



ANNUAL REPORT 2019





The Heritage Agricultural Society operates as the Multicultural Heritage Centre offering a dynamic range of programs and services to the communities in the region and beyond.

YEAR FORTY FIVE

The Heritage Agricultural Society is an Alberta Agricultural Society and a charitable organization (registered with the Canada Revenue Agency). Every dollar raised or earned by the Multicultural Heritage Centre goes back to improving the year-round community facilities, and provide ongoing programs, events and cultural opportunities serving all ages.

This report's purpose is to memorialize and celebrate our success over 12 months, from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

Year forty five has been a time of strengthening the areas of success and to evaluate and work with the needs of the community. We welcomed new staff and new Board members and have been building partnerships that will have a lasting and positive impact for our organization.

2019 ACCOUNT OF ACTIVITY & PARTICIPATION

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|--|--------------|
| July 2018 | Participants | April 2019 | Participants |
| Children's Camp (3) | 20 | Art Gallery Opening: Ammolite Alberta | 32 |
| Mystical Fair | 278 | Children's Camp: PD Day | 12 |
| August 2018 | | Event: Easter Egg Hunt | 500 |
| Art Gallery Opening: Ekphratic Part 2 | 38 | Event: Spring Vendor Fair | 70 |
| Garden Workshop (2) | 20 | RBAC Activities | 12 |
| September 2018 | | May 2019 | |
| City Slickers | 1,014 | Children's Camp: PD Day | 11 |
| Art Gallery Opening: Wild Inside | 33 | Art Workshop (4) | 38 |
| Art Workshop | 5 | RBAC Activities | 22 |
| October 2018 | | June 2019 | |
| Ghost Tours (8) | 98 | Art Gallery Opening: Parkland Collection | 23 |
| Children's Camp: PD Day | 6 | Event: Knit in Public Fair | 49 |
| Art Workshop | 13 | Event: Pride at the Centre | 195 |
| Garden Workshop | 8 | RBAC Activities | 19 |
| November 2018 | | Through the Year | |
| Children's Camp: PD Day (2) | 27 | Organic Master Gardener Program | 676 |
| Art Workshop | 5 | Organic Master Gardener Work Bees | 448 |
| December 2018 | | School Programs | 1,548 |
| Event: Holiday Happenings | 175 | Zap! Electrical Safety | 4,589 |
| Children's Camp | 10 | Community Gardeners | 98 |
| January 2019 | | Board Meetings | 132 |
| OMG Information Night (2) | 34 | Bingos | 1,200+ |
| Art Gallery Opening: A Woman Walking | 26 | Mural Tours | 180 |
| February 2019 | | Operational Meetings | 30 |
| Children's Camp: PD Day (2) | 20 | Archives: Community Inquiries | 22 |
| Art Workshop: (4) | 36 | Museum Inquiries | 45 |
| Art Gallery Opening: HerWORK 2019 | 25 | Volunteer Committee Meetings | 65 |
| March 2019 | | PERC Facility Users | 16,800+ |
| Children's Camp: PD Day | 7 | Multicultural Centre Guests | 8,800 |
| Art Workshop (4) | 35 | Volunteer Activity for 2019 | |
| Garden Workshop: Mason Jar Herb | 8 | Through various roles and departments we can report | |
| Children's Camp: Spring Break | 101 | that volunteers for the Multicultural Heritage Centre have | |
| Event: Seedy Saturday | 270 | contributed over 900+ hours. | |



MANAGING DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

We have been spending a great deal of time working on the future of the Multicultural Centre, to ensure that it will be there to serve our community in the long term. During these financially difficult times, we have successfully down-sized and we have thrived under our new business model that moves us away from an overdependence on grant revenue into a donor and membership-based model with an emphasis on partnerships. This us now starting to bear fruit with our partnerships with The Town of Stony Plain, Elections Alberta, Elections Canada, Parkland Poets, FCSS, Kiwi Nurseries and with private donors.

This year we had an embarrassment of riches with funding for students. The training involved was substantial and the summer was exhausting for staff but we accomplished much. Key accomplishments include: a cleanup of our filing and storage systems, we began entering our artifacts into an electronic system, a successful CSA and further progress on the Opp house

revitalization. Staff also spent time working with Alberta Museum Association to renew our accreditation. Programs like Electrical Safety, OMG, school camps /programs and our art classes continue to shine as successful programs which service community needs. Events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Old fashioned Christmas and Valentines' Tea continue to be well attended and bring lots of good will and tons of foot traffic to the site. A big thank you to all the staff, students and volunteers who make it all possible.

I would also like to thank the Board for their service. I trust you are as energized as I as you envision the future for the Centre in 2019-2020. Wow 2020 it should be epic! For those of you who have tirelessly committed time and energy to the success of this organization, I thank you. For any of you who are new, I welcome you and I look forward to working with all of you in the future.

Melissa Hartley

MISSION

The Heritage Agricultural Society will engage local residents, businesses, governments, community organizations and visitors as we record, promote and celebrate the agricultural heritage, cultural roots and historic values of the region. We will develop and deliver creative and innovative programs and services. These programs and services will provide quality experiences focused on our areas of excellence for our residents and visitors and will provide private, public and philanthropic partnership opportunities.

VISION

The region we serve celebrates our agricultural heritage and our rural values. The arts, culture, sound agricultural practices and strong economic opportunities play pivotal roles in building our future.

The Heritage Agricultural Society is the recognized leader in the region in recording, preserving and celebrating the agricultural heritage and rural values of our region. We engage our residents and visitors in the arts, culture and sound agricultural practices. We are recognized for the excellence of our programs and services.

MANDATE

Model

To be recognized as an Agricultural Society where creative and courageous thinkers and leaders establish an innovative model designed to celebrate agriculture, art, culture, heritage and community, through strategic partnerships and provision of private sector opportunity.

Leadership Role

To be the “go to” organization that promotes and celebrates the agricultural heritage, cultural roots and historic values of the region; that educates the community in sustainable agricultural/horticultural practices; and that succeeds through innovation and partnerships.

Organizational Role

To be recognized for our strong governance, partnerships, management and dynamic programs and services. We are focused on promoting the importance of agriculture, culture and heritage in the region.

Sustainability

Create and sustain private, philanthropic and public partnerships and revenue streams that ensure a premier experience in participation, education and organizational support with a strong financial bases.



COMMITMENT TO CULTURE

Public Art Gallery

The public art gallery provides visitors with a chance to explore art and culture through the eyes of local and internationally recognized artists. Each show extracts unique reactions, perspectives and is integral to drawing traffic to the Multicultural Heritage Centre.

In 2019, seven unique art exhibitions were held in the Multicultural Heritage Centre Public Art Gallery. The exhibits included fibre art, sculpture, paintings, photography, and drawings. Curated exhibits included the works of the following artists and groups:

Ekphrastic Part 2 The Fibre Art Network
Wild Inside
Sam Knopp
TREX: A Woman Walking
HerWORK 2019
Brienne Craner
Parkland County Collection

Red Brick Arts Connection

In an effort to provide more opportunities to the artists in the area, the Multicultural Heritage Centre launched the Red Brick Arts Connection. This program is a connection point for visual artists, poets, musicians, writers, sculptors, photographers, and performers. We provide programming support and collaboration opportunities to help keep this creative culture strong in the area.



HISTORY IN ACTION

Oppertshauser House Museum

The Oppertshauser House was built in 1910 by Henry Oppertshauser Sr. a local Stony Plain businessman and civic leader. This prominent family owned three local businesses that helped root a community here. The Oppertshauser House is a municipal historic resource, which interprets and focuses on the urban aspect of our local heritage in the setting of a well-established pioneer Stony Plain family.

Mural Tours

The Multicultural Heritage Centre hosts bus and walking tours, as well as horse and wagon tours through a partnership with the Town of Stony Plain. Our Mural tours are popular with seniors groups, residents, tourists, conferences, school field trips, and reunions.

Library and Archives

The Archives is a very busy place as we are always expanding our collection photos, documents, maps, audio recordings and newspaper clippings. We are also building a database application for our collection, to make it much faster and easier for people to find information.

During the last reporting period, we've had over a dozen visitors and phone calls, as well as half a dozen emails from people in the community. Most people are looking for copies of old photographs, or they need us to do research, or they are doing their own research and need additional resources.

REM Kits

The Multicultural Heritage Centre's award-winning Multi-Heritage Kit (REM) Program, continues to be offered. The subscription program allows 12 kits per year to be shipped out or picked up.

We hope to re-shape this program in the near future and offer improved resources to subscribers.



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Organic Master Gardener

In 2019, the Organic Master Gardening program is in its 12th year of certifying students in organic growing. The Multicultural Heritage Centre welcomed 26 students into this year of programming. The Organic Master Gardener Course requires participation in 75 instructional hours. These instructional hours are made up of 26 classes between February and October of each year. Students must complete all hours of educational course works well as 50 volunteer hours, for certification.

The Heritage Agricultural Society designed and offers the Organic Master Gardener program in partnership with Gaia College.

Community Garden

Promoting local, organically grown food; healthy and active lifestyles; and safer, more vibrant and connected communities. Community gardens provide many benefits to residents including: recreation for all ages, beautification of neighbourhoods, healthy food production, community building, and as a place to share gardening knowledge and experience. Our 64 organic community beds included several beds for our local food bank.

Community Supported Agriculture

The Multicultural Heritage Centre is launched their first community supported agriculture program, Red Brick Farms. Community members were invited to purchase one of 30 available shares of organically grown produce grown on our grounds. The program also produced preserves like fruit and berry jams, and pickled vegetables.

School Programs

Providing curriculum based education programs to our local schools, we offer a variety of dynamic programming for elementary levels that encourage students to pursue a deeper understanding of the people, places and events that have shaped pioneer life in Alberta.

Through traditions, costumes, activities, agriculture, food, exhibits, artifacts and art, students get an immersive experience of what it was like living as a pioneer.

1548
Children Participated | **400+**
Instructional Hours

Camps

Upon discovering a community need for non-profit out of school activities, the Multicultural Heritage Centre started programming camps for days when schools are closed. We started this effort for Spring Break 2017 and since then it has flourished into PD Day camps, fall break and spring break as well as summer camps. Camps provide a fun day with hands on activities like cooking and crafts.

217
Children Participated

Zap! Electrical Safety

Fortis Alberta has teamed with the Multicultural Heritage Centre School Programs to teach to grades 4, 5, and 6 Farm and electrical safety programs. These programs are special because the teachers come to you!

Zap! The program begins with lessons about the dangers and wonders of electricity. We look at the science of electricity, how it gets to our houses and the impact of electricity on our bodies. Then we go through a series of dangerous “everyday” situations with our state of the art Hazard Board.

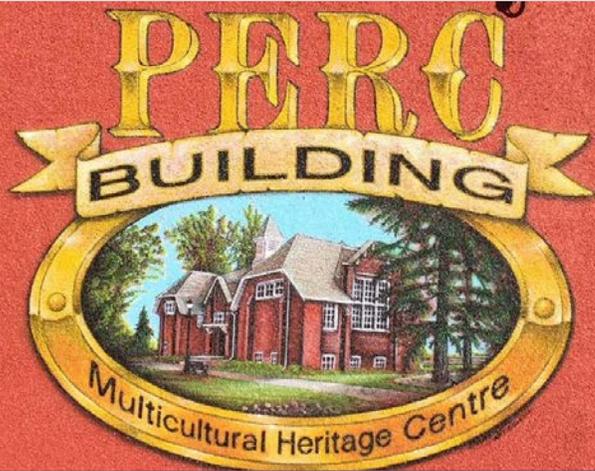
4589
Students Reached | **199**
Classes Taught | **15,935**
Kilometers Travelled | **57**
Communities

City Slickers

City Slickers is a one day school program provided to urban children who experience first hand what it's like to be on a working farm and to see where their food comes from. To listen to commodity groups and commercial businesses involved in processing and producing food, meet and listen to the farmers themselves, and to learn how farmers are stewards of their land, their animals and the environment in producing safe food for us.

Funding for the City Slickers program has become a barrier to it's delivery. Until we can confirm funding, this program will be on hold.

1012
Students Reached | **200**
Vendors | **500+**
Volunteer Hours



PERC Rental Program

This tired old school building has seen better days but it still brings a lot of value to the community by providing low cost spaces for other non-profit organizations as well as families and individuals in the Tri-municipal region.

The gym hosts long term team rentals for community groups like Kyokushin Karate, Meridian Model Flyers, Active Start, UPCS, and annually serves as a dry-land practice space for various hockey and ringette teams. In addition to it's consistent community partners, the remaining gym times provide an affordable rental space to the community for birthday parties, staff Christmas parties, bridal showers, conferences, craft sales, and local community events like Seedy Saturday and the Pioneer Valentine's Tea.

The funds raised from July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019, from the low cost rentals played a vital role in our daily operations.

1400+

People served each month

25+

Community Groups

650+

Operational Hours



Molly the Pie Lady

Restaurant

The history of the Homesteaders Kitchen restaurant here at the Multicultural Heritage Centre is as long as the Centre itself. With the last few years, providing quality food enjoyed by the community has been a struggle.

In 2018 we entered a profit-sharing partnership with the then Chef of the Centre. He brought his own style and his own take on comfort food. That relationship and business model struggled with our valuable guests looking elsewhere for the comfort food they loved. Near the end of our 2019 fiscal year it was clear that a new relationship was needed.

We look forward to working with our new partner to bring back high quality home cooked food that our guests will enjoy.

General Store

The General Store now serves as a local artisan market. Quality products are brought in by local artisans who pay a reasonable commission on their sales.



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Multicultural Heritage Centre site, designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1983, is where all of the programs and services offered by the Heritage Agricultural Society happen. A volunteer board of directors is responsible for the governance of the Heritage Agricultural Society.

President, Chair - Debi Mills

Vice President - Greg Hanna

Treasurer - Wendy Woolsey

Treasurer - Candice Coughlan

Secretary - Judy Kesanko

Director - Brittany Overton

Director - Len Switzer

Director - Barb Scully

Director - Joanna Waldie

Director - Harold Pawlechko

Director - Mardy Kulak

Director - Phyllis Kobasiuk



EVENTS AND COMMUNITY

In year forty five, a diverse collection of events were hosted on the grounds of the Multicultural Heritage Centre. The events hosted here are designed to encourage community connections and provide family friendly entertainment.

The hosted events included:

Mystical Fair - 278 guests

Holiday Happenings - 175 guests

Valentine's Tea - 88 guests

Seedy Saturday - 270 guests

Easter Egg Hunt - 570 guests

Fibre in the Park - 49 guests

Pride at the Centre - 195 guests

There were also culinary events, art exhibitions, children's camps, classes and workshops, to encourage connections within the community. We also went out into the community and partnered with FCSS and Stony Plain Youth Centre in engaging with community seniors.

PARTNERS

The Heritage Agricultural Society is grateful for its partners who help the Multicultural Centre maintain its operations and service levels for the community. In 2019, the Centre partnered with many organizations and individuals and we look forward to continuing these relationships in 2020 as we are committed to building, improving and offering year-round access to facilities, programs and opportunities to the communities we all serve.

