

Revitalized.....because once wasn't enough



Posted May 21, 2009

The slogan "because once wasn't enough" seems to be becoming a contagious phrase throughout Kamsack today. A vibe of a let's-get-it-done attitude is being spoken amongst volunteers and residents throughout. This sense of determination had only been a whisper in recent years. Not since the day in 1996, when a group of avid gardeners decided to take on the task of revitalizing the CN Traskside Gardens, had we seen this type of excitement.

The CN gardens are remembered as a glorious site, the pride of the community. These gardens captured many special moments during its years. This glory was only to fall forgotten once the CN reduced its services to Kamsack in the 1950's and we had lost their full time gardener. Throughout the years, the gardens disappeared like the floodwaters down the Assiniboine River.

In 1996, Gloria Hunter, Helen MacFarlane and Ron Larson ignited the Revitalization Committee. This group of dedicated volunteers would not falter and the glory was brought back to the gardens. The community spirit remains prominent in its very name. The name, Traskside Gardens were adopted after a grade four student, Alex Tetoff, submitted his suggestion through a school contest put on by the committee. When the group added the CN Caboose to the gardens, the name was changed to CN Traskside Gardens.

Time has passed and sadly, so has two of our gardening heroes. But their efforts will never be forgotten and their example of personal accomplishment would only lead to greater things.

Further volunteer efforts have led to additional improvements to the downtown core. These improvements included new light standards, brickwork and banners. They welcomed over 1000 people home during the centennial celebrations in 2005.

Because once wasn't enough and the contagiousness of those before them, a group of business persons gathered at Woody's lounge last Thursday to discuss the very possibility for another revitalization project. A downtown revival called Downtown Action Plan.

Twenty seven stakeholders heard a proposal from members of the Kamsack Economic Development Authority. A proposal, identified by their Action Kamsack project in 2006, was passed & supported by Mayor Binkley & council. At the end of the presentation, there were no comments of hesitation, negativity, nor suggestion of eminent defeat. Instead, there was a sense of possibility and suggestion that this time they, too, would not falter. At that moment, every member in attendance declared their commitment of support for the project and so it has begun.





Revitalized.....because once wasn't enough

An executive committee was established consisting of Joe Kozakewich, Tom Campbell, Georgette Fleury, Christie Doyle, Sally Bishop and Cindy Erhardt . This is to be the group, voted in with the confidence of their peers, to lead them to another success..... because once wasn't enough.

The planning process is to be completed by early 2010 so the implementation stage can begin just in time to welcome visitors home for the 2010 Homecoming celebrations. Stay tuned for updates and news at www.kamsack.ca.

Because once wasn't enough.



Downtown Action Plan Executive: (L-R) Joe Kozakewich, Sally Bishop, Cindy Erhardt, Georgette Helmkey, Tom Campbell (chair). Missing from photo: Christie Doyle.