



NORTH Central Community Association

Annual General Report 2008

All People ===== Respect ===== Caring ===== Pride

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Mission

Working together with the community of North Central to enhance the quality of life by representing, promoting, developing partnerships and unifying our community and its image through effective communication, programs and services.

2020 Vision

Regina North Central is a safe, healthy and caring community and a source of pride for the area's residents.

Values

All People, Respect, Caring, Pride.

History of NCCA

North Central Community Society was incorporated under the Societies Act on August 20, 1976. On June 12, 1981 the act was changed to the Non-Profit Corporation Act, which is the current governing legislation. In keeping with the times the association amended its name from Society to Association In August 18, 2004 to better reflect an all-inclusive organization.

Board of Directors

President: Brenda Mercer
Treasurer: Noreen Drake
Past-President: Tom Wright
Secretary: Jan Morier

Member-at-Large: Pat Klein,
Greg Hamblin, Tamara Harder,
Morris Eagles, Laura Murray,
Bonnie Perreault, Spurgeon Root.

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Message from the President

It has been over a year since our community was declared “Canada’s worst neighbourhood” by Maclean’s Magazine - a full year of challenges and progress for North Central Community Association.

The Maclean’s article never really stated anything that we weren’t already aware of. But it did create an awareness within Regina. Good work had been going on for years before the article and good work continues today. It’s the energy of individuals from all walks of life working together that empower the greater community to move forward in a positive direction.

Some of the highlights of this year include a live recording of CBC Radio’s Morning Edition at the North Central Family Centre. This event was a great get-together for our community and Regina as a whole. I was interviewed and spoke about the Housing Standards Enforcement Team - something I am so very proud of. It’s really a group effort from the grassroots up that is creating positive change within our community and beyond.

NCCA is building new partnerships and will continue to work with existing partners to reach our goals. This will give people the opportunity to participate in different events/programming and build community spirit and pride. The Maclean’s article created quite a bit of dialogue among diverse groups who want to know more about our area. It really is a good thing because if more people came and saw who lives and works in the community they’d see how much we have in common and break down some of the stereotypes of North Central. In the long run, the article had a positive impact because we are now on the map around the world.

Fielding Nair International is the contractor for the North Central shared facility and invited the partners of the project to visit examples of shared facilities in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A highlight of the tour was a visit to the High School for Recording Arts - known as the Hip-hop school by locals. The students have access to studios to produce their own CDs and work as a musician/producer. As parents, educators and communities are concerned about enrollment and graduation, this model of ‘Hip hop high’ gives a strong incentive to youth.

The shared facility is a joint project and was initially discussed two years ago. The new facility will fulfill the functions of the Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region, Regina Police Service, Regina Public School Board, the Albert Li-

brary and the North Central Community Association. Several community consultations have been held to bring all perspectives and opinions from our community and community leaders.

The recent establishment of a community economic development strategy in North Central will go a long way toward rebuilding inner-city neighbourhoods. Being selected to receive a national award for our Community Garden is exciting! The evolution of the Youth Employment Program and the strides made by the Regina Anti-Gang Services are very encouraging for the future health and healing of our citizens.

There is so much positive energy for effective change that we are really moving up. But it doesn’t happen overnight. We are a community in transition. As development continues in our area there are times when we need your input in order to represent you effectively. As a board we are committed to doing whatever we can to make North Central a community we can all be proud of.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Mercer
President
North Central Community Association



Regina has seen its share of news articles about North Central. In the past year the reports have begun to change as people and organizations in North Central begin to talk about their successes and accomplishments, focusing on their strengths and not their weaknesses.

The economy is in a boom, housing prices in the community have doubled or even tripled. There have been more housing starts in the inner city in the past two years than in the last two decades. With this growth your association continues to challenge the status quo and work with the different levels of government, First Nations and community partners to bring comprehensive programs and services to your community.

From the development of a new shared facility surrounding Scott Collegiate to Regina's first Skills and Trades Training Centre, North Central is changing and it is gaining momentum.

As we move forward in the upcoming year, new and exciting opportunities continue to come forward. Our Youth Employment Program will begin to focus more on trades training with the graduates going on to build homes with Habitat for Humanity.

The 2020 vision statement the community developed still continues to be the foundation for moving forward. From recreational programming to community gatherings and festivals, we continue to engage the residents in moving forward on new and old initiatives. Business and Economic Development was the third pillar in the community's action plan.

In an effort to begin to address the needs of the neighbourhood, a series of workshops and meetings hosted by residents and supported by this association were held throughout the community. As a result of these discussions we will see the formation of a new organization, SEED (Supporting Employment and Economic Development) Regina, to help develop jobs and employment skills in the inner city.

SEED Regina will begin to work on a mandate to help bring economic prosperity to the inner city and will be an asset in helping the association to achieve its goals. From small business loans to business plan development and the creation of socially based enterprises, SEED Regina is a dream come true for the inner city.

In closing this community organization is about people, the men and women, the volunteers on the Board and many committees, the staff in the various projects and the hundreds of participants in our programs, who bring a dedication and an unselfish bias in helping this community, taking its rightful place as a dynamic neighbourhood in Saskatchewan's greatest city, Regina.

I love Regina because its heart is in North Central.

Regards
Rob Deglau
Coordinator
North Central Community Association



Our Goals

- Good Physical Environment
- Greater Safety
- Healthy Community/Good Human Services
- Higher Proportion of Home Ownership
- High level of Employment and Business Development
- Extensive Community Participation
- Quality Education
- Ease of Access



Our Objectives

Pillars of Community Development in Regina North Central

1. Housing and Infrastructure - The goals of a good physical environment, ease of access, and a greater proportion of home ownership by North Central residents will be achieved through actions based upon the Housing and Infrastructure pillar.
2. Crime and Safety - Achievement of the goal of greater safety in the community will be achieved through activities based upon this pillar.
3. Business and Economic Development - The goal of achieving high levels of employment and business development within North Central will be reached via activities based upon this pillar.
4. Health and Human Services - The goals of a physically healthy community and the coordinated provision of human services will be met through activities founded upon this pillar.
5. Education - Fulfillment of the goal of quality education for the area's residents will occur through actions based upon this pillar.
6. Community Development - The goal of extensive community participation will be based upon this pillar.

Community Gardens



I am pleased to report on the second annual North Central Community Gardens, planted on May 31, 2008.

Rainbow Youth Centre have adopted a section to grow, maintain and share produce with their families.

The first garden planted and maintained by volunteers and neighbours last spring was a partnership with Grow Regina, with major support from the City of Regina. It was an accomplishment in building relationships and supplying healthy food to our neighbours around the 13-block Rae Street. With more lead time this year we increased the community gardens from one to four. Fundraising events and sponsors assisted us with this goal.

The Retallack Garden invites the neighbours to meet one another as they 'putter' in the dirt. As with all of the plots, volunteers from other parts of Regina will come out to work side by side with residents, sharing their knowledge of gardening.

The Garnet Street plot will thrive under the care of the Community Youth Mentorship Program as adults and at-risk youth enjoy this therapeutic pastime.



The four plots, located on the 13-block of Rae, Retallack, Robinson & Garnet Streets were welcomed by neighbours with promises of food for body and soul. We have already earned their investment in the gardens as they water, weed and keep an eye on things.

On May 31st, volunteers paused in their labour as the earth in the four gardens were blessed and smudged by Elder Helen Kay from Kawacatoose First Nations. In a dignified walk around the grounds neighbours joined the honoured procession in respect and pride. This is a sign of healthy growth.

On Rae Street once again the garden welcomes seniors from Lovering Place to wander over and help where they can. This plot was the 'original' North Central Community Garden and it received a national award and funding from Recreating Eden and Vision TV, which will be presented later this summer.

The philosophy of the North Central Community Gardens is "Help Yourself". Our goals are food security, education, crime prevention, and beautification. We hope members of the community will realize that planting a vegetable patch in their own back yards is a good idea. Our sincere thanks for your belief in the Gardens. We hope you come out to see them flourish.

On Robinson Street, children from Albert Community School are proud to have a plot of their own. With help from a cooking teacher, kids planted the seeds and will nurture the vegetables all summer. Come harvest, they will be shown how to prepare the healthy food in our community kitchen. In that same plot, teens from

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Morier, Laura Murray - Co-chairs
North Central Community Gardens



Go Green

What is Go Green?

North Central Community Association, the City of Regina and the Saskatchewan Roughriders have long recognized that there were many issues to contend with every time the Riders played at home and yet the community did not see many benefits from having the stadium in their neighbourhood. When the Riders decided to begin selling cans of beer, as well as bottled pop, to minimize the garbage created at the games, a progressive and advantageous program developed. The increase of recyclable containers produced at games was used to benefit community members of North Central.

The Saskatchewan Roughriders provide the NCCA program, Go Green, with 30 game day tickets for each home game as well as t-shirts and bottled water to community members who agree to pickup recyclables after the game. All the profits from the collected recyclables are reinvested into the community. Each worker is paid up to \$60 cash at the end of their night of cleaning the stadium and the surplus is used in a graffiti removal and prevention program in the neighbourhood surrounding the Mosaic Stadium grounds.

This year to date:

There have been two orientation sessions and one pre-season game on June 13th so far this year. Participants were eager to be involved and the cleanup was very successful despite the midnight downpour. Over \$1600.00 was paid out directly to community members at the end of the night. This program has immediate results and benefits within the North Central Community.

On Saturday June 14th and Sunday June 15th, local graffiti artist Josh Goff was commissioned to work with North Central youth to paint a mural on the north side of 3014 Dewdney Avenue (previously Youth Unlimited across from 7-Eleven). The building is in the process of being converted into an automotive garage. The painting of the mural was a success; it engaged youth and encouraged creativity and an interest in developing artistic technique. The youth are very excited to be involved in the next mural project and improving the look of their community.



Regina Anti Gang Services

*We wanted to be respected
Wanted so bad to be accepted
Our colours your damn rites we rep't it
It was the only thing we had
Our home life not so good often bad
Who's goin ta teach us?
Who are we going to trust?
Who's goin ta be at court when the
G - Unit does a bust?
We're all confused
So hard to choose
We've lost a lot
Still so much to lose
-kd07*

It is no secret that Regina has a youth gang problem. The secret is that we have had this problem in our community for a while.

Over the last ten years, North Central Community Association has worked very hard at bringing together a community that is torn apart repeatedly by poverty and racism.

Deemed as the “urban reserve” by some, as “moccasin flats” by others, and to those who reside within the inner 30 blocks of its epicenter, “the hood”, North Central has been a hotbed for crime, and lately, the nations hotbed for crime, poverty and murder. RAGS proposal, national crime prevention center, 2007 Regina Anti Gang

Services (RAGS) became an official program in October of 2007. Funded for 4 years by the National Crime Prevention Center, Youth Gang Prevention Fund, RAGS runs 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Offering a model that has been researched both in Canada and the USA, RAGS employs a harm reduction model, a strengths based philosophy, and provides cultural and faith based support to clients. All practices are evidence based, adhering to the guidelines of quality programs in other countries, while at the same time breaking new ground in innovative approaches to helping

youth 12 to 30 dis-engage in gang lifestyles. RAGS offers intensive counselling, Life Skills, Gender specific programming, specific targeted outreach, community support and exiting.

RAGS works hard at being under the radar, for the safety of both clients and staff.

RAGS outreach staff can be reached on their cell phones:

Jacqui 537 2913
Lance 540 3263
Tristan 540 5391
Daphne 540 3273
Preston 540 3293
James 541 3933



Youth Employment Program 2007-2008



The mission of this program is to remove barriers for inner city youth, by providing a supportive and nurturing environment for them to grow as people, to provide valuable work experience and training, and to assist the youth to realize and seek their capacity to improve their employment opportunities and their lives.

Our program is a 10-month program and we had 22 youth enter YEP. The participants had a variety of barriers that needed to be overcome while they were here; one of the major ones was the Common Experience Payment that they received. Our participants were at various stages of employment

**"I felt helpful to my community and when kids saw me doing the work I was a role model to them in a positive way. I liked that."
--YEP PARTICIPANT**

readiness when they entered the program. Through the life skills training and other employment training the partici-

pants were able to set goals for themselves for their future careers. We had one youth who was accepted into the Treaty Four Police Academy Program.

**"I wanted to get off welfare and give my children a better life than what I had growing up."
--YEP PARTICIPANT**

We have participants who were offered full time employment at their work placement and some who have decided to return to continue and complete their education.

The program is undergoing growth and we are making positive changes to better assist our participants and community in their career choices and life choices. We are very excited about this change and look forward to a successful positive year ahead.

**"We need to spend time on the whole individual and address things like addictions and family situations in order for them to be work ready."
--YEP STAFF MEMBER**

Other Programs

Community Clean up Program - has been one of the most visible of all the programs, volunteers clean up over 15 tons of alley garbage twice a year.

Health Nurse – Services to seniors and shut ins.

Care & Share – A committee supported by NCCA for a seniors weekly lunch and social.

Seniors Walking Club – (partnership with City) Open recreation centre for a seniors walking club on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays.

Family Fun Day – (partnership with City of Regina, Scott Collegiate, Regina Police Service) A Christmas celebration, allowing the entire the community to participate in fun and games.

Fall Fest – (Partnership with the City of Regina) Fall Community Festival, talent show, pie baking contest, etc.

Food Bank Referral Agency – (partnership) Handles a large client list for Food Bank referrals.

Good Food Box – (partnership) Delivery agent for bimonthly Good Food Box program.

CVITP – Community Volunteer Income Tax Program – Organize volunteers and resources to host the largest free walk-in tax clinic in the city. Runs the month of March and April.

Community Connection – Publish community newspaper every two month, thereby providing information of services to those who are marginalized.

Together Now Interagency Forum – Chaired by the City of Regina Community

Liaison, the NCCA hosts a quarterly forum for NGOs, CBOs, government departments and programs that are working in North Central. The association works to ensure that all organizations are networked and aware of each others programming.

HAN (Hire a Neighbour) Program – As a follow up to a Social Enterprise study, the community adopted a program for residents that are in need of work to consider hiring locally by employing someone from the neighbourhood. The association works as a broker to match the need to a person that has the talent requested. From yard work to light housekeeping the association will broker any service.

HSET (Housing Standards Enforcement Team) – Developed by the RICCP as a response to slum housing the team is made up of Police, Fire, Health, Bylaw and NCCA board member to inspect slum housing in Regina.

Go Green – A partnership with the City of Regina and Saskatchewan Roughriders that would see the community association hired to clean up all recyclables in Mosaic Stadium after all football games. Priority is to hire community people, allow them free tickets to the game and any profits go back to the immediate area for beautification and graffiti removal.

National Aboriginal Day Celebration

Bicycle License Program



Hire a Neighbour



Go Green 2007



Fall Fest 2007



HSET Meeting

Governance

The North Central Community Association is well entrenched in the community and has effectively integrated and partnered with key delivery agencies throughout the city. The association has over the last few years began to develop a series of sub-committees and task groups as a means to bring expertise and technical resources to this volunteer board. The association is seen as the leader in the field of community development and is considered the key partner to the various levels of government and their perspective departments. The NCCA has positioned itself to be a key spokesperson for the community and has earned numerous seats on multiple intergovernmental committees as a means to bring a community perspective to the business of community development.

Committees

Board of Directors - 12 Board members are elected on a staggered 2 year term, each year 6 members are elected. All board meetings are open to the general public.

Executive Committee - Meet a week prior to the Board Meeting to discuss issues of concern and develop the public agenda.

Audit Committee - Volunteers and CMA technical advisors work at developing transparent policies in dealing with the corporation's financial affairs.

Marketing and Communications Committee - It brings together board members, volunteers and technical advisors with a background in media to help the organization with its communication plan, newspaper, and website.

Recreation and Programs Committee - Develop new projects for a much needed arts and recreation programs. With the recent Maclean's article, the volume of potential partnerships has increased and a committee was struck to handle the partnerships.

Community Research Unit - It will provide independent, participatory research support in response to needs expressed by community-based organizations with a view toward building capacity and enhancing our communities' quality of life."

Trades Skills Steering Committee - The committee is developing the framework for an integrated training facility for trades

North Central Shared Facility Committee - The government of Saskatchewan announced that it would provide funding for a new facility in North Central.

RICCP (Regina Inner City Community Partnership) Steering Committee - work with the community in achieving the community's vision as outlined in the Report on the Community Vision and Action Plan.

RICCP Housing Committee - work on housing related issues in the inner city and focus specifically on the

first community pillar "housing and infrastructure."

RICCP Housing Education Sub Committee - The committee deals with educating the general public, homeowners, landlords and tenants of housing issues and programs.

RICCP Crime and Safety Committee - the committee brings together all agencies and organizations that have a vested interest in crime and crime prevention

RICCP Employment Strategy - The committee brings together all agencies and organizations that have a vested interest in crime and crime prevention .

Community Clean up Committee - Chaired by a board member, volunteers and support staff plan for the bi-annual community clean up.

Fall Fest Committee - it brings together volunteers from in and outside the area to plan a community fall festival.

Economic and Development Committee

Letters to the President

Hi Brenda,

Hope these comments can be of some use to you.

“In my opinion North Central Community Association continues to lead the way in pursuing creative options for positive change in North Central Regina. The commitment to listen to the concerns and ideas of the citizens of North Central ensures that citizens have a space in which to contribute to the change they desire in their community. Most recently their efforts in developing and initiating delivery of Regina Anti-Gang Services demonstrated their commitment to responding to issues that concern the citizen of North Central Regina and of the entire city. The Association demonstrated significant leadership in being among the first partners to contribute to the development of the Winter Sweat Lodge that was built in our community this past January. North Central Community Association is strengthened by the courage to take risks in pursuit of change and improvement and this in turn strengthens the resolve of citizens in the neighbourhood to make a difference.”

Jeff Christiansen

Coordinator-Regina Regional Intersectoral Committee

I first became involved with the NCCA in about March of 2007, as a new resident of North Central. I attended as a guest observer with my 3 year old daughter at a Board Meeting to become familiar with the NCCA organization and it's Board.

I was mostly kept up to date with announcements and invitations to the activities and involvements of the Association, and attended and volunteered at some meetings and presentations hosted by NCCA, which I found very beneficial for the community.

I also became involved with NCCA as a Ministry of Social Services staff in my new position as Community Development Worker for the SW Region. In this role, I was actively involved as an in-kind liaison and consultant from the Ministry for the Inner City Youth Employment Program. It was an amazing learning experience for me, as I had the opportunity to work with great staff and program participants to assist in the success of this wonderful and innovative program.

I am very fortunate to be both a member living in the North Central community, and be able to work in the neighbourhood as well in both of my paid jobs. It has and continues to be a very good experience which allows me to be better connected to what is happening where I live and work, as well as providing several opportunities to get actively involved.

Sincerely,

Ben Webster

Hi Brenda - sorry its probably too late but the work you are doing on the Community Garden is very positive for the community. It can lead to greater community awareness and pride as well as creating ownership over the future of North Central. Congratulations to North Central Community Association and Grow Regina for making it happen.

Susan Birley

Senior Policy Analyst

Policy and Operations

Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis Relations



Hi Brenda, thanks for the opportunity to share my thoughts. I think that the North Central Community Association has done an awesome job over the past year. Here are a few things I would highlight:

The community garden on 1345 Rae including the comments made by residents, such as the seniors; the community gardening award; and the recent steak night.

The RAGS project and the leadership of NCCA have shown in dealing with gangs.

Janice Solomon

Senior Social Development Consultant

City of Regina

Letters to the President Con't

For approximately three quarters of my twenty-six-and-a-half year career with the Regina Police Service, I was assigned to work in North Central. I worked in areas of General Patrol, Crime Prevention and Community Center. My greatest joy was the three years I spent as Community liaison for the inter city which North Central is a part of.

Policing gives a person a different view of the community that is not afforded to other professions. Policing gave me a chance to see families in the trouble times and the happy times. I was able to watch kids grow and mature. Through out my career I have seen a number of changes in the community not only the physical community but the human community.

One of the duties I held as community liaison was to attend North Central's Board meetings. There were many times when only a hand full of dedicated residents attended. They would go over the some things; there was no will in the city or the community to change. Today if you are not on time there is no place to sit. The meetings are lengthy and the areas being covered are Youth Employment, Housing, Land lord licensing, A first of it kind school for Scott Collegiate, Round dances and Gang Intervention and on it goes.

In the community there are neighbors helping neighbors, there is the sound of community renewal, new houses, new dreams and a new positive outlook for the Community of North Central.

I was asked at a meeting with a number of stake holders, "How do you see North Central?"

"I see North Central as a diamond in the ruff. With a little bit of polishing it will be the brightest gem in the City of Regina's Crown. I see the youth as leaders, scholars, artists with no limitation to their potential to achieve their dreams. Their enthusiasm to succeed will be their fuel to drive change in the years to come. I see the seniors and elders as spiritual leaders expounding the knowledge of the past to shape the future. I see the community as multi cultural, with rich contributions from all parts of the world making North Central unique ----- -- one of a kind----- like a diamond."

Ray Van Dusen

Its been a great year for North Central Community Association and the community of North Central. Programs and activities have expanded for Youth Employment, the Gang Strategy, Housing, Hire a Neighbour and the list goes on. Programs that have had a high level of community engagement like the Fall Fest, Community Gardens and Go Green Recycling that together have engaged over 500 residents and many agencies. Businesses and partners highlight how much voluntarism has grown with in the community and the increased capacity of the Board. Congratulations and have a great year.

Mark Sylvestre
Community Consultant
City Regina

