected from admissions, research requests, and personal or business/ organization donations. Note: $13,582.39 received from the Shaunavon Arts Council

• **Sponsorships $7,500:** sponsorships received from Magnum Trucks, Jae's Pharmacy, Southwest Paving, Helix Construction, and Terry Shields—Affinity Financial Strategies; as well as Me Time sponsors including $2,000 from Centre Street United Church

• **Program Fees & IIMAGINE Arts Camp $20,798.26:** Program fees include registrations for adult and youth art workshops, Me Time activities, and table rent charged to Market vendors. Summer Arts Camp registration fees were at an all-time high of $16,748.75

• **Fundraising $3,745 & Fundraising Future Projects $58,424.52:** Fundraising events included: Canada Day Brunch, Grilled Cheese Sale, Boomtown Street Bingo with 50/50 Raffles. Future Fudraising included Musical Playground sponsorships from Sogn Family Foundation, Shaunavon Dental, Robert Anderson

• **Merchandise Sales $4,939.43:** Merchandise sold at the Gallery Gift Shop includes Town of Shaunavon branded apparel, local area history books and souvenirs

• **Art Show Sales $3,734,45:** Sales of artwork during our November/December Art Show & Sale. All this money was paid out to the artists

• **Other $4,975.83:** Includes Community Room rental fees (collected and paid to Town of Shaunavon), Co-op dividend, bank interest, tablecloth rental, and sundry. (see page 20 of this report for details)

COLLECTIONS

The GCHCC museum collection consists of natural history specimens, local heritage artifacts, archival material, and artworks. Kelly Attrell is our full-time Collections Manager and an integral part of the GCHCC staff team. Alongside her regular duties, in 2025 Kelly allocated a significant amount of time to the development of the GCHCC's strategic plan and updating the collections policies.



Kelly Attrell, Collections Manager

The GCHCC continues to utilize the Museums Association of Saskatchewan (MAS) collections management system, SaskCollections, to catalogue and manage its artifacts. The database's integrated public-facing platform is also being used to share the collection more broadly, currently featuring over 4,000 digitized photographs. Significant donations received in 2025 include artifacts from the Plaza Theatre, as well as archival materials from the RM of Arlington and the Town of Shaunavon.

Updates to the Natural History Museum included the addition of a Mallard to the Loch Leven display and new labels for the animals. The scientific education permit for holding the migratory birds was updated and renewed.



Anna Robertson donated a mounted Mallard duck to the GCHCC collection

Completing research requests is an important part of the Collections Manager's job. Each year the GCHCC receives dozens of requests for information related to family histories, project reports, newspaper editorial and more. Research volunteer, Kathleen East, utilizes the Shaunavon Standard newspapers and local history books for compiling research requests and Kelly utilizes the archives to locate information and sends the completed research projects to those who made the request. In 2025 we granted special permission to a local researcher to access the digitized Shaunavon Standards as he completed personal research over several weeks.

Kelly provides guidance to our summer museum assistant as they complete tasks utilizing the Collection and research files. Lindsey helped to update the artifacts in the school exhibit, re-mount the war medals, created a display in the Heritage Museum featuring Norman Haugen, for which she also created and posted a Museums Stories for our website. Several other website pages were also updated.

The Collections Manager was also called upon throughout the year to assist in various other tasks such as the installation and take-down of art gallery shows; assisting with Coffee Chat, Sing-Along and Me Time programs, preparation for art programs, management of the Farmers Market; and events and fundraisers, such as the Multicultural Festival, car bingo, and tablecloth rentals.

Kelly's duties with the Town's OHC Committee include attending meetings, preparing agendas and minutes, and ensuring the Centre's safety-related issues are identified and attended to, performing regular checks on safety equipment, preparing plans and procedures, and posting safety-related signs.

TEMPORARY DISPLAYS & EXHIBITS

Throughout the year, Collections Manager Kelly Attrell developed and delivered a range of exhibits, programs, and outreach activities using artifacts and archival materials from the Collection. In February, Archives Week was celebrated with the theme "Heritage Cookbooks: Old-Time Remedies & Household Hints," featuring a display of cookbooks from local clubs and organizations. This theme was also reflected in our monthly Coffee Chat and Me Time programs. That same month, in partnership with Age Friendly Shaunavon, an interactive presentation was delivered at the Villa, engaging residents in identifying historical artifacts and exploring their uses.



Archives Week Temporary Exhibit

Outreach to Long Term Care residents remained a priority. In May, Kelly installed a new display at the care home, and in September, residents were welcomed to the GCHCC for a farming-themed slideshow accompanied by a display of related artifacts.

For the September Coffee Chat Kelly prepared a visual presentation of historic photographs from the Collection, set to an audio recording of Robin Faber's memories originally created for Shaunavon's 75th anniversary. This video was later shared with residents at the Villa in October and posted to our YouTube channel.



GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

January: No exhibition, Gallery walls painted
February: All Conditioned Things: Jared Boechler and Nic Wilson *(OSAC)*
March/April: Propagation: Madeleine Greenway *(OSAC)*
May/June: Surface All the Way Through: Arianna Richardson *(OSAC)*
July/August: Spirit of Nature Looking Beyond Yourself: Phyllis Poitras-Jarrett *(OSAC)*
September/October: ôma askiy âpacihcikâtîw (this land is in use): Vanessa Hyggen *(OSAC)*
November 4 - 13: Legion Poster & Essay Contest Entries
November 19 - December 19: Winter Artist Exhibition

OSAC Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils

Madeleine Greenway: Artist Talk & Workshop

We were fortunate to receive an OSAC Visual Arts Program Grant which provids funding for projects aligned with OSAC exhibitions. In April, artist Madeleine Greenway presented an in-person artist talk related to her exhibition "Propagation" followed by a lino carving and reduction printmaking workshop for adults.





Video Exhibition: Shaunavon's First World War in 12 Objects



In November Kelly created a special video exhibition, "Shaunavon's First World War in 12 Objects" that was presented in the Gallery. Featuring photographs of local soldiers, postcards, and historical documents from the Ley and Lois Smith Collection at Western University and the GCHCC collection, this carefully curated selection illuminated Shaunavon's connections to the First World War while reflecting on the conflict's enduring impact on our community.

PROGRAMMING

In 2025 GCHCC employee Tammy Willman's hard work and dedication were recognized as her role transitioned from Program Coordinator to Program Manager and she became an employee of the Town of Shaunavon. She continues to work at the GCHCC in cooperation with the Director, Collections Manager, seasonal staff, community partners, artis, and volunteers to organize and deliver a diverse menu of programming options for the entire community. She is also called upon to assist with community events and GCHCC fundraising activities and to provide guidance to our student summer program assistant.



Tammy Willman,
Program Manager

Tammy is responsible for scheduling the annual slate of Art Gallery exhibitions. In addition to visual arts shows that tour through the OSAC Arts on the Move program, the Gallery actively highlights local talent. In November/December 2025, more than 30 local artists were featured in the *Winter Artist Exhibition*, which showcased a wide range of works including paintings, pottery, photography, jewelry, wood carvings, blown glass, books, music, and more.

Following are highlights of our 2025 community engagement activities, school programs, workshops, summer programs, and events.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Coffee Chat: Coffee Chat gatherings were held on the first Friday of each month, excluding July and August. In 2025, sponsor Jae's Pharmacy contributed to the series with a presentation on blood pressure at the May session. June's Garden Party–themed gathering took place at the Shaunavon Long Term Care Centre, where residents were able to participate and guests enjoyed a tour of the beautiful garden area.



Other sessions featured presentations from Age Friendly, the Shaunavon Library, and Gerhard and Hester Venter, who shared their experiences of life in South Africa. Beyond fostering social interaction, connection, and a sense of well-being, Coffee Chat also created opportunities to capture local stories and memories. Sessions such as International Women's Day in March and the Memoirs of Robin Faber in September encouraged participants to reflect on and share their experiences of life in Shaunavon.

Morning Sing-Along: Morning Sing-Along sessions continued to be held on the third and fourth Friday of each month excluding July and August with Kevin Sargent and Rosemary Blomme providing guitar accompaniment. Special Sing-Along gatherings included a Culture Days session that featured a fun game of SINGO - a musical bingo game that replaces traditional numbers with songs, and our annual Christmas Carol singing in December.





Wellness Challenge: The GCHCC partnered with Age Friendly and the Shaunavon Library to enter our *Grey Power* team of 29 participants in the second year of this four-week Wellness Challenge. The Challenge encouraged teams to eat healthy, sleep well, drink water, exercise, and complete wellness challenges to score points and improve their health and wellness. Our impressive team score earned an honourable mention and a second place finish among Shaunavon teams.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT *Continued*

Spring/Summer Registration Night: Ty Hunter and Joanne connected with a steady stream of visitors at our table as we officially launched registrations for the 2025 iIMAGINE Summer Arts Camp.



Sensory Path: The colourful and creative sensory path that brightens the sidewalks in front of the GCHCC received a fresh update this year, thanks to GCHCC staff and summer students. These fun, interactive sidewalk activities continue to be a popular draw for people of all ages. We're grateful to Southwest Paving Ltd. for generously sponsoring the sensory path once again this year.



Me Time Shaunavon: The GCHCC continued its Me Time program collaboration with the Shaunavon Library, Wellness & Leisure Committee, and local businesses. The initiative continues its mandate to help community members cope with mental health and well-being challenges such as isolation, stress, and anxiety. Each partner organization continued to take turns each month (not including July & August) offering a wide variety of low to no-cost activities that focus on bringing adult (age 18+) community members together in an inclusive, safe, and welcoming environment.



GCHCC's 2025 line up of Me Time events included workshops in cookie decorating and wreath making; presentations on medicinal herbs, the Grand Hotel, and gluten free cooking; and a Trivia Night. We collaborated with our partners to offer an "Amazing Race" season wrap up event in June, a fall kick off information table at September's Market at the Museum, and the December "Holiday Jingle Mingle" event.





We are grateful for the generous funding support provided by Good Habit Fitness, Shaunavon Dental, Jae's Pharmacy, Lee & Sandy, RME, Vanner's Clubhouse, and Rick & Bernadette Schneider.

Library Partnerships: The GCHCC collaborates with the Shaunavon Branch of the Chinook Regional Library on a variety of programs and events throughout the year. The Library also makes use of the GCHCC Gallery space and other resources to support several of its programs and events. *Kids Corner & Toddler Time* is a weekly Friday morning program for toddlers and their caregivers, including art, sensory, and creative play stations developed by GCHCC's Program Manager in the Community Room. The Library was also a valued partner in several 2025 events, including Culture Days, the Amazing Race, National Indigenous Peoples Day, and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Librarian Anne Bennett participated in the April Coffee Chat, sharing a reading from *Bread & Water*, the 2025 selection for the Saskatchewan Library Association's *One Book, One Province* program**.**



Age Friendly Shaunavon: In 2025, the GCHCC facilitated three *Afternoon at the Museum* sessions in partnership with Age Friendly Shaunavon. The April pointillism session was held at Long Term Care, November featured stained glass poppy luminaries, and December focused on paper quilling holiday cards. Tammy and "Stella" also attended the Age Friendly Spring Wellness Morning, leading a bookmark-making activity for participants.

In May, the GCHCC was honoured to host the Provincial Recognition Ceremony for Age Friendly Shaunavon, presented by the Honourable Lori Carr, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health.



SCHOOL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

65 classes from Shaunavon's schools and home school families participated in our educational programming opportunities in 2025. Led by GCHCC's Program Manager, Tammy Willman, these sessions were offered every other month during the school year and included introduction to the gallery exhibits and a related art activity or participation in a curriculum-related museum activity.



Students from the SPS grade 6 class was treated to a printmaking workshop with Master Printer Gordan Novak of Novak Graphics, his assistant Lucky, and an artist from China. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to try their hand at printmaking under expert guidance.

In partnership with the Shaunavon Library and local Indigenous community members, the GCHCC hosted a National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration on June 20.



Students from kindergarten to Grade 7 from both local elementary schools participated in a series of engaging cultural activity stations led by Indigenous Elders and presenters. The event highlighted First Nations and Métis traditions, promoting cultural awareness, respect, and meaningful community connection.

Our June year-end "Amazing Race" remained a popular activity with elementary school students. Museum and Library staff and volunteers challenged the students to complete a variety of fun activities in the museum, gallery, and library.

A HUB FOR COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The GCHCC serves as a vibrant community hub that fosters connection, inclusion, and shared experiences. In support of this role, we offer a diverse range of programs and actively welcome community groups and organizations to host their own events and activities within our space. The following highlights a selection of community initiatives and gatherings held at the Centre in 2025:



- January 13, February 15, & March 15: Lil' Bufloo Explorers children's program hosted in the community room
- May 3: Emergency Preparedness Day event hosted on the front lawn
- May 16: International Museums Day film screening of "Finders Keepers" documentary produced by the Museums Association of Saskatchewan
- May 17: Welcome to Shaunavon Gardening in Zone 3 event hosted on the front lawn & community room
- May 22 & 23: Ty Hunter music students year end rehearsal and performance hosted in the Gallery
- May 28, June 4 & 11: Summer student led LEGO Time program for children ages 6+
- June 12: Facilitated Amazing Race activity for the Great Plains College ESL Class
- June 21: Museum tour with Prairie Region of Photographic Arts photography group
- August 7: Welcomed Southwest Newcomer Welcome Centre youth for a Gallery tour & art activity
- August to November: Welcomed residents from Shaunavon Long Term Care for a series of six art activity sessions
- September 18: Saskatchewan Safety Council Mature Driver's Refresher Course hosted in the community room
- Great Plains College ESL Classes are held in the community room weekly from September to March
- SGI Driver Examinations are held every second week throughout the year in the community room



SUMMER PROGRAMS

Our children's summer programs were made possible thanks to funding from the Community Initiatives Fund Summer Grant.

U of R EYES Camp: The GCHCC hosted the University of Regina EYES (Educating Youth in Engineering and Science) Satellite Day Camp for children in grades 2 to 9. The Camp was held in the Community Room from August 5th to 8th.

AXIS Day Camp: The GCHCC collaborated with Shaunavon Wellness & Leisure to facilitate this program for children ages 4 to 10. The program ran every Tuesday and Thursday from July 8 to August 7. GCHCC Program Assistant, Darci Egland, worked with the Wellness & Leisure Summer Active Coordinator, Jayden Voll, to design and lead participants in a wide variety of arts and recreation activities.

IIMAGINE Arts Camp: Arts Camp was held August 11th to 15th at the Crescent Point Wickenheiser Centre. This year 82 children ages 6 to 14 came from Shaunavon, Cadillac, Admiral, Aneroid, Kincaid, Frontier, Climax, Eastend, Swift Current, Gravelbourg, Meyronne, Moose Jaw, and Gull Lake Saskatchewan; Medicine Hat, and Orion Alberta to participate in the Camp.



Artists Ty Hunter, Andrew Robertson, Anna Morin, Amilia Fehr, Becca Corbeil, Desiree Vilness, Jeanie Andronyk, Lindi Greenholtz, Mike Hiebert, and Norma Hunter led morning discovery sessions throughout the week in many elements of art including acrylic painting, watercolour painting, pottery, drama, paper sculpting, drumming, performance (dancing & singing), & graphic design.

New in 2025, Explorers workshops were offered to youth ages 9 to 14 for three afternoons during the week. These workshops offered more intensive instruction in drumming, performance (dancing & singing), acrylic painting, and graphic design. These sessions featured smaller class sizes & were offered at a slight additional cost.

The Arts Camp Showcase featuring choir, dance, and drama performances, and displays of completed art pieces took place on the final day of Camp. Parents, families and friends were treated to an entertaining show!



Thanks to support from the following sponsors, funders, and partners Arts Camp registration fees were offered at a low cost to make them accessible to all families: Community Initiatives Fund; Sask Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation; Shaunavon Wellness & Leisure; Artistic Expressions Custom Framing, and Baker Hughes (Doug Willman).





EVENTS

Archives Week , February 2 to 8, "Heritage Cookbooks: Old-Time Remedies & Household Hints " featured a curated gallery display of cookbooks from our museum collection. The theme carried into our February 7 Coffee Chat,where participants shared treasured cookbooks, and inspired the Me Time session, Introduction to Medicinal Herbs with Aurora Bowrey. These initiatives were supported by the SCAA Archives Week Grant. GCHCC staff also collaborated with the Town of Shaunavon Communications Officer to produce a short video for the SCAA Archives Week project.



Canada Day, July 1: A fundraising brunch was held on the front lawn. GCHCC Staff, Board members and volunteers prepared and served the menu of pancakes and Ranch House Meat Co. sausages with coffee or juice. Cost was by donation with the proceeds going to the Outdoor Musical Playground project.



Market at the Museum, July 6 to September 27: Markets were held 9:30 am to Noon on Saturday mornings. An average of six vendors and 150 shoppers visited the regular weekly Markets. Young entrepreneurs were offered a reduced table rental fee, and non-profit groups were allowed tables at no cost. GCHCC staff members helped vendors set up and take down their tables. The museum and gallery remained open during the regular Markets.



Boomtown Days: The rain didn't dampen our spirits at this year's celebration as GCHCC hosted a Street Bingo on Thursday, July 17 and the Boomtown Market on Saturday, July 19. The Street Bingo and 50/50 raffle were held on Centre Street and the front lawn. About 260 participants. $350 in cash prizes was awarded to the winners. Proceeds were earmarked for the Outdoor Musical Playground project. The Boomtown Market was held from 9: a.m. to 2: p.m. 21 vendors set up on the lawn and in the Gallery, and hundreds of people visited the Market & Museum.



Boomtown Christmas: The GCHCC was the scene of several events during Shaunavon's Boomtown Christmas on Saturday, December 6. The Gallery was open from 12:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon to allow for viewing and shopping at the Winter Artist Exhibition. In the evening, the GCHCC and the Shaunavon Library partnered to host a fundraising Gourmet Hot Dog Sale in the Community Room from 5:00 to 6:45 p.m. Funds raised were earmarked for children's programs and art projects offered at the museum and library. Followed by the community Christmas tree lighting and Christmas songs performed by the Stayin' Alive Choir and Shaunavon's Filipino Community.

EVENTS *Continued*



Culture Days, September 19 to October 12: The GCHCC proudly delivered a diverse and engaging series of events for Culture Days 2025, bringing the community together through celebration, learning, and cultural exchange.

Festivities began on September 19 with a special **"SINGO" Morning Sing-Along**, combining music and interactive play to create an energetic and welcoming kickoff. The showcase event followed on September 27 with the **Multicultural Market,** which transformed the Centre grounds into a vibrant gathering space. The event featured live cultural performances, international foods, 15 local vendors, and hands-on activities, including a Métis jigging workshop led by knowledge keeper Scott Duffee. The day celebrated the richness of cultures within the community while fostering connection and inclusion.



A key milestone was the **grand opening of the Outdoor Musical Playground**—an inclusive space designed for all ages to explore music and play. Supported through generous community contributions, including a $25,000 legacy gift from the Innes Family and additional funding from valued partners, the playground stands as a lasting tribute to Joe Ann Ruetz, Ann Brown, Joe Gregoire, and Kim Anderson.

On September 30, the Centre hosted programming for the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**, creating space for reflection and learning. Activities included children's Orange Shirt Day programming at the Shaunavon Library and an inspiring presentation by Elizabeth Zdunich of the Office of the Treaty Commissioner.









In the Gallery, Vanessa Hyggen's exhibition, ôma askiy âpacihcikâtîw (this land is in use), highlighted the cultural and environmental significance of northern Saskatchewan landscapes.

Culture Days concluded with a Coffee Chat on October 3, where Gerhard and Hester Venter shared stories, photos, food, and traditions from South Africa, further enriching the spirit of cultural exchange.

Together, these events highlighted the Centre's role as a hub for creativity, inclusivity, and community connection, leaving a meaningful and lasting impact.

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS:

From Dream to Reality: Shaunavon's Outdoor Musical Playground Opens in 2025

A simple idea—to create an inclusive, intergenerational space where people could gather and make music—has grown into an exciting new feature on the front lawn of the Grand Coteau Centre. With hard work and dedication from GCHCC staff, board, and volunteers the vision took shape and inspired an outpouring of community support.



Fundraising efforts were both heartfelt and wide-reaching. Nearly $14,000 in **memorial donations** honoured the lives of Joe-Ann Ruetz, Ann Brown, Joe Gregoire, and Kim Anderson, ensuring their legacy will live on through music and connection.

Major contributions of $5,000 from **Western Financial Group, Affinity Credit Union, the Sogn Family Foundation, and the Shaunavon Arts Council**—alongside a transformative $25,000 gift from the **Innes Family**—were instrumental in advancing the project. These were further strengthened by the support of local sponsors, including **Shaunavon Dental, Brenda Waldron, Brett and Carolyn North, the Shields Family, Alan Ruetz, Rod and Sharon Crockett, the Davis Family, and the SHS Class of 1965**, as well as numerous fundraisers and individual donors. Together, this remarkable display of community generosity and grassroots effort played a defining role in bringing the vision to life.

Five outdoor musical instruments from Percussion Play were ordered through 1 Stop Playgrounds. Their arrival marked a major milestone, followed by site preparation and construction, including new concrete surfaces and careful installation work. Thanks to the dedication of staff, volunteers and contractors, the space has been thoughtfully designed to be accessible, durable, and welcoming to all.

The Outdoor Musical Playground officially opened in September and now stands as a vibrant symbol of what can be achieved through collaboration, creativity, and community spirit. It will forever be a place of joy, expression, and connection for residents and visitors of all ages for years to come.



GCHCC is grateful for the work done on our front lawn during the ***4th annual GoGreen event***. Made possible through support from the SPRA's Parks for All Action Grant, volunteers helped transplant perennials, refresh mulch and stone edging, and prepare the site for a spring planting of traditional Indigenous plants. Special thanks to Falon Kolbinson for providing education about the spiritual and cultural meaning of the four sacred medicines. Interpretive signage about the traditional plants will be installed in 2026 to further enhance the space.



As part of the ***2025 Southwest Mural Fest***, the GCHCC's exterior was enhanced with a vibrant new mural by artist Marg Cresswell of Murals by Marg. Inspired by our natural history museum exhibits, the design features animals native to southwest Saskatchewan, celebrating the region's unique landscape and wildlife. This addition improves the building's visual appeal and strengthens the GCHCC's role as a cultural landmark.

GRAND COTEAU HERITAGE CULTURE CENTRE INC.
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT DECEMBERE 31, 2025

ASSETS	2025	2024
Cash in Bank:		
Credit Union - General A/C	$ 81,817.92	$ 36,487.86
Credit Union - Flex Term	$ 22,386.94	$ 53,767.53
Credit Union - GIC	$ 55,032.89	$ 78,043.75
Petty Cash	$ 300.00	$ 300.00
	$ 159,537.75	$ 168,599.14
Accrued Interest Receivable	$ 1,024.99	$ 1,263.04
Pioneer Co-op Equity	$ 633.00	$ 605.13
GST Receivable	$ 2,900.57	$ 946.06
Total Current Assets	$ 164,096.31	$ 171,413.37
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	$ 1,047.81	$ 328.42
GST Payable	$ -	$ 537.21
PST Payable	$ 95.95	-$ 83.42
Total Liabilities	$ 1,143.76	$ 782.21
EQUITY		
Reserve - Musical Playground	$ 2,998.99	$ 48,599.27
Prior Surplus	$ 132,222.65	$ 116,234.41
2025 Surplus	$ 27,730.91	$ 5,797.48
Total Equity	$ 162,952.55	$ 170,631.16
Total Liabilities & Equity	$ 164,096.31	$ 171,413.37

Approved by the Board of Directors

President

Board Member

GRAND COTEAU HERITAGE CULTURE CENTRE INC.
STATMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS
YEAR ENDING DECEMBERE 31, 2025

INCOME		2025	2024
Grants:			
	Sask Lotteries Trust Fund	$ 30,000.00	$ 30,000.00
	Sask Culture (Culture Days)	$ -	$ 2,500.00
	Sask Lotteries (Community Grant)	$ 2,628.69	$ 1,777.38
	CIF Summer Grant	$ 7,500.00	$ 6,000.00
	CIF Me Time	$ -	$ 2,848.82
	Young Canada Works	$ 13,073.74	$ 12,200.00
	OSAC Grant	$ 1,750.00	$ 3,062.50
	Artvest Grant	$ 4,100.00	$ 1,962.25
	SCAA - Archives Grant	$ 300.00	$ 3,143.62
	MAS Micro Grant	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00
	Other Grants	$ 5,000.00	$ -
	Musical Playground Grant - CU	$ 2,500.00	$ 5,000.00
	Town of Shaunavon Grant	$ 12,000.00	$ 12,000.00
	Total Grants	$ 80,852.43	$ 82,494.57
Dividend (Co-op)		$ 54.40	$ 119.28
Donations		$ 15,527.16	$ 1,629.48
Event Income		$ -	$ -
Me-Time Registration		$ 990.00	$ 1,450.00
Fundraising		$ 3,745.00	$ 1,631.99
Sponsors		$ 7,500.00	$ 3,900.00
Merchandise		$ 4,939.43	$ 3,303.96
Program Fees		$ 3,059.51	$ 5,469.89
Room Rent		$ 1,902.43	$ 1,684.14
Interst Income		$ 2,749.81	$ 3,894.33
Art Show Sales		$ 3,734.45	$ 3,050.00
Fundraising - Future Projects		$ 58,424.52	$ -
Art Camp		$ 16,748.75	$ 12,371.00
Misc. -Tableclothes, Sundry		$ 269.19	$ 917.89
	TOTAL INCOME	$ 200,497.08	$ 121,916.53

GRAND COTEAU HERITAGE CULTURE CENTRE INC.
STATMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS
YEAR ENDING DECEMBERE 31, 2025

EXPENSES

	2025	2024
Administration (Office Supplies, Telephone)	$ 12,327.42	$ 4,727.39
Advertiing	$ 2,994.71	$ 3,492.49
Board Expenses	$ 351.36	$ 323.19
Building Maintenance	$ 86.85	$ 256.55
Capital Purchases (Musical Playground)	$ 74,553.10	$ 3,959.33
Collections	$ 300.00	$ 920.24
Equipment purchases	$ 1,160.77	$ -
Exhibits - Museum	$ 208.97	$ 3,371.46
Exhibitions - Gallery	$ 1,535.41	$ 3,536.38
Fundraising	$ 3,536.89	$ 898.61
Merchandise	$ 3,355.75	$ 5,040.41
Programming	$ 9,454.60	$ 10,724.98
Programming - Art Camp	$ 21,418.98	$ 17,613.27
Program Coordinator/Benefits	$ 9,900.92	$ 39,418.78
Professional Development/Travel	$ 9,903.37	$ 153.74
Art Show	$ 3,794.45	$ 3,063.00
Me-Time Registration	$ 3,133.45	$ 4,735.09
Town of Shaunavon (Room Rent, Grants)	$ 14,749.17	$ 13,884.14
TOTAL EXPENSES	$ 172,766.17	$ 116,119.05
Net Profit/Deficit	$ 27,730.91	$ 5,797.48

GRAND COTEAU HERITAGE CULTURE CENTRE INC.
TOWN OF SHAUNAVON DISBURSEMENTS
YEAR ENDING DECEMBERE 31, 2025

	2025	2024
RECEIPTS:		
Town of Shaunavon	$ 265,835.78	$ 202,407.79
Young Canada Grant	-$ 13,073.74	-$ 12,200.00
Room Rent	-$ 1,902.43	-$ 1,684.14
Total Receipts	$ 250,859.61	$ 188,523.65
EXPENSES:		
Salaries (Director, Curator Assistants)	$ 167,540.91	$ 122,568.43
Benefits	$ 30,246.18	$ 27,797.08
Utilities (Power, Water, Sewer, Gas)	$ 11,560.31	$ 12,353.60
Insurance	$ 2,055.46	$ 3,955.40
Building Maintenance	$ 25,956.79	$ 9,349.14
Board Per Diem	$ 1,499.96	$ 500.00
Town Grant	$ 12,000.00	$ 12,000.00
Total Expenses	$ 250,859.61	$ 188,523.65

Alan Ruetz

Box 631

Shaunavon, Sk.

S0N 2M0

Board of Directors

Grand Coteau Heritage & Cultural Centre Inc.

Box 966

Shaunavon, Sask.

S0N 2M0

Dear Sirs:

Re: Report to the Board of Directors – Year Ending December 31, 2025

I am pleased to submit my report for discussion of my review of the financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2025.

I have prepared the Statement of Operations and the Balance Sheet and verified the same with the accounts and vouchers provided and found them to be correct and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

I further state that I am not, nor have ever been, a member of the Board of Directors of the

Grand Coteau Heritage & Cultural Centre Inc.

Dated at Shaunavon, in the Province of Saskatchewan, this 14rd day of April, 2026.

Yours Sincerely,



Alan G. Ruetz, CPA Retired

Many Thanks to Our Funders, Sponsors & Donors!

The Grand Coteau Heritage & Cultural Centre extends our deepest gratitude to our many funders. Special thanks to our two major funders, the **Town of Shaunavon** and **Sask Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation** in partnership with **SaskCulture**. Thank you for trusting us to deliver much needed services and programs to the community. To all of our funders, sponsors, and donors of cash, in kind, or service - thank you - any amount, big or small, is greatly appreciated.



























