GRAND COTEAU
HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT







2024



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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 Board President

As we reflect on the past year at the Grand Coteau Heritage and Cultural Centre, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the profound impact our organization continues to have in the heart of Shaunavon. The Centre remains a vibrant cornerstone of community life—welcoming residents and visitors alike to engage with local history, experience meaningful cultural programming, and celebrate artistic expression.

The Grand Coteau has put on large and meaningful events this year such as the Multicultural Festival and our tipi raising ceremony for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. These events brought people together in the spirit of connection, understanding, and shared celebration.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering dedication of our exceptional staff and volunteers. From organizing engaging artist talks, coffee chats, sing-alongs, and the popular "Me Time" events to hosting insightful school tours, their hard work and passion breathe life into every corner of the Centre. These programs do more than entertain—they foster learning, build relationships, and inspire future generations of creators, thinkers, and leaders.

We are deeply grateful for the continued support of the Town of Shaunavon, whose partnership strengthens all that we do. A heartfelt thank you as well to the Innes Family for their generous financial contribution toward our soon to be completed Musical Playground Project—a space that will offer joy and inspiration to all who visit. As we look to the year ahead, we remain committed to enriching lives through culture, heritage, and community, and we thank each of you for being a part of this ongoing journey.

Brent E. Michelson, M. Ed., B. Sc.
President of the 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.

2024 VISITOR STATISTICS

TOTAL VISITORS 11,050:
Local: 2,026; Tourists: 507; Programs/Events/Services: 7,065; Schools: 1,452



NOTES to 2024 Visitor Statistics:

- The above numbers reflect actual visitors through the doors or that could be accurately tracked through participation in virtual programming.
- In addition to the numbers above, a review of our social media and website posts showed strong analytics.

ABOUT US

The Grand Coteau Museum has enjoyed a presence in Shaunavon since 1931. In 1977, the Grand Coteau Management Committee presented a proposal to the Town Council to have the museum enlarged to include an art gallery, and a branch of the regional library. The plan received approval and the new municipal facility named the Grand Coteau Heritage & Cultural Centre (GCHCC) was opened on July 12, 1980 under the guidance of a Board of Directors with one staff person hired as Curator.

Today, the GCHCC includes the Shaunavon Branch of the Chinook Regional Library, an art gallery, natural history and heritage museum exhibits, and a community meeting space. The GCHCC is open year-round and continues to provide visitors with a variety of cultural experiences. We are a vibrant organization with wonderful support from our community!

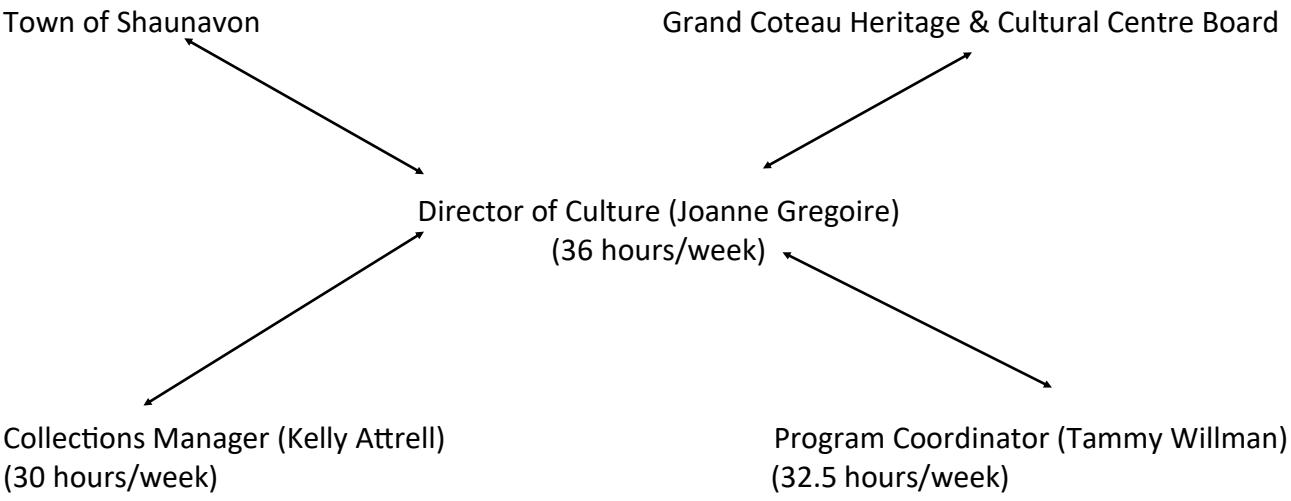
The GCHCC is a municipal museum and the Town of Shaunavon funds the maintenance of the facility and salaries for two permanent positions. The full time position of Program Coordinator and all programming and projects are made possible through grants, donations, and fundraising. The GCHCC is also a registered non-profit organization with a Board of Directors consisting of six to ten people. Communication with the Town occurs primarily through the Town's Chief Administrative Officer and Council representatives who attend Board meetings of the GCHCC.



2024 HOURS OF OPERATION

January 3 to April 30: Tuesday to Friday from 9:00am–5:00pm
May 1 to June 30: Monday to Friday from 9:00am–5:00pm
July 1 to September 13: Monday to Friday from 9:00am–5:00pm; Saturdays from 9:30am-4:00pm
September 14 to December 22: Tuesday to Friday from 9:00am–5:00pm
December 23 to 31: Closed for Holidays
The Museum & Gallery were open for a total of 231 days in 2024

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The volunteer Board of Directors of the Grand Coteau Heritage & Cultural Centre recognizes that a clear governance framework is important in order for the Board and staff to operate. The Board serves in an advisory role as the 'eyes and ears' of the community - supporting, encouraging, and guiding the staff. The overall operation of the GCHCC is the responsibility of the Director of Culture, and day to day operations clearly remain with staff. Board governance policies are monitored by the Board.

The GCHCC Board held six regular meetings in 2024 (January, April, June, September, November, and December). Marla Poisson stepped down from the Board at the AGM in April, Nolan Klassen (Town appointee) stepped down in November after not seeking re-election to Council. We welcomed new Town appointees Councillors Lisa Schmit and Pamela Bahnuick, and Mayor Cal Vance (ex officio) in December.

GCHCC Board of Directors 2024



Back Row (L to R):
Lisa Schmit (Town Councillor),
President Brent Michelson,
Vice-President Robert Anderson,
Director Penny Kirkpatrick,
Mayor Cal Vance
Front Row (L to R):
Pamela Bahnuick (Town Councillor),
Director Sandy Fritz,
Secretary Jenna Hiebert,
Director Tara Lingenfelter
Missing from Photo:
Directors Hester Groenewald,
Andrew Robertson, Marla Poisson,
Nolan Klassen

SPOTLIGHT: COUGAR SPECIMEN ADDED TO NATURAL HISTORY EXHIBIT



On May 29 a young female cougar specimen was officially introduced to the public during a gathering that drew a crowd of over 60 people.

The event included a presentation from a local conservation officer, who explained the circumstances surrounding the cougar's capture. The animal had killed a pair of alpacas owned by the John MacDonald family who live south of Shaunavon. Despite efforts to chase the animal off, it continued to come into the yard, posing a threat to the family and their pets. The cougar was trapped by a conservation officer and was euthanized due to public safety concerns. The MacDonald family requested that the cougar be donated to the Grand Coteau Centre so that it could be used for historical and educational purposes. The cougar is named Mary Beth after the MacDonald's young daughters Marian and Elizabeth.



Other activities included a cake cutting, ribbon cutting, cougar themed museum activities, and tours of the natural history room to view the new specimen. School tours were held for 140 elementary students the following day.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Our Mission

Linking Community with Culture

Our Vision

An environment that engages visitors to increase appreciation, understanding and celebration of our heritage – past, present, and future.

Our Values

PROFESSIONALISM (communication, integrity & honesty)
COMMUNITY (cooperation, diversity, service)
PROGRESS (lifelong learning, change, creativity)
PEOPLE (leadership, teamwork, relationships)
MUSEUM EXCELLENCE (stewardship, tangible and intangible assets, public trust)

Goals 2015-2020

Goal # 1: Strong Connections with the Community
Goal # 2: Enhanced Product Offerings
Goal # 3: Enhanced Governance and Operations

Several strategies have been identified under each goal. Management and Board are working together toward achieving these goals.

Strategic planning that was to occur in 2020 had been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Planning is slated to begin in 2025.



Joanne Gregoire, Director of Culture

MANAGEMENT & STAFF

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 participated in the following opportunities: Museums Association of Saskatchewan (MAS) Virtual AGM, ArtsVest sessions including: orientation, meet & mingle, & several training webinars; SW District Community Gathering; MAS Virtual Community Chat sessions; SaskCulture Culture Days webinar; & completed the 4 Seasons of Reconciliation Education Program through the First Nations University of Canada.

The Collections Manager, Kelly Attrell, participated in the following opportunities: How to Handle Archival Documents in a Museum Setting 1 day workshop, A Quick Guide to Creating a Collection Management Policy webinar, Genealogy workshop, WHMIS, and the SWDCRS Community Gathering. Kelly is secretary for the Town of Shaunavon's OHC Committee, and is chairperson, secretary and treasurer for the Prairie Trails Museum Network quarterly meetings.

The Program Coordinator, Tammy Willman, attended an information session regarding the Val Marie 2025 project Home & Away hosted by Diana Chabros & Joseph Naytowhow.

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.



Boomtown Days Parade Float

Students: Randi McCuaig and Olivia Illerbrun

Two summer students were hired in 2024: Olivia Illerbrun (Program Assistant: May 6 to August 22) and Randi McCuaig (Museum Assistant: May 13 to August 20). 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 like Boomtown Days.





VOLUNTEERS

Along with our volunteer Board members, the GCHCC enjoys the services of long-time dedicated volunteer Kathleen East. In 2024, Kathleen logged 761 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.

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." *– Elizabeth Andrew*



PARTNERSHIPS

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

- Chinook Regional Library, Shaunavon Branch
- Shaunavon Wellness & Leisure Committee
- Town of Shaunavon
- Age Friendly Shaunavon
- Shaunavon Arts Council
- Shaunavon Chamber of Commerce
- iImagine Arts - Ty Hunter
- Southwest District for Culture Recreation & Sport (SWDCRS)
- Southwest Newcomer Welcome Centre (SWNWC)
- 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.
- SK Arts
- Art Gallery of Swift Current
- Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCOS)

FUNDING AND GRANT SOURCES

The GCHCC's 2024 revenue primarily consisted of **grants totalling just over $82,490** 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
- **$12,200** 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
- **$6,000** from Community Initiatives Fund Summer Grant Program for children's summer programs
- **$5,000** Affinity Credit Union Member Council Funding for Outdoor Musical Playground Project
- **$3,143.62** SCAA Grants $200 for Archives Week, $3,188.32 Institutional Grant Program funding for map cabinets, $244.70 was repaid re: previous grant
- **$3,062.50** OSAC Program Grant for gallery exhibition programs and projects (2024: $1,750, 2025: $1,312.50 initial payment)
- **$2,848.82** from Community Initiatives Fund Community Grant for Me Time partner events
- **$2,500** SaskCulture Culture Days Hub Sponsorship
- **$2,000** MAS Small Project Grant for National Day for Truth & Reconciliation Tipi Raising
- **$1,777.38** SaskLotteries Community Grant for Art Gallery exhibitions
- **$1,962.25** ArtsVest matching funds for sponsorships secured during the program

The remaining revenue was earned as follows:

- **Donations $1,629.48:** collected from admissions, research requests, and personal or business/ organization donations. Note: $25,000 received from the Innes Family was put into reserves for the Outdoor Musical Playground Project.
- **Sponsorships $3,900:** sponsorships received from Magnum Trucks, IDA Pharmacy, Southwest Paving, Affinity Credit Union, Western Financial Group, and Terry Shields—Affinity Financial Strategies.
- **Program Fees & IIMAGINE Arts Camp $19,290.89:** 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 $12,371.
- **Fundraising & Events $1,631.99:** Fundraising events included: Canada Day Brunch, Boomtown Street Bingo with 50/50 Raffles, Memorial Donations (Joe Gregoire), and Boomtown Christmas Hot Dog Sale. Note: $5,626.55 raised and put into reserves for the Musical Playground project.
- **Merchandise Sales $3,303.96:** Merchandise sold at the Gallery Gift Shop includes Town of Shaunavon branded apparel, local area history books and publications, souvenirs, and SW Saskatchewan animal figurines.
- **Art Show Sales $3,050:** Sales of artwork during our November/December Art Show & Sale. All of this money was paid out to the artists.
- **Other $6,615.64:** Includes Community Room rental fees (collected and paid to Town of Shaunavon), Co-op dividend, bank interest, tablecloth rental, and sundry. (see page 19 of this report for details).

COLLECTIONS



Kelly Attrell, Collections Manager

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.

The GCHCC continues to use the Museums Association of Saskatchewan (MAS) collections database program, SaskCollections, to catalogue artifacts. This database also has a front-end public website feature which is currently being utilized to showcase over 4000 photographs from the Collection. There were over 250 newly donated items catalogued in 2024 with many donated items still to be processed.

The 2023/24 SCAA IGP was finalized in spring as the newly digitized high school graduation videos were uploaded to YouTube and released for public viewing. The 2024/25 SCAA IGP funded our purchase of 2 map cabinets and archival supplies. The map cabinets were installed in the storage area in December for the purpose of storing our large-format archival items.



Stu Christensen from Sapphire Taxidermy

The taxidermy cougar mount was completed in May. The *Winter in Cypress Hills* diorama was disassembled to prepare for Sapphire Taxidermy to install the cougar and the branch she is posed on. The exhibit was then reassembled. The cougar reveal event drew a large crowd and included a presentation from the conservation officer. Several classrooms also took the opportunity for up-close tours.

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, 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.

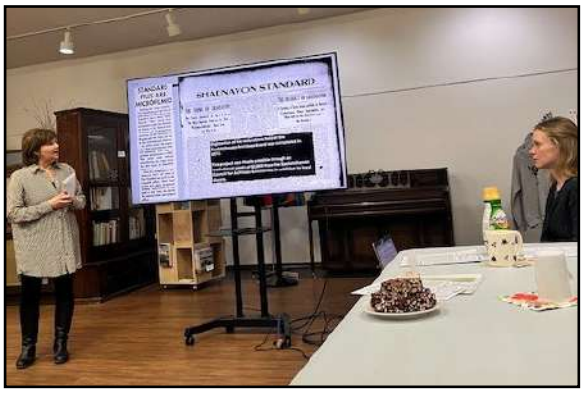
Kelly provides guidance to our summer museum assistant as they complete tasks utilizing the Collection and research files. Randi organized and updated obituary files, assisted with cataloguing new donations and backlog items, designed new numbers for diorama exhibits, assisted with reorganizing boxes and updating their records, photographed and uploaded artifact photos, and prepared new shelving units for the storage rooms.

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

Collections Manager Kelly Attrell created several temporary exhibits using artifacts and archival material from the Collection to accompany select gallery exhibits and events. Archives Week in February was celebrated with the theme "Odd & Unusual Stories from The Shaunavon Standard". A Coffee & Conversation event included a slideshow presentation featuring the 'offbeat' articles with related photographs from the archives.



Archives Week Slideshow Presentation

Items from the Collection were used to complement several Coffee Chat sessions. Kelly curated a display of recipe books for the February Coffee Chat, "old-school" skills related items in May, and Shaunavon brochures for the November session. June's Coffee Chat featured a picnic-themed slideshow.

As part of our museum outreach, Kelly and Kathleen prepared and presented 2 slideshows for the Longterm Care Centre residents with the themes of parades and Shaunavon's schools. Kelly also assisted with scanning photographs for the Legion banners hung throughout Shaunavon's downtown core in November.



GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

January/February: Sacred Ground: artwork by Lesley Schatz
March/April: ᑌᐸᑯᖽ Tepakohp 7 *(OSAC)*
May/June: Jeff Goring: At Peace While the World Isn't
July/August: Greg Allen & Jeff Meldrum: Micro and Macro of the Boreal Forest *(OSAC)*
September/October:
East and West: The Bridging of Cultures and Art *(OSAC)*
Bi-Giwen: Coming Home Truth Telling from the Sixties Scoop *(Legacy of Hope Foundation)*
November 1 - 8: Legion Poster & Essay Contest Entries
November 15 - December 19: Winter Artist Exhibition

OSAC Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils

ᑌᐸᑯᖽ/Tepakohp/7: Printmaking Workshop

We were fortunate to receive the OSAC Visual Arts Program Grant which provided funding for projects aligned with OSAC exhibitions. In April, we welcomed local Indigenous artist Falon Kolbinson, who led an engaging "Playing with Printmaking" workshop for youth aged 6 and up. Falon introduced participants to a range of mediums, tools, and printmaking techniques, offering hands-on demonstrations that sparked creativity and exploration. Alongside Tammy, she guided the young artists as they crafted their own unique visual art pieces using gel mono printing plates, vibrant paints, and paper.





Community Art Project: Decorated Acrylic Discs

Program Coordinator Tammy Willman led the creation of a vibrant, inclusive community art project, now proudly displayed in the GCHCC Gallery. Designed to celebrate the idea that *everyone belongs* in our shared space, the project brought together 244 decorated acrylic discs created by elementary students, seniors, Me Time participants, newcomers, and artists. The works showcase a variety of techniques, including lino carving, sgraffito, collage, and decoupage—highlighting the creativity and diversity of our community.



Tammy Willman,
Program Coordinator

PROGRAMMING

Tammy Willman is the GCHCC's Program Coordinator. The Program Coordinator, in cooperation with the Director, Collections Manager, seasonal staff, local artists, and volunteers, organizes and delivers 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 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 2024, Lesley Schatz and Jeff Goring each held solo exhibitions, and more than 30 local artists were featured in the November/December *Winter Artist Exhibition.* The showcase included a wide range of works—paintings, pottery, photography, jewelry, wood carvings, hand-woven baskets, books, music, and more.

Following are highlights of our 2024 community engagement activities, school programs, workshops, summer programs, and events.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Coffee Chat: Coffee Chat gatherings, sponsored by IDA Pharmacy, were held on the first Friday of every month, excluding July and August. Our 2024 sessions prompted memories and stories around topics like old-school skills, potluck picnics, arts & crafts, and our favourite things. Several of the sessions invited participants to bring along items from their homes such as photographs, recipes, food samples, artwork or handiwork. Other sessions welcomed guests from Age Friendly, Shaunavon Library, the Town of Shaunavon, and newcomers, or included an art project. Besides offering social interaction, connection, and sense of wellbeing for participants, Coffee Chat gatherings provide an opportunity for the museum to collect participant's stories and memories of life in Shaunavon.



Morning Sing-Along: Morning Sing-Along Sessions ran on the third and fourth Friday of each month excluding June, July, and August with Kevin Sargent and Rosemary Blomme providing guitar accompaniment.

Special Sing-Along gatherings included a Culture Days session that featured songs from different countries, and our annual Christmas Carol singing in December.





Wellness Challenge: The GCHCC partnered with Age Friendly and the Shaunavon Library to enter a team of 35 participants in a four-week Wellness Challenge. The Challenge encouraged teams to eat healthy, sleep well, drink water, exercise, and complete wellness and educational challenges to score points and improve their health and wellness. Our impressive team score helped Shaunavon defeat Swift Current in this fun rivalry.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT *Continued*

Spring/Summer Registration Night: Tammy and Ty Hunter were busy engaging with a steady stream of visitors at our table as we officially launched registrations for the 2024 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 committed 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 line up of Me Time events included workshops in drawing, neuro art, needle felting, wire wrapped jewelry, and watercolour painting, as well as presentations on seedlings, the Whitemud river, and a film showing. We collaborated with our partners to offer a Junk Journaling workshop, an "Amazing Race" season wrap up event in June, a fall kick off information table at September's the Market at the Museum, a keynote presentation by author Tiff Carson, and a December "Holiday Jingle Mingle" event.



We are grateful to the Community Initiatives Fund Community Grant for the funding assistance provided to Me Time events.

Library Partnerships: ***Kids Corner & Toddler Time*** is a weekly collaborative program for toddlers and their care givers. GCHCC's Program Coordinator creates art, sensory, and creative play stations in the Community Room for this Friday morning program.
The museum played host to the Library's 2024 ***Stuffed Animal Sleepover.*** Children brought their bravest stuffy, and after a story and snack, left them to have adventures in the museum & gallery!





Age Friendly Shaunavon: "Afternoon at the Museum" continued to be a popular program facilitated by the GCHCC in partnership with Age Friendly. Five sessions were held in 2024 with Tammy leading art projects in decoupage collage, abstract art (puzzle pieces turned into an art installation for the Age Friendly office), and rock painting, as well as presentations on Indigenous culture and the Town's Voyent Alert initiative. Tammy attended the Age Friendly Fall Wellness Morning to instruct a watercolour painting project for those in attendance.

SCHOOL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



68 classes of students from Shaunavon's schools, and home school students participated in our school programming opportunities in 2024. Led by GCHCC's Program Coordinator, 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.



The "Exploring CQ" exhibition with Cultural Intelligence facilitator and author Wilbur Sargunaraj was attended by all classes from Shaunavon High School and some elementary school students. Students engaged in a guided tour of the exhibit, followed by thoughtful discussion and a reflective activity.

Our "Amazing Race" June year-end activity drew participation from all students from Shaunavon Public and Christ the King Schools. Museum and Library staff and volunteers challenged the students to complete a variety of fun activities in the museum, gallery, and library.

WORKSHOPS & INFORMATION SESSIONS



The GCHCC offered a diverse range of workshops for all age groups throughout the year, with strong attendance and many sessions exceeding capacity. Below is a list of 2024 events presented in addition to our regular programming:

- ***February 20: Genealogy: Digging Deeper***, with Bev Hagen from the Swift Current Genealogy Society
- ***February 20 & 21: Family Lego sessions***
- ***February 21: Acrylic Art*** with Shaunavon ESL Class
- ***February 8 & 29: Slide Show Presentations*** at Long Term Care
- ***April 16: Playing with Printmaking*** youth workshop presented by Falon Kolbinson, funded by OSAC Visual Arts Program Grant
- ***May 7, 14 & 21: LEGO Time*** for ages 6 & up
- ***May 28, June 4 & 11: Afterschool Art*** for ages 6 & up
- ***June 26: Elinor Florence Author Presentation,*** slide show and discussion of the book *Birds Eye View* by Elinor Florence, 2024 Wallace Stegner Grant for the Arts recipient.
- ***August 6: Outdoor Photography Workshops*** for adults with Chris Attrell & Andrew Robertson, funded by OSAC Visual Arts Program Grant





- ***October 3: Age Friendly Wellness Morning*** watercolour art project
- ***October 8, 15, 22 & 29: LEGO Time*** for ages 6 & up
- ***November 12 & 19: Exploring Art for Kids*** with Hannah Graven - mixed media painting foundations

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 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 6th to 9th.

S.P.A.R.K. (Summer Program** for **Arts** and **Recreation** for **Kids): The GCHCC collaborated with Shaunavon Wellness & Leisure to facilitate this program for children ages 6 & up. The program ran every Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday from July 2 to August 6. GCHCC Program Assistant, Olivia Illerbrun, worked with the Wellness & Leisure Summer Active Coordinator, Mckenna Pommier, to design and lead participants in a wide variety of arts and recreation activities. The program was based out of the GCHCC Community Room.

IIMAGINE Arts Camp: Arts Camp was held August 12th to 16th at the Crescent Point Wickenheiser Centre. This year 69 children ages 6 to 14 came from Shaunavon, Cadillac, Admiral, Aneroid, Kincaid, Frontier, Climax, Eastend, Gull Lake, Swift Current, Gravelbourg, Martensville, and Beechy Saskatchewan; Medicine Hat, Sundre, and Orion Alberta; and Rivers Manitoba to participate in the regular Camp.



Artists Ty Hunter, Andrew Robertson, Anna Morin, Mercedes Klisowsky, Norma Hunter, Liam Bailey, Seth Cara, Luc Johner, Jeff Goring, and Adler Irwin led sessions throughout the week in a variety of artistic disciplines including acrylic & watercolour painting, performance, creative writing, singing, photography, videography, graffiti, and dance.

Add-on workshops offering more intensive instruction in painting, graffiti/dance, photography, and videography/drama were offered to youth ages 10 to 14 for three afternoons during the week.

The Arts Camp Showcase featuring choir 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!





Teenage youth participated in three evenings of instruction in acrylic painting, graffiti/ dance, and photography.

Arts Camp received support from the following sponsors, funders and partners: Community Initiatives Fund; Sask Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation; Shaunavon Wellness & Leisure; the Sogn Family Foundation; Artistic Expressions Custom Framing, Affinity Credit Union, and Baker Hughes (Doug Willman).

EVENTS



Archives Week, February 4 to 10, "Odd & Unusual Stories from The Shaunavon Standard": A Coffee & Conversation event was held that featured a slide show and mock newspaper highlighting some of the more unusual stories that have been published in the local newspaper. This project was funded through the SCAA Archives Week Grant.

Canada Day, July 1: A fundraising brunch was held on the front lawn. GCHCC Staff, Board members and community volunteers prepared and served the menu that featured pancakes and sausages with coffee or juice. Cost was by donation with the proceeds going to the Outdoor Musical Playground project. The brunch was sponsored by JC's Cakes & Catering.



Market at the Museum, July 6 to September 28: Markets were held 9:30 am to Noon on Saturday mornings. An average of six vendors and 160 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. Due to pleasant fall weather, "Pop-up" Markets were held September 21 & 28 for vendors wishing to participate. The museum and gallery remained open during the regular Markets.



Boomtown Days:
The GCHCC hosted a Street Bingo on Thursday, July 18 and the Boomtown Market on Saturday, July 20. The Street Bingo and 50/50 raffle were held on Centre Street and the front lawn, with numbers broadcast by loudspeaker and FM radio to about 250 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 hundreds of people visited the Market & Museum.



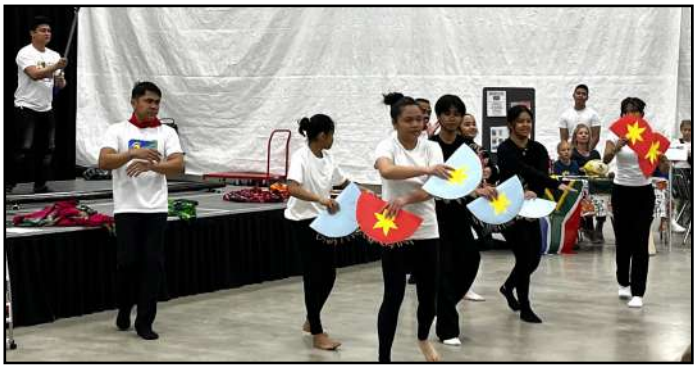
Boomtown Christmas: The GCHCC was the scene of several events during Shaunavon's Boomtown Christmas on Saturday, December 7. The Gallery was open from 1:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon to allow for viewing and shopping at the Winter Artist Exhibition.

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.

The Shaunavon Public School and Stayin' Alive choirs performed Christmas songs on the front lawn at 6:45 p.m.



EVENTS *Continued*



Festival photos courtesy of The Shaunavon Standard

Culture Days, September 20 to October 13:
The showcase event for Culture Days in Shaunavon was **Shaunavon's Multicultural Festival**, held on Saturday, September 22 from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. at the Crescent Point Wickenheiser Centre Curling Rink. Approximately 250 people attended to explore and learn about the vibrant and multicultural community in Shaunavon and area through free hands-on activities including:



Cultural Entertainment & Displays: Wilbur Sargunaraj, Cultural Intelligence Facilitator was in attendance with his *Exploring CQ* exhibition and book launch. His one-on-one interactions and stage presentation provided the opportunity for people to learn about cultural intelligence. The local Filipino community performed beautiful traditional dances. Several community members loaned items from their culture to display at the event.

Cultural Activities: The Shaunavon Library's story circle offered stories, bingo, and children's activities. A Henna Tattoo artist created designs for people interested in getting tattooed. Cultural games Sungka, Parques, and Cricket were taught to those interested in playing. Pinata decorating, Metis dot painting, and an I Spy game rounded out the hands -on activities.

Ethnic Food & Beverage Samples: Low-cost tickets were sold for samples of traditional dishes prepared by local restaurants Shaunavon Pizza, Conway's Restaurant, and Ranch House Meat Co. The instructor and students from the Great Plains College ESL class, Gladys Escabillas, the Groenewald and Hutten families also prepared and served foods and/or beverages from their cultures.



Other activities that took place during Culture Days were a **Community Sing-Along** featuring songs from different countries, **Coffee Chat** with an Arts & Crafts theme and the **OSAC Gallery exhibition** "*Muveddet Al-Katib: East and West: The Bridging of Cultures and Art".*

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (September 30): Several events were planned to commemorate this day, including the opening reception for the Gallery exhibition "*Bi-Giwen: Coming Home, Truth Telling from the Sixties Scoop*" (on loan from the Legacy of Hope Foundation) from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., and a Tipi Raising with Knowledge Keeper Dale Mosquito and his assistants from Nekaneet First Nation from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the curling rink. Other activities at the tipi raising event were a round dance, a story walk featuring a children's book about the importance of the tipi, Indigenous games, samples of Bannock and berries, and a display of beading and leatherwork.



These events were made possible through funding from SaskCulture Culture Days Hub Sponsorship; SaskLotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture & Recreation; Sask. Library Association; Shaunavon Library; Western Financial Group; Museums Association of Saskatchewan; and Affinity Financial Strategies, Terry Shields.

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS:

Automatic Door Opener: An automatic door opener was installed at the facility entrance, significantly improving accessibility. This enhancement supports greater independence for individuals with mobility challenges and ensures a more welcoming, inclusive environment for all visitors.

Flag Pole Upgrade: The flagpoles on the front lawn were modified in 2024 to allow flags to be raised and lowered more easily, and were freshly painted to enhance their appearance. These improvements were generously funded by Brenda Waldron. Thank you, Brenda!

Stained Glass Art: A beautiful framed stained glass art piece was donated by former Shaunavon residents Annabelle Black and Margaret Springett. It is now proudly displayed in the front entrance window transom, adding color and character to the facility.









GRAND COTEAU HERITAGE CULTURE CENTRE INC.
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024

ASSETS	**2024**	**2023**
Cash in Bank:		
Credit Union - General A/C	$ 36,487.86	$ 25,901.14
Credit Union - Flex Term	$ 53,767.53	$ 52,201.49
Credit Union - GIC	$ 78,043.75	$ 51,250.00
Petty Cash	300.00	-85.00
	$ 168,599.14	$ 129,267.63
Accrued Interest Receivable	$ 1,263.04	$ 728.50
Pioneer Co-op Equity	$ 605.13	$ 517.84
GST Receivable	$ 946.06	$ 694.55
Total Current Assets	$ 171,413.37	$ 131,208.52
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	$ 328.42	$ 1,395.83
GST Payable	$ 537.21	$ 705.10
PST Payable	-83.42	-316.57
Total Liabilities	$ 782.21	$ 1,784.36
EQUITY		
Reserve - Musical Playground	$ 48,599.27	$ 2,998.99
Prior Surplus	$ 116,234.41	$ 119,978.26
2025 Surplus	$ 5,797.48	$ 6,446.91
Total Equity	$ 170,631.16	$ 129,424.16
Total Liabilities & Equity	$ 171,413.37	$ 131,208.52

Approved by the Board of Directors

President

Board Member

GRAND COTEAU HERITAGE CULTURE CENTRE INC.
STATMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS
YEAR ENDING DECEMBERE 31, 2024

INCOME		**2024**	**2023**
Grants:			
	Sask Lotteries Trust Fund	$ 30,000.00	$ 27,500.00
	Sask Culture (Culture Days)	$ 2,500.00	$ 4,000.00
	Sask Lotteries (Community Grant0	$ 1,777.38	$ 1,474.35
	CIF Summer Grant	$ 6,000.00	$ 5,000.00
	CIF Me Time	$ 2,848.82	$ -
	Young Canada Works	$ 12,200.00	$ 11,052.18
	OSAC Grant	$ 3,062.50	$ 1,750.00
	Artvest Grant	$ 1,962.25	$ 2,250.00
	SCAA - Archives Grant	$ 3,143.62	$ 1,660.45
	MAS Micro Grant	$ 2,000.00	$ -
	Other Grants	$ -	$ -
	Musical Playground Grant - CU	$ 5,000.00	$ -
	Town of Shaunavon Grant	$ 12,000.00	$ 12,000.00
	Total	$ 82,494.57	$ 66,686.98
Dividend (Co-op)		$ 119.28	$ 30.18
Donations		$ 1,629.48	$ 5,143.98
Event Income		$ -	$ 300.00
Me-Time Registration		$ 1,450.00	$ -
Fundraising		$ 1,631.99	$ 3,476.45
Sponsors		$ 3,900.00	$ 3,867.00
Merchandise		$ 3,303.96	$ 2,376.09
Program Fees		$ 5,469.89	$ 5,721.14
Room Rent		$ 1,684.14	$ 2,267.55
Interst Income		$ 3,894.33	$ 3,521.90
Art Show Sales		$ 3,050.00	$ 2,126.00
Fundraising - Future Projects		$ -	$ 4,572.25
Art Camp		$ 12,371.00	$ 7,087.08
Misc. -Tableclothes, Sundry		$ 917.89	$ 150.00
TOTAL INCOME		$ 121,916.53	$ 107,326.60

GRAND COTEAU HERITAGE CULTURE CENTRE INC.
STATMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS
YEAR ENDING DECEMBERE 31, 2024

EXPENSES

	2024	2023
Administration (Office Supplies, Telephone)	$ 4,727.39	$ 6,113.48
Advertiing	$ 3,492.49	$ 4,048.13
Board Expenses	$ 323.19	$ 344.65
Building Maintenance	$ 256.55	$ 559.07
Capital Purchases (Shed)	$ 3,959.33	$ -
Collections	$ 920.24	$ 1,170.87
Equipment purchases	$ -	$ 1,042.65
Exhibits - Museum	$ 3,371.46	$ 444.12
Exhibitions - Gallery	$ 3,536.38	$ 4,483.06
Fundraising	$ 898.61	$ 2,342.19
Merchandise	$ 5,040.41	$ 1,292.76
Programming	$ 10,724.98	$ 15,031.53
Programming - Art Camp	$ 17,613.27	$ 10,359.34
Program Coordinator/Benefits	$ 39,418.78	$ 37,596.26
Professional Development/Travel	$ 153.74	$ 605.85
Art Show	$ 3,063.00	$ 2,126.00
Me-Time Registration	$ 4,735.09	$ -
Town of Shaunavon (Room Rent, Grants)	$ 13,884.14	$ 13,319.73
	$ 116,119.05	$ 100,879.69
Net Profit/Deficit	$ 5,797.48	$ 6,446.91

GRAND COTEAU HERITAGE CULTURE CENTRE INC.
TOWN OF SHAUNAVON DISBURSEMENTS
YEAR ENDING DECEMBERE 31, 2024

	2024	2023
RECEIPTS:		
Town of Shaunavon	$ 176,523.65	$ 155,297.98
Total Receipts		
EXPENSES:		
Salaries (Director, Curator Assistants0	$ 122,568.43	$ 113,436.33
Benefits	$ 27,797.08	$ 19,704.83
Utilities (Power, Water, Sewer, Gas)	$ 12,353.60	$ 11,543.36
Insurance	$ 3,955.40	$ 3,955.40
Building Maintenance	$ 9,349.14	$ 5,158.06
Board Per Diem	$ 500.00	$ 1,500.00
Total Expenses	$ 176,523.65	$ 155,297.98

Alan Ruetz

Box 631

Shaunavon, Sk.

S0N 2M0

Board of Directors

Grand Coteau Heritage & Culture Centre INC.

Box 966

Shaunavon, Sk.

S0N 2M0

Dear Sirs:

Re: Report to the Board of Directors – Year Ending December 31, 2024

I am pleased to submit my report for discussion of my review of the financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2024.

I have prepared the Statement of Profit and Loss, the Balance Sheet, Town of Shaunavon Disbursements 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 & Culture Centre Inc.

Dated at Shaunavon, in the Province of Saskatchewan, this 28 day of March, 2025.

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.

FUNDED BY
SASK LOTTERIES

In partnership with
SaskCulture

WHERE THE WEST IS STILL WILD
SHAUNAVON
Saskatchewan

Funded by the Government of Canada | Canada

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