

CITY OF YORKTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
Monday, March 27, 2023 - 5:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
3. **PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - Regular Council Meeting Minutes – March 6, 2023
5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
6. **REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND MATTERS REFERRED**
 - Recreation & Community Services Meeting Minutes – December 22, 2022
7. **HEARING OF PETITIONS, PUBLIC NOTICES AND PRESENTATIONS**
 - Presentation - Director of Legislation and Procedures (City Clerk) - Certificate of Achievement to the Yorkton Film Festival
 - Presentation - Manager of Community, Culture & Heritage - National Volunteer Week April 16-22, 2023
 - Public Hearing – Proposed Bylaw No. 2/2023 Amend Traffic Bylaw No. 18/2016
8. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF PETITIONS, PUBLIC NOTICES AND PRESENTATIONS**
 - Bylaw & Safety Supervisor
 - Proposed Bylaw No. 2/2023 to Amend Traffic Bylaw No. 18/2016 [2nd & 3rd Readings]
9. **CORRESPONDENCE**
 - Yorkton Fire Protective Services Annual Report 2022
10. **BYLAWS**
 - Director of Recreation and Community Services
 - Proposed Bylaw No. 1/2023 Amend Urban Forestry Bylaw [1st Reading and Public Notice Authorization]
11. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**
 - Manager of Community, Culture & Heritage
 - Enabling Accessibility Grant
 - Director of Public Works
 - 2023 Smith Street Improvements – Phase 2 Tender Award
 - City Controller
 - Municipal Gas Tax – 5 Year Capital Plan
12. **GIVING NOTICE OF MOTION**
13. **IN CAMERA SESSION**
 - 1 Other Item
 - 1 Property Item
14. **ADJOURNMENT**

MINUTES

DECEMBER 14, 2022

12:00 P.M.

**MELROSE PLACE
Meeting Room**

Attendees	Chairperson: Delmar Zwirsky, Councillor Ken Chyz, Councillor Randy Goulden, Tonia Vermette, Katie Ecklund, Yuri Forbes-Petrovich, Melinda Sevilla
Regrets	Scott Sharpe, Donna Brothwell, Tamara Hall
Absent	
Staff	Lisa Washington, Julia Schofer
Recording	Ashton Kingdon
Call to order	12:45 pm
Adjourn	1:01 pm

Agenda topics

1. CALL TO ORDER	
2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA	
Motion 22-020	Yuri Forbes-Petrovich That the agenda be approved as presented. CARRIED.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES	
Minutes from the October 19, 2022 meeting of the committee were circulated.	
Motion 22-021	Ken Chyz That the minutes of the October 19, 2022 meeting of the Recreation and Community Services Committee be approved as circulated. CARRIED.
4. BUSINESS ARISING	
Nothing at this time.	
5. NEW BUSINESS	
Nothing at this time.	
6. Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Program	
Nothing at this time.	
7. Committee Member Feedback - Verbal	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application process has improved significantly by Administration keeping it organized by applicable and non- eligible applications. Further, Administration gets all the details of the project to help the members understand the intent of what they are trying to apply for. - Drop Box is working well to have members access all the applications. - Online application process worked well in October once the kinks were worked out. One suggestion was to increase the Project Description character limit. - October meeting date for adjudications is a conflict with Library Week. Administration acknowledges this and will move the date a week earlier. 	
8. Next Meeting	
To be announced in the near year.	

9. Adjournment

Motion 22-022

Yuri Forbes-Petrovich

That the Recreation and Community Services Committee Meeting be adjourned at 1:01 pm. CARRIED.

Delmar Zwirsky

Chairperson, Delmar Zwirsky

Ashton Kingdon

Recording, Shauntel Yarrow

TITLE: Certificate of Achievement – Yorkton Film Festival	DATE OF MEETING: March 27, 2023
CLEARANCES:	REPORT DATE: February 27, 2023 ATTACHMENTS: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nomination Submission 2. Yorkton Film Festival Compilation – 65 Years of Film History from Kathleen Morrell 3. Saskatchewan History Publication (Archives Board) – Excerpt of Volume 62 Number 2 – Fall 2011 – The little engine that could: Nettie Kryski and the Yorkton Film Festival
Written by: Jessica Matsalla - City Clerk <p style="text-align: center;">Jessica Matsalla</p>	
Approved by: Lonnie Kaal - City Manager <p style="text-align: center;">Lonnie Kaal</p>	

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

The Certification of Achievement is developed to provide the Mayor and City Council with a meaningful and enduring way to recognize citizens of extraordinary achievement. Yorkton residents who achieve international, national or provincial excellence in business, education, academics, science and technology, community service, the arts, or sports may be considered for this very special honour. Although the Yorkton Film Festival is not an individual, it has put this city on the map for arts and culture by its claim to be the longest continuous film festival in North America. In 1940, the National Film Board implemented a film distribution network with an aim to bolster the spirit of Canadians during World War II. After the war, the NFB saw funding cuts, and so other solutions were sought. Starting as the ‘Yorkton Film Council’ in 1947, the Festival has an extensive rich history which has been thoroughly captured by historian Kathleen Morrell (Attachment 2). In fact, it had its premier showing at the old City Hall auditorium and an opening address by former Mayor Charles A. Peaker.

The Yorkton Film Festival is also known for awarding the prestigious Gold Sheaf Award (first given in 1958). The history according to the YFF website, is that in 1956, Winnipeg Free Press Film Critic Frank Morris suggested that the festival needed an award to call its own. Recalling his travel from Winnipeg to Yorkton, his suggestion to the film council was based on the golden fields of wheat he drove by. The Golden Sheaf Award remains a “staple of the festival and has truly become the unique and respected image of the festival”.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS/IMPACT

Film festivals encourage interest and investment in cinema: the production of movies as an art or industry. “They are part celebration, part film appreciation, and part commercial exchange, and they have helped raise the profile of Canadian films and filmmakers at home and abroad. They

attract large audiences and the international media. They have helped to shape awareness and film appreciation, and to develop audience interest in both Canadian and international cinema.” – *The Canadian Encyclopedia*

The Civic Recognition Awards Committee received a nomination for Yorkton Film Festival to be awarded with the City of Yorkton – Certificate of Achievement (Attachment 1). It was reviewed and the Committee proudly recommends to Council to present the Yorkton Film Festival with the Certificate of Achievement for their international, national, and provincial recognition for excellence in the arts and culture industry and to celebrate and recognize the Festival’s 75th year in operation in 2022.

COMMUNICATION PLAN

The City of Yorkton would like to publish this item on our social media platforms, and through the Mayor’s weekly Radio Message.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are nominal financial implications for the preparation of the certificate.

OPTIONS

1. That Council accept the recommendation from the Civic Recognition Awards Committee that Yorkton Film Festival be presented the City of Yorkton Certificate of Achievement for international, national, and provincial recognition for excellence in the arts and culture industry, and furthermore, offer special congratulations and recognition for the Festival’s 75th anniversary in 2022, being the longest running continuous film festival in North America.
2. Other direction of Council.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

1. **That Council accept the recommendation from the Civic Recognition Awards Committee that the Yorkton Film Festival be presented the City of Yorkton Certificate of Achievement for international, national, and provincial recognition for excellence in the arts and culture industry, and furthermore, offer special congratulations and recognition for the Festival’s 75th anniversary in 2022, being the longest running continuous film festival in North America.**

From: [Jessica Matsalla](#)
To: [Jessica Matsalla](#)
Subject: FW: Request from City of Yorkton on Yorkton Film Festival History
Date: Monday, February 27, 2023 1:56:04 PM

From: Tom Seeley [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 1:16 PM
To: Mayor Mitch Hipsley [REDACTED] Jessica Matsall [REDACTED]
Councillor Chris Wyatt [REDACTED] Councillor Quinn Haider [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: Amanda Dietz [REDACTED] Amanda Krysa [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Request from City of Yorkton on Yorkton Film Festival History

CAUTION: External Email

Film Festival Nomination

For nearly seven decades, the Yorkton Film Festival and its predecessor, the Yorkton Film Council, have put Yorkton on the map in the film industry, provincially, nationally and internationally. This really took on momentum with the launch of the first international film festival in 1950. In the words of Kathleen Morell, film festival historian, it took “determination, courage and audacity” to take on this ambitious project in a small prairie city with a population of around 8000.

Early leadership in this effort came from Jim Lysyshyn and Nettie Kryski. Lysyshyn, who was stationed at Canora, was hired by the National Film Board as the fieldman to oversee the work of film councils in Northeast Saskatchewan. Kryski served as the first secretary treasurer, a role she would fulfil until 1980. Stan Stakiw’s business, Avalon Studios, served as rental agency for the films. At that time, Lysyshyn hosted a monthly radio program on CJGX with Kryski writing most of the scripts. Among her other duties, Kryski was relentless in overseeing the complicated process of ordering films and monitoring the distribution of the films to rural centers. Kryski was certainly a go-getter. In order to promote the Yorkton International Film Festival, Kryski wrote to several embassies in Ottawa to request submission of films.

An example of the “courage and audacity” as mentioned in Kathleen Morrell’s

history of the Yorkton group, was their decision in 1955 to present the film titled “The Salt of the Earth”. This film, along with the five professionals who had produced it, had been blacklisted by the House on Un-American Activities, in the depth of the McCarthy era in the United States. Canada was not immune to these anti-communist sentiments in government, but undaunted the Yorkton group proceeded with the presentation of this film.

With the success of the first festival, a decision was made to carry on with the event every two years. However, a devastating event occurred in 1957 when Avalon Studios caught on fire destroying the assets of the Yorkton Film Festival Committee. The Yorkton group was able to pull the community together to fundraise for the losses and resume operation. The Yorkton Public Library became the new distribution centre.

In 1957 the Yorkton Film Council was awarded a “Certificate of Merit” from The Association of Motion Picture Producers and Laboratories of Canada”.

The festival faced adversity in the 1960’s. Local interest and attendance dropped substantially with the advent of television. In 1968 the remaining members of the festival committee decided to disband. After the meeting, Nettie Kryski met with Mayor Allan Bailey and his wife Colleen. The couple indicated they would not let the festival die.

Led by Colleen Bailey, the new Board including Laurence Pearson, Elwyn Vermette and Brian Woodward were instrumental in resurrecting the festival. By 1975, it was clear more revenue would be required necessitating the hiring of an employee. In 1977, Don Humphries became the Festival’s first Executive Director. At this time, a major decision was made to limit the festival entries to Canadian made films. This opened the door to government grants and to donations being eligible for the charitable receipts for income tax purposes.

The 1970’s featured a cash prize for the best children’s film. Many workshops were held for high school students and young film makers.

In 1981, the Godfrey Dean Centre opened and became the permanent home for

the Yorkton Film Festival. Also in 1981, a decision was made to include video as a part of the Yorkton film festival, a decision that was not without some controversy.

Over the years, many film and television luminaries attend the Yorkton Festival including Gordon Pinsent, Al Waxman and Barry Morse.

The festival is not only about the watching and adjudicating of films. There is fun involved – lots of fun. The annual Film Festival lobster fest, sponsored by the Yorkton Lions Club, is legendary and sells out every year, notwithstanding some occasionally sketchy weather in May.

Name changes came over the years as the group adjusted to changes in the film industry. In 1971, the Yorkton Film Council became “The Yorkton International Film Festival Society”. In 1981 the name changed to “Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival”. In 2009 the name became simply “Yorkton Film Festival”.

Those in management positions over the years have included:

- Don Humphries – Executive Director – 1977
- Sheila Harris – Executive Secretary – 1979 – 1984
- Sheila Harris – General Manager – 1985
- Ian Reid – Executive Director – 1987
- Ken Panzer – Managing Director – 1990
- Dale Unruk/Gloria Lipinski – 1991
- Faye Kowal – Festive Manager – 1995 – 2007
- Randy Goulden – 2008 to the present

Under the leadership of current Executive Director, Randy Goulden, the Yorkton Film Festival has really solidified its position as one of the major annual functions in Yorkton. It brings many people to Yorkton every year and has consistently been responsible for positive promotion of our city across the nation.

The narrative above leaves no doubt that the Yorkton Film Festival is deserving of recognition, therefore I hereby nominate the group for the City of Yorkton “Certificate of Merit Award”.

YORKTON FILM FESTIVAL



**GOLDEN
SHEAF
AWARDS**



65 YEARS OF FILM

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1939 – 1947: Yorkton Film Council – The Beginnings

Dave Sharples, projectionist with the National Film Board (NFB), pulled up to the railway station for his monthly trip along the film circuit east of Regina. He dragged his projector and cans of films from the back seat of the car and loaded them onto a baggage wagon. Then he headed back to the trunk, shoved the key in the lock and looked despairingly at the 300 pound gas generator. “The beast” was a necessity to run a projector in rural Saskatchewan where there was no electrical grid. Sharples edged the generator over the rim of the trunk and onto the wagon. He sighed, his breath a stream of vapour in the cold January air. He pushed the gear to the loading dock and waited for the station agent. The two men loaded the generator and films into the freight car. Sharples said his thank yous and made his way to the passenger car carrying the projector in his arms. He had learned from experience to keep the machine warm. If the projector was turned on while cold, the motor would spark furiously, run at half-speed and burn out an assortment of parts.



Pictured: Dave Sharples, 1977 Festival

At his first destination along the film circuit, Sharples was met by a group of volunteers, willing and enthusiastic. The town was looking forward to the “shows”, anything to relieve the anxieties of a country at war. The men unloaded the gear into the back of a half ton and made the short trip down the icy road to the school. There, the men manhandled the generator off the truck and placed it 100 – 200 feet from the “temporary theatre”. (The distance was needed so the noisy machine did not interfere with the film audio.) Sharples and his volunteer crew then plodded to the school house. The men entered to the excited whispers of the children and placed the cans of film, the projector, and an extra long extension cord close to the pot bellied stove to warm. No more lessons than day. Despite winter, the showman was here.

In 1940, the National Film Board under the direction of organizational genius, John Grierson, implemented a film distribution network. The aim of the program was to bolster the spirit of Canadians during World War Two. People from small town and rural Canada flocked to the screenings held in schools, church basements and town halls. The circuits, primarily rural, were showing films to a monthly audience of over 250,000.

After the war the NFB, faced with draconian cuts to its budget, was in crisis. How was it to fund the creation of Canadian films? How was it to manage their distribution once those films were made? Theatres, owned by U.S. companies, were loath to offer anything but American feature-length movies. The problems looked overwhelming. Grierson's solution was to continue the rural circuit network devised for the war effort. He hired field representatives whose job it was to establish local film councils, groups that would take over the role of film distribution on a volunteer basis. A daunting task you might say, and yes, it was difficult, but the idea worked. Indeed, you might say that in Yorkton, Saskatchewan it worked very well.

In 1947, Dave Sharples explained the new system to a reporter from *The Yorkton Enterprise*. "The National Film Board would provide the council...with a rotating library of films, and the community would have access to the vast number of pictures made by the film board... the cost of upkeep, repairs, operating, insurance and films, would be borne by the NFB, provided organizations in the city set up a council, provided a projector and kept it operating on an active community basis."

Representatives from sixteen Yorkton organizations attended a meeting, its goal to establish the Yorkton Film Council. Otto Thorliefson of the Kinsmen Club agreed to be president. The volunteer council would train projectionists, set up a film depot, and organize workshops on documentary film. The NFB would loan the council a block of a minimum of 25 films for a period of two months. At the end of that time that block would be replaced by another group of 25 films.

The headline in *The Yorkton Enterprise* read "Organizations Agree on Temporary Film Council." Ironically, the work of that council carries on 65 years later.



John Grierson (left), Chairman of the Wartime Information Board, meeting with Ralph Foster, Head of Graphics, National Film Board of Canada, to examine a series of posters produced by the NFB. Photo: Library and Archives Canada RG-45, volume 135, Field No

1947 – 1960: The Yorkton Film Council Goes to Work

The Yorkton Film Council had its premier showing in 1947 at the old City Hall auditorium. In his opening address, Mayor Charles A. Peaker recognized that film was an important medium in public education, particularly for youth. "Documentaries," he said "would bring home facts to young people that they otherwise might find hard to credit." (*The Yorkton Enterprise*)

Film topics for the evening were varied and informative:

Folk music

Niagara Falls and the provision of cheap power

The plight of children left in desperate situations after the war

The world series of 1946 between the Boston Red Sox and the St. Louis Cardinals

"Life on the Western Marshes", a Ducks Unlimited picture in colour, no less

The evening was a solid start for the council's film distribution service.



Pictured: James Lysyshyn

That same year, James Lysyshyn, a veteran with the Royal Canadian Air Force, was hired as a field man to oversee the work of the councils in Northeast Saskatchewan. He was stationed at Canora. He worked in collaboration with Nettie Kryski, council secretary, who handled most of the correspondence. Paul Welgan, president, organized workshops to train projectionists. Stan Stakiw saw to the detail of film distribution. His business called Stan's Avalon Studios acted as rental agency for the films. In 1949, the Council had a dual fee system. For NFB films, it charged five cents per hundred feet of film, while for its own films the fee was three per cent of the purchase price plus a service charge of 35 cents. (The bookkeeping boggles the mind!) At first, Nettie Kryski, the secretary-treasurer, thought the fees a little high, but then she reassured herself and friend Jim Lysyshyn that the rates were not too exorbitant. After all, the money would be set aside in a separate account for the purchase of new films. The group owned 11 films with the expectation of buying 14 more over the coming season.

There was a huge demand for the documentaries from local organization and schools. Requests for films came from the Yorkton Temperance Association, the Ministerial Association, the locals of two unions, and the numerous Yorkton groups that had supported the Council financially. Principals of schools at Jasmin, Abernethy, and Castle Avery, Manitoba asked for information about borrowing films. The schools had heard about the film service on Yorkton's radio station, CJGX. James Lysyshyn hosted a monthly radio show, Films and People. Nettie Kryski wrote most of the scripts.



Pictured: Recording “Films and People”; James Lysyshyn, nearest microphone, and Nettie Kryski, centre in white.

In a letter to a Yorkton Chapter of the Independent Order of the Daughters of the Empire (IODE), Kryski explained that “each year since the formation of the Film Council the use of films has increased, and during the past year approximately 600 films were shown to 14,156 persons in the district.”

In 1953, the Yorkton Film Council joined a new association, the Federation of Film Councils of Northern Saskatchewan, a group formed under the auspices of the NFB. Officers of the new organization included two film stalwarts from Yorkton: Nettie Kryski and Paul Welgan. The Federation took on a new role in film distribution. Each month the Saskatoon office of the NFB would send Yorkton two boxes or blocks of its films for distribution to the two very large rural circuits under the Council’s responsibility. The first block went to Lestock, Muscowequan, Jasmin, Hubbard, Ituna, Goodeve, and Punnichy, towns along Highway #15 north and west of Melville. The second block traveled west to Dysart and Southey, then on to Grayson, a village south of Yorkton, before ending the circuit at Bredenbury and Ebenezer. The two blocks were then sent out in reverse order – the second to the towns long Highway #15; the first the route from Dysart to Ebenezer. The films were due back in Saskatoon shortly after completion of the two-month schedule, so they could be sent out to other Film Councils in Northern Saskatchewan for distribution to rural communities.

There were on-going issues in the new system. Blocks of film would arrive late. Someone would forget to include all the films in the block when they were shipped into the next district. Prints of the same film were sometimes mixed up. Districts would neglect to send on the statistics card showing the number of showings and the number in the audience. The following, an excerpt from a Kryski letter, is typical.

“Now for more grief: I have checked every film in our library and cannot find *Down in the Forest*. I have checked through our record book and apparently it was never booked by anyone (at least there is no record of it). You also mention that we should have received *Fisheries of the Great Slaves* and *Tempest in Town* from the NFB. I have no knowledge of this...Somewhere, somehow I cannot locate Print 12S of *Birds of Canada #6* which is supposed to be on long term loan to us. I have print #117 which I think perhaps belongs to Block 18. But perhaps it doesn't. Do you happen to have the numbers of the prints given to us by NFB?...”

A flurry of letters would follow, sometimes even a telegram. If worst came to worst, Nettie Kryski might phone, but the expense had to be clearly justified. Nettie was treasurer and money was always short. The detail, the complications, would have caused a lesser spirit than Nettie Kryski to abandon the whole enterprise in frustration.

The Projectionist Then and Now

This then and now comparison illustrates how much easier it is to show a DVD than a film. How things have changed!

Then:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take projectionist's course 2. Take care not to damage the film. It is not easily replaced. 3. Open the speaker case. 4. Take out the spare reels, extension cords and spare lamps. 5. Plug in the projector. 6. Move the reel arms into the correct positions. 7. Put the empty take-up reel on the rear arm. 8. Place the film reel on the forward arm. 9. Thread the film under the top black roller labelled #4 in the manual. 10. Then place the film under the roller labelled A. 11. Engage the sprocket holes of the film on the sprocket teeth. 12. Push down the sprocket guard. 13. Position the film in the centre space between the film guides and against the aperture plate between the edge guide rails. 14. Place the film under the roller labelled E. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Engage the film sprocket holes on the sprocket teeth. 16. Place the film under the roller labelled G. 17. Place the film between the next two film guides and then under the tension roller. 18. Continue threading the film around the sound drum and over roller labelled J. 19. Pull on the loose end of the film to separate rollers H and I. 20. Push the film in over the sprocket flange. 21. Engage the sprocket holes. Push up to close the sprocket guard. 22. Turn the projector on and run the film forward. 23. Focus. 24. Check the sound volume. 25. To rewind, turn the projector to off. 26. Move the rear reel arm upward. 27. Then consult the operator's manual for rewind instructions. 28. Take the film reel off the projector and store it safely in the film case. |
|---|--|

29. Pack up your projector and gear.
30. Pack up the generator (if required).
31. If on the road, haul the projector and films into your hotel room to keep them warm.



Film workshop at the festival circa 1955.

Now:

1. Handle disc at its edges.
2. Plug in the laptop computer and projector.
3. Attach USB A/V cable between computer and projector.
4. Turn on both pieces of equipment.
5. Place the disc in the DVD ROM drive and wait for it to start.
6. Enjoy the video

The 1950s: Yorkton Film Council Screenings – Indoors and Out

The excitement and fireworks of Dominion Day July 1, 1955 had passed into memory. The Yorkton Exhibition was still a week away. The doldrums in between presented the perfect opportunity for the Yorkton Film Council to show off the most recent documentary films – not in a theatre, not even indoors, but in the park adjacent to the Yorkton Public Library located in the city’s old, old City Hall.

At the outdoor screenings, the people of Yorkton arrived anticipating a pleasant evening. They spread their blankets on the lawn. The women poured the tea from thermos jugs into old chipped cups, the ones considered “not for company”. They added the sugar and farm cream and handed the steaming brew with a cookie to the men folk. Everyone visited with neighbours and speculated about the films. Would they see another documentary about the birds of Canada? Maybe, it would be in colour and wouldn’t that be exciting? Would they see a safety film from the Canadian Good Roads Association or a movie from Shell Canada about oil extraction in Alberta? Speculation and gossip filled the park with a happy buzz.

As dusk turned to dark and the mosquitos came out, the audience settled into silence and the movies rolled on a white sheet draped against the wall of City Hall. It was good times in Yorkton.

Just days later, John Popoff would haul an assortment of other films and the 16-mm. projector from Stan’s Avalon Studios to the exhibition grounds and set up his “theatre” in the space under the grandstand. Some of the films came from the NFB, some from Canadian companies. In 1957, Kramer Tractor sent the council five films for showing at the exhibition. Three films came from its Regina office. Nestor Ortynski shipped two others on to Yorkton after their screening at the Canora fair. The

arrangements for the films were handled through the company's sales promotions department. Documentaries were produced as an advertising venture.

Through the winter, the council held screenings indoors at various Yorkton locations, often the Knights of Pythias Castle Hall. The festival of today can well marvel at the quality of films provided to a small town not so small in its appreciation of good film:

- November 13, 1955 – *Kind Hearts and Coronets*: Britain, 1949. "Alec Guinness plays eight parts with intelligence and restraint showing his power as a character actor. This is an exceedingly funny film scintillating with rapid witty dialogue and directed with excellent taste."
- December 11, 1955 – *Salt of the Earth*: USA "A beautiful and passionate movie ranking with the great Italian and French films. Woven into the strike story with skill and tenderness of great artistry, it is a story of a man and his wife...the script is lean and accurate, jolting in its honesty and warm in its compassion. A rugged and starkly poignant story, raw emotion and power." *New York Times*
- January 8, 1956 – *Open City*: Italy, 1945: The height of Rossellini's achievements in film. Produced by members of the Italian underground shortly after the liberation of Rome. A drama of courage, love and beauty, of blood and lust and cruelty, its impassioned realism and unswerving sincerity have won it an outstanding place among the great screen classics of all time.
- February 12, 1956 – *Stratford Adventure*: Canada: A timely documentary showing the development and success of the Stratford Festival.
- February 12, 1956 – *The Sea Around Us*: USA, 1952: A Disney Academy Award winner (best documentary feature of 1952) based on a best seller of the same title.
- March 11, 1956 – *Seven Deadly Sins*: France: An amusing series of anecdotes inclined to be aimed at the female sex. Typical French comedy promising a good night's entertainment.
- April 8, 1956 – *Rashomon*: Japan: Grand prize Venice Festival winner, director by Akira Kurosawa, this film is of extraordinary fascination. Its four conflicting version of a murder lead to reflections on the nature of truth. "Exciting, powerful, unusually impressive work. A stunning work of art." *Newsweek*

This program shows the quality of films Yorkton people enjoyed that winter. As Nettie Kryski said to a snooty reporter from the big city, "There isn't any reason why ordinary people who aren't glamorous or well-known can't enjoy the same things they enjoy in the big capitals of the world."

1955: Good On You, Yorkton

The story of the Yorkton Film Council and *The Salt of the Earth* was truly extraordinary.

The plot of the movie involved a mining strike in New Mexico. Except for five professionals, the cast was made up of the actual mine workers, Mexican Americans who took job actions because they worked under safety conditions worse than their Anglo counterparts. It was a clear case of discrimination. But just as important as that issues was the theme of sexual equality. The women wanted the right to express their views about the strike, to walk the picket line when an injunction stopped their husbands from doing so. The result was a major conflict between men and women, particularly between the two main characters, Ramon and Esperanza. The plot and the theme made for a riveting movie.

In 1954, *The Salt of the Earth* opened in New York to favourable reviews. It was warmly received in Mexico and Europe. In France, it won the grand prize from the Paris Academy of Film. In 1955, however, the House on Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) extinguished the movie's starburst of glory. It denounced the film as subversive. The Committee had already blacklisted the five professionals involved in the making of the film. In addition, HUAC had investigated the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers and found that the leadership of the union had ties to communism. The union was a financial sponsor of the movie. Fear of the "Red Menace" led to the denunciation of the film. Only twelve American theatres agreed to show it.

Lest Canadians think they were immune from these civil rights violations, let them think again. In the 1950s, the government set up a program known as PROFUNC (Prominent Functionaries of the Communist Party). The program provided that, in time of insurrection, some 15,000 members of the Community Part of Canada and 55,000 sympathizers could be arrested without warrant and thrown in jail.

Lest Canadians think that everyone bent to this fear of the "Red Menace", let them think again. December 11, 1955, a Yorkton audience settled into Castle Hall. The lights dimmed. The projector whirred into actions. The film – *The Salt of the Earth*. The movie, banned across most of the United States, was screened in a little prairie town ready to ignore the perils of the Red Menace.

Good on you, Yorkton.

[New York Times movie review](#) of *The Salt of the Earth* (1954)

1947: The Formation of the International Film Festival

In 1947, at the same time as the Yorkton Film Council was beginning its distribution service, James Lysyshyn, field man with the NFB, faced the group with another project.



Jim Lysyshyn, Nettie Kryski, and Paul Welgan are the second, third, and fourth individuals in this photo. "This was the era of great film stars," he wrote, "who won Oscars and filled Canadian movie houses. I searched for an idea which would restore the prestige of documentary films, as a way of convincing people that serious films could be important, glamorous in their own right."

The project was, of course, a documentary film festival, a plan to "steal some of the glitter from the Hollywood Oscar." Lysyshyn had heard that the Edinburgh Festival of the Arts was to add a film sections, a totally new offering in its festival line-up. In his mind, the Yorkton Film Council would be perfect to take on a similar venture. The members of the Council were descendants of pioneers, Lysyshyn thought "who would be likely to try something new."

At first, this "perfect" group from Yorkton was not so willing to take on the task. The council told Lysyshyn that most of the films for such a venture would come from the NFB or Crawley Films and people in the area had already seen them. In addition, film festival were unheard of at the time in North America. The Cannes Festival had been founded only one year earlier; the Toronto Film Festival was not to be established for another thirty years. Never one to hear no, however, Lysyshyn returned one month later with another proposal, an international film festival. Ruth Shaw, long time volunteer and board member, said it took a year before the council became convinced.

“The idea of foreign films coming here (to Yorkton) to compete was the clincher.” Lysyshyn said. The festival would offer films other than the Canadian documentaries a Yorkton audience had already seen. Besides, the international aspect of the festival was prestigious and innovative.

The descendants of Saskatchewan pioneers, that group ready to try something new, said “yes” and Yorkton’s International Film Festival was born.

1950s: The First International Festival

Like the pioneers of the area, the members of the Yorkton Film Council had determination, courage and audacity. No one was going to tell them that Yorkton, population 8,000, was a most unlikely site for a festival of any kind, let alone North America’s first international film festival.



Paul Welgan, James Lysyshyn, Nettie Kryski

And so the work began. The festival was scheduled for 1950, giving the council two years for the complex organization involved. The members devised rules and regulations, set categories for film entries, established the dates of the festival (October 11 and 12), organized a two-day workshop on the use of film in the community, booked venues for screenings, contacted the United Church Women at St. Andrew’s to cater the lunch, and booked City Council Chambers for the workshop and York Theatre and the City Hall

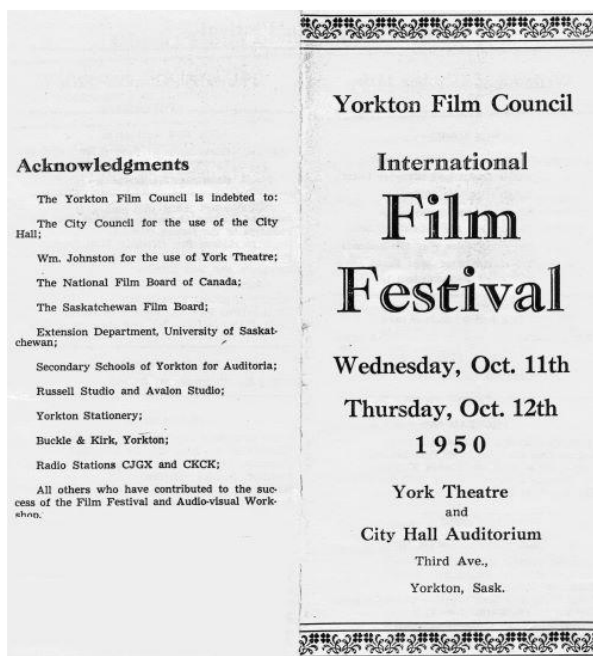
Auditorium for the screenings. They contacted the Yorkton Enterprise and CJGX Radio and arranged for advertising. They sold programs at 25 cents each to cover costs. In order to avoid duty on the films, the festival didn’t charge admission.

And there was more. It fell to Nettie Kryski to write the embassies in Ottawa. Her first task was to explain what a film festival was because, of course, the venture was almost unknown at the time. The second part was to invite the submission of films. Just think about the receipt of that letter. Quite likely, the third undersecretary of the Netherlands or the clerk the New Zealand High Commission would shake his head and then go off to consult an atlas of Canada to determine the location of the place called Yorkton.

Following the receipt of the letters, there were phone calls. There were more letters. It helped that the National Film Board in Ottawa contacted film makers from around the world and lobbied with the embassies.

Finally, the entries came in – some of course from the National Film Board and Canada’s Crawley Films and even one each in the amateur category from Yorkton’s own filmmakers: Stan Stakiw, H. Ferman, R. Adamson and Rev. P.O. Olson. Foreign entries arrived from the Netherlands, India, Sweden, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Norway, France and the United States. In all, the newly minted festival received entries from nine different countries, 40 films in all! Quite a coup for a fledgling organization with no particular expertise in film making!

The screenings scheduled for October 11 and 12 were packed to capacity. Audience members judged the films by indicating their preferences and comments on a ballot provided for the purpose. Certificates of Merit were awarded to the winner in each category. The audience participation guaranteed buy-in from the community. On the completion of the two-day event, the Canadian Film News reported that “Canada’s first International Film Festival happened in Yorkton, Sask. In Ottawa, film producers and distributors marveled at the enterprise, if not the audacity of the prairie city that dared to organize a traditionally European event. Until the entry of Yorkton, all International Film Festivals had been held in London, Edinburgh, Brussels, Paris, Locarno or Venice.”



From the 1950 Program

But more important than the opinion of the Canadian film industry was the judgement of the people of Yorkton and that judgement was very positive. The Yorkton Film Council made the unanimous decision to carry on. The International Festival would be held every two years to give volunteers a chance to rest, a time to find that spirit of determination, courage, and audacity, for if it was audacity that started the festival, it was surely determination and courage that kept it going.

1952: The Ongoing Story

In the fall of 1952, Yorkton was agog with the success of its first International Film Festival held two years earlier and enthusiastic in its anticipation of the second. Ethel Castleden of *The Yorkton Enterprise* wrote in her column, Chitter Chatter: “When we realized that...no other group in Canada has undertaken to sponsor a festival of this sort, we are all the more appreciative of the efforts of our local group of film enthusiasts.”

In the two year interval between the festivals, Nettie Kryski had received numerous requests for information about the Yorkton festival from film societies and producers world wide and from cities in Canada hoping to mount a similar venture. In his history of the Yorkton Film Festival, James Lysyshyn, field man for the National Film Board reported: “The success of Yorkton’s first festival unleashed a torrent of film festivals across Canada and in many parts of the world. The festival craze spread like wildfire...”

Before the 1952 festival, Council members made a number of significant decisions. The event, originally two days, was now extended to three. The Council abandoned City Hall for three larger venues: York Theatre and the auditoriums at St. Joseph’s College and the Yorkton Collegiate Institute. The first banquet, now a mainstay of the festival, was hosted at Castle Hall in the facilities of the Knights of Pythias. Submissions were limited to those films produced in the two year interval since the first festival. Promotion for the 1952 event highlighted the submission of films in colour, a new and emerging technology.



Crowd at the 1952 festival.

In all, the festival received 47 entries from foreign embassies, the National Film Board, Crawley Films, P.G.A. Films and a number of amateur film makers. Castleden reported that the list of foreign countries submitting films read like roll call at the United Nations.

But there were things that hadn't changed, too. Once again, Yorkton people jammed the screening venues to see the film and vote by ballot for the winners. The event was deemed a huge success not only at home but in the *Saskatoon Star Phoenix*, the *Regina Leader-Post*, and the *Winnipeg Free Press*. And of course, the Yorkton Film Council had the audacity to plan a third festival just two years into the future.

1954: Why Not Yorkton?

In 1954, the third Yorkton International Film Festival (October 22-24) opened to general amazement. The *Leader-Post* stated: "Yorkton this week is taking an international flutter. It is holding its biennial 'International Film Festival', a venture the Saskatchewan city began with some courage and considerable daring in 1950...Today, Yorkton is holding the only such festival on this continent and only now are some metropolitan American cities toying with the idea of following suit."

In the *Winnipeg Tribune*, drama critic Ann Henry reported that film producers and distributors marveled at the audacity of the Yorkton Film Council and this prairie community. In contrast, the people of Yorkton, unfazed, answered the question "Why Yorkton?" with a shrug and the inevitable reply, "Why not?"

The townspeople reacted just as expected to the three days of screenings – near capacity crowds, a discerning eye for good film, and enthusiastic response from children, families and oldsters alike. As in the past, the festival received film entries from a variety of European countries, but not from Russia as Ann Henry was quick to point out. In the era of Cold War politics, it was assumed that the Soviets would boycott a festival in a western democracy, an assumption that would prove false just two years later in 1956. The major excitement at the third Yorkton International Film Festival was the arrival of Maritana Heinrich from the Ottawa Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany.

"Her purpose in visiting the festival was twofold: Germany wanted to produce documentary films on a larger scale and to improve film technique." (*The*



James Lysyshyn, Nettie Kryski, Maritana Heinrich

Yorkton Enterprise) The Embassy thought the festival would provide just such an opportunity. In an interview with Ann Henry, John Popoff, president of the Yorkton Film Council, focused on film as education. The documentary “brings to the attention of the people here to the way people in other countries live. We learn to be sympathetic instead of indifferent or even hostile to their people and their problems.”

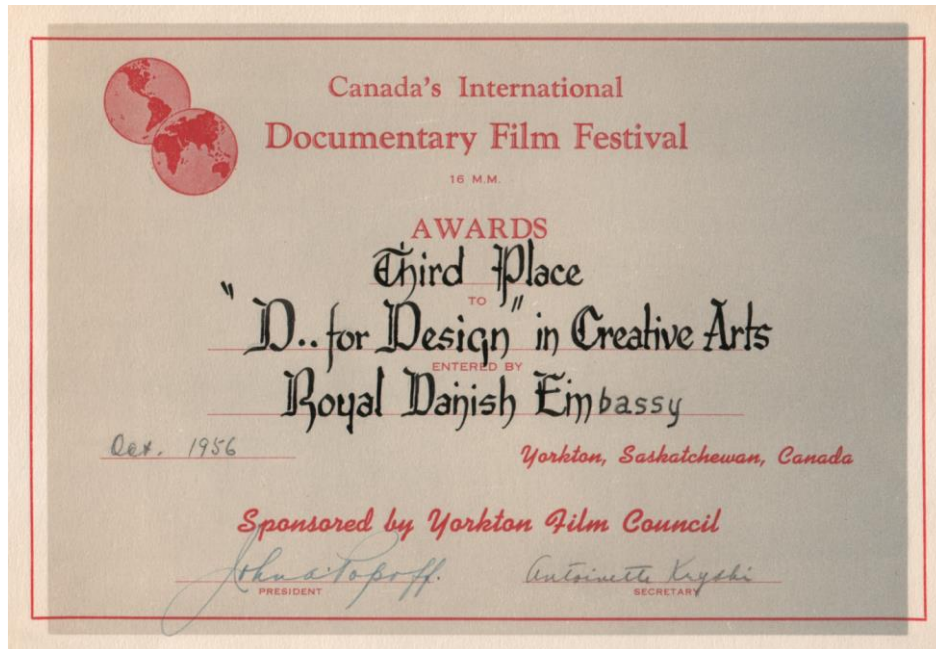
Mrs. A. L. Caldwell, member of the NFB Board of Governors and Canadian delegate to the United Nations, reinforced that message as guest speaker at the banquet held at St. Andrew’s Friday, October 22. She indicated that the festival and the United Nations “were part of a large plan to bring better understanding to the world at large, to remove the dangers of war, to learn to live together with the people in other lands and to work out those humanitarian plans already launched by the United Nations.”

Heady stuff.

1950 – 1954: The People’s Choice

For the Yorkton public, one of the most important changes occurred in 1956 at the fourth International Film Festival. At the first three festivals, the audience had voted to determine the winning film. The ballot slips with their comments were passed on to the film makers as a form of adjudication. In 1956, film experts were selected to judge the quality of the films and to award the winning certificates. The International Film Festival had moved from a People’s Choice format to one adjudicated by professionals for professionals.

Good or bad? There was certainly a downside to the change. In the 1950s, the buy-in from local people was huge. The town was a-buzz with festival talk. People attended the screenings in droves. School children told Ann Henry, drama critics with the *Winnipeg Tribune*, that they’d rather attend festival films than those at the local theatre. The upside to the change was that the festival would attract more entries. Film makers would simply trust the opinion of those in the industry more than they would an audience from a small prairie town.



Certificate of Merit awarded to winners when the festival was adjudicated directly by the audience.

1956: The Russians are Coming

The Trans-Canada airplane circled over the landing strip left over from the Second World War Commonwealth Air Training Base. It flew north east of the airport, turned and then began its descent towards the tarmac. Next to the hangar stood three members of the Yorkton Film Council: D. O. Forsyth, William Korb, and President John Popoff. Stairs were pushed forward to the plane exit and locked in place. The door opened and two men descended the steps to the welcoming festival delegation.



Yorkton Film Council members welcome USSR Ambassadors to the 1956 Festival.

The two were P.F. Strounnikov and S.D. Romanovtsev from the Ottawa Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

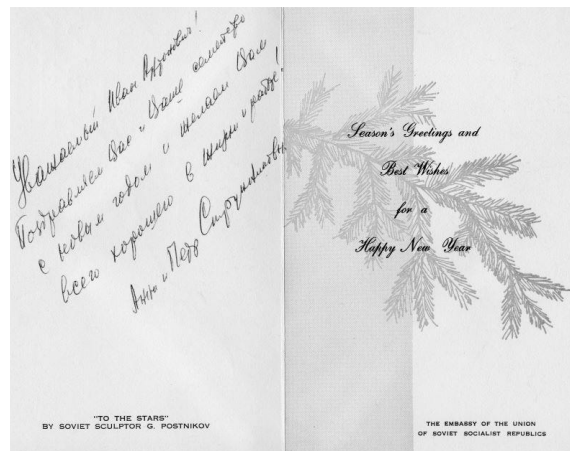
Upon their arrival in Yorkton, two RCMP officers began following the two Russians to festival events. After all, two Soviet officials might be recruiting undercover agents or spying on some aspect of life in Saskatchewan. The Red Menace, was everywhere even at the luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club

where P.F. Strounnikov, speaking through an interpreter, said the festival was “a brilliant way for improving mutual understanding between nations and countries.”

In that spirit of good will, someone decided to place a trick on the RCMP. Someone – and who knows who – spirited Mr. Strounnikov and Mr. Romanovtsev down the back stairs of the Balmoral Hotel where they were staying. The RCMP members were left to cool their heels in the hotel lobby.

Clearly the citizens of Yorkton saw the Red Menace as less than menacing.

As a postscript to the visit, John Popoff noted in a speech presented in 1958 that the Russian Soviet was hosting its first film festival in Moscow. His message was clear. The Soviet delegation had come not to spy on “sensitive installations” in the City of Yorkton, but to learn what they could about the organization of a film festival. So much for the threat of espionage on the Canadian prairies.



Christmas card received by the festival in 1960 from the Soviet Embassy.

Background: The Cold War

This was the era of the Cold War. Igor Gouzenko, cipher clerk at the Canadian Embassy of the USSR, had defected in 1945 bringing with him documentary proof of Soviet espionage against Canada and more importantly, against the United States.

Gouzenko’s information fueled fear of the Red Menace – fear that had begun in the 1930s with FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover and his hunt for spies hidden in the bureaucracy, the entertainment industry, and other segments of American life. The House of Representatives Committee on Un-American Activities took up the cause and the media spread the fear. Screenwriters, directors, actors and producers were called before the committee. Some refused to testify and were sent to jail. Friends betrayed friends. One man even testified against his wife. Many in the entertainment industry were blacklisted and as a result, forced abroad to find work. One of the most well known was Charlie Chaplin. In 1952, Chaplin left the US for what was intended as a brief trip home to the United Kingdom only to find out that on his return, his re-entry permit had been revoked. He was forced to take up residence in Europe.

In Canada as in the United States, fear of communism, though perhaps not as virulent, was still pervasive. In the 1930s, radicals, sometimes communist, sometimes not, were deported. After a secret immigration in 1931, Arvo Vaara, an editor of a Sudbury newspaper, was sent back to Finland, a country he hadn’t seen in twenty-three years. Near the end of January, 1933 Peter P. Verigin, Doukhobour leader, was whisked from the Saskatchewan Penitentiary in Prince Albert and onto a train for Halifax. He survived the purge of deportation to the USSR only through the intervention of Joseph Shoukin and Simeon Reiben, two of the sect’s leaders, and Peter Makaroff, his lawyer.

In 1937, the government of Quebec under Premier Maurice Duplessis passed the Padlock Law. It gave police the extraordinary power to seal off any property where communist literature of activity was suspected. The members of one Montreal family were forced to move constantly as their homes were padlocked, closed against their entry. In 1948, Gordon Martin, a World War Two veteran and graduate of the College of Law, found his application to the British Columbia bar was refused when he would not answer questions about his membership in the Communist Party. He said that the questions violated his rights to freedom of thought and association. As a result, Martin was turned from a promising law career to employment in the lumber industry. Clearly, the practice of the blacklist was not limited only to the United States.

In 1950, the Government of Canada established PROFUNC, an acronym for PROminenet FUNctionaries of the Communist Party, a secret plan to identify and jail Canadian communists should a threat to national security arise. The list was thought to contain the names of 15,000 suspected Communists and 50,000 sympathizers. It has been surmised that several prominent Canadians, including Tommy Douglas and Roland Penner, were on that list. Douglas, CCF Premier of Saskatchewan and leader of the Canadian NDP, is well known. Penner less so. Roland Penner was a veteran of World War Two, a dean of the College of Law at the University of Manitoba, and a Manitoba politician and cabinet minister.

Fire!

Stan Stakiw turned the key in the lock of his business, Avalon Studies, and swung the door open. It was 10:00pm February 4, 1957, a cold winter night. Stan was on his way to a dance at the St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall. He had stopped on the way to collect the cash from the till – nearly \$700, the take from the business over the last few days. He glanced over the camera shop at the front of the store and then headed down the basement that contained the dark room. Everything was in good order. He climbed the stairs once more and looked towards the till. The money could wait, he decided. He and Ann wanted to go to the dance, the last social event before Lent. He locked the door and left for St. Mary's.

Two hours later fire began in the basement of the old Smith Block. Newspaper reports indicated it had started in the basement of Avalon Studios. Rumour indicated it may have started in the basement of the Broadway Café next door. The reality was that no one knew for sure and the origin of the fire was termed unknown.



Aftermath of the 1957 fire.

The seven members of the Yorkton Fire Department, 12 volunteers and six “helpers at large”, fought the blaze until noon the next day. Deputy Mayor Rudy Schick praised

the assistance of the RCMP. Bobby Yaholnitsky opened Wings Restaurant to serve free coffee to the exhausted firefighters through the night. Freddy Preston remained in his pharmacy just in case one of the men needed a respirator.

A great many Yorkton establishments were affected by the fire: Fletcher’s Drug Store, Singer Sewing Machine Company, the Broadway Café, Thomas Jewelry, the committee rooms of the Liberal Party, the radio studios of CJGX, the premises of doctors Houston, Houston, Houston and Crossely and the law offices of Stewart, Brown and Edgar. People in the second floor apartments of the Smith Block were evacuated.

For Stan Stakiw, the fire was devastating. He had only \$17,000 in insurance to cover a loss of \$40,000. The only consolation was that the Monday morning after the fire the till was found intact. The bills inside were scorched but still negotiable.

Avalon Studios was the film depot and rental agency for the Yorkton Film Council. The council lost everything in the fire – two projectors and cases, one screen, a filmstrip and slide projector with 24 filmstrips, splicer, rewind, and the films – some belonging to the council, others on loan from the NFB and various corporations. It was a devastating blow.

While the city cleaned up the gutted remains of the building, Nettie and friends began rebuilding the Yorkton Film Council. Once again, Nettie wrote local organizations asking for donations, begging for the \$1800 to replace their equipment. Everyone came to the council’s assistance. The NFB lent the organization a projector, one in need of repair as President John Popoff soon found, but still the council had a projector. Shell Oil said they were prepared to absorb the loss of their film, *Screw Drivers and Screw Jays*. The Canadian Cancer Society assured Nettie that their films were insured and not to worry about their loss. Local groups and organizations donated enough money that the council had funds to

replace its equipment. The major problem, however, was the loss of Avalon Studios as film depot and rental agency. The solution – the Yorkton Public Library took over responsibility for storage and distribution of the films.

The YFC could now concentrate on the film festival for which it had gained truly a national reputation.

1957: National Recognition for the Festival

In 1957, the Association of Motion Picture Producers and Laboratories of Canada presented the Yorkton Film Council with a Certificate of Merit. The citation read:

“The Yorkton Film Council in its International Film Festival offers for public viewing a selection of films of high quality from many countries and recognizes and encourages high standard of film production. This special Award is given to the Yorkton Film Council in recognition of its outstanding International Film Festival which demonstrates the contribution of the film council movement in Canada.”

Canadian Film Institute Bulletin Vol. 3, No. 6, June, 1957

Notification of the Toronto event was sent to Avalon Studios and the letter was misplaced in all the confusion associated with the fire that destroyed the business and the film depot for the Yorkton Film Council.

Sadly, no one from the Yorkton Film Council was present to accept the award.

1960s: An End and a Beginning

With the advent of television, interest in documentary film plummeted. It was estimated that two and a half million Canadian homes had a television by 1957. Canadians and Yorktonites simply considered that the Ed Sullivan Show and Hockey Night in Canada were more interesting than an evening of documentary film. Attendance declined at festival screenings from 4000 in 1956 to 1000 in 1964. The Yorkton Film Council decided to postpone the festival scheduled for 1966 to 1967 with the hope that the exuberance of Centennial Year would boost attendance.

Donald G. Axford, NFB Film Office for South-Eastern Saskatchewan, spent ten days in Yorkton trying to bolster local support. In his five-page analysis of the problems, he emphasised that there was significant interest in the film festival. However, he was clearly frustrated by the council’s outreach to the local community. “I understand that His Worship the Mayor (William E. Fichtner) at the last Centennial Committee Meeting asked the delegate from the Film Festival Committee if there was a particular job that any service club could do. The reply was that everything was under control.” Axford went on to ask if the festival couldn’t assign some festival task to the Rotary, Kinsmen or Lion’s Club. “It is rather fruitless,” Axford continued, “for someone to stir up support and then have a meeting (and be) told that support is not wanted.”

Attendance at the 1967 festival declined further to 750. The Yorkton Film Council had run out of steam and out of money, too. Nettie wrote James Milliken, chairman of the Yorkton Arts Board and a partner

in the law firm where she worked. The festival needed a \$200 loan. There was only \$32 in the bank account. One can only imagine Nettie Kryski's embarrassment.

The very careful treasurer had to ask her boss for money to bail out her beloved festival. In the spring of 1968, the few remaining members of the Yorkton Film Council met to organize the 1969 festival. The following spring, Dave Sharples, NFB representative from Regina, reported that the committee had informally decided it was "too late" and they were "too little" to carry on. The Yorkton Film Council decided to disband.

A disappointed Nettie, for twenty years YFC secretary, made an appointment with the mayor, Allan Bailey. She wanted to leave the valued guest book with the City. She thought the book was important. It contained the signatures of all the visiting dignitaries from foreign embassies and from the Canadian film industry. She wanted to let Yorkton's most influential citizen know the festival was about to close. Allan talked over the situation with his wife, Colleen, a dynamo in the local arts community and a future woman of influence on the Saskatchewan and Canadian Arts scene. Colleen and Allan Bailey would not see the festival die.

A new festival committee was formed. The first task was to seek funding from the NFB, the Canada Council and the Saskatchewan Arts Board. According to Dave Sharples, the NFB and Canada Council refused the festival's grant applications, but the Saskatchewan Arts Board came through handsomely. Margaret El Deiry asked local businesses and individuals to sponsor the event. Colleen Bailey took on the challenge of publicity. Before her marriage, she had been a journalist with the Winnipeg Tribune. Thanks largely to her contacts, the festival received coverage in the Montreal Star, the Globe and Mail and film industry journals. It was a new beginning. The determination and commitment of the festival committee would see the festival through the transformative change of the 1970s.

1969 – 1979: Change

In the fifties and sixties, the festival was a local event meant to educate and entertain the people of Yorkton. With the advent of television, more and more people preferred their entertainment in the comfort of the sofa rather than the hard folding chairs at the collegiate auditorium. Things at the festival needed to change.

The first step to transformation was the appointment of committed creative leaders to the board of directors: Colleen Bailey, Laurence Pearson, Elwyn Vermette, and Brian Woodward. Their work as individuals with a committed executive and group of volunteers took the event from near death in 1969 to an explosive growth by the end of the decade. The first of these individuals was Colleen Bailey.

Colleen Bailey

In 1969, Colleen brought her considerable skills to the role of festival publicity coordinator. She encouraged coverage of the festival through her network of colleagues and friends in newspapers outside of Saskatchewan, namely the Montreal Star, the Globe and Mail, and film industry journals. A former journalist with the Winnipeg Tribune, Colleen had contacts across the country.



Colleen Bailey

But more than this network in the journalist fraternity, Colleen had that ability to motivate and involve others. It is reported that one local described her as “the dynamo behind all the inertia” associated with the festival.

“That Colleen Bailey,” Eileen Dellow said. “She could talk you into anything. There I was tears streaming down my face chopping onions and with a baby sitter at home looking after the kids, too.” The onions were for one of the very popular after theatre parties.

In 1971, Colleen became chairperson of the board. Under her leadership, the festival found qualified film industry people to adjudicate the films and widened the contact list to include more independent filmmakers. The strategy was successful. In 1973, the number of entries tripled. In 1975, the flood of films to the competition rose to an all time high of 304.

It seemed that Colleen’s work with the Yorkton International Film Festival was the springboard to a lifetime of involvement in the arts and the wider community. Colleen was:

- A founding shareholder and Vice-President and CEO of NorthEastern CableVision in Yorkton
- President of Saskcable and Vice-President of the Canadian Cable Television Association
- Member of the Board of Directors of SaskPower
- Member of the Yorkton Arts Council
- Founding member and first president of the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils (OSAC)
- Member of the Saskatchewan Arts Board (1970-1975) and president (2000-2006)
- Founding board member of the Saskatchewan Foundation of the Arts
- Member of the Canadian Society of Decorative Arts
- Regional Director of Encounters with Canada, the Terry Fox Foundation
- Board member of any number of other organizations, local, provincial and national

Colleen Bailey contributed enormously to the city, the province and the nation. Her life modeled the qualities most needed in a leader – energy, enthusiasm, commitment and determination, qualities the Yorkton Film Festival recognized as key to the preservation of the event in 1969 and to its transformation during the 1970s.

Laurence Pearson

Laurence Pearson became President of the Yorkton International Film Festival in 1973. He was a teacher and the father of a young family who still managed to devote tons of volunteer time to the festival.

Picture one scene in which he was involved. On tables in a basement room of the Yorkton Regional High School were stacks of films, big round circular cans for the longer films, smaller tins for those shorter in length. There were the splicing tools and cement, for invariably a film would break during screening. Previewing was a long process, a daunting task for folks with families who held full time jobs.

“We really were a bunch of amateurs,” said Laurence Pearson. “We wondered if we were really the people for the job.”



Laurence Pearson

During the 1970s, the board changed the system of previewing films. In 1979, Gary Deane, audio-visual coordinator with the Regina Public Library, previewed the films. One year later, Roger Trottier, a liaison officer with SaskMedia, joined him. In 1981, four people with theatre and film backgrounds previewed the films. The increase reflected the daunting nature of the task.

The upside to the new system was that filmmakers could be assured that their work was being previewed by people with a film background. It was a major step forward.

In addition, Laurence and the other members of the festival board looked to enhance the credibility of the festival by engaging high profile quality adjudicators. The 1971 festival adjudication panel included:

- Frank Morriss, long time columnist and entertainment editor with the *Winnipeg Free Press*, *The Globe and Mail*, and the *Winnipeg Tribune*
- Jean Oser, film editor and lecturer at the University of Saskatchewan at Regina
- Graydon Gould, television actor

In a report following the 1971 festival, Laurence wrote: “The purpose of using the services of such men was to give an air of professionalism. By using them we could assure filmmakers that their films would receive fair treatment in selection. And by using professionals we hoped to be able to attract more film producers to show their best film.”

With assistance of the representatives of the National Film Board, including Ches Yetman, the festivals in the 1970s were able to attract professionals, the “cool cats” that would attract more filmmakers and more coverage for the festival nationally and internationally.

Elwyn Vermette

“Who is that fellow with the beard?” asked a Saskatchewan researcher and historian. “He seemed to be everywhere.”

Elwyn Vermette was everywhere when it came to the Yorkton International Film Festival. He played a huge role as organizer, projectionist, board member, and “fix-it guy”.

Elwyn first became involved in the festival as spectator in 1969, the first year he and his wife, Marie, moved to Yorkton. In 1971, he became a member of the board and in 1973, festival president.

“I’ve always been a film buff,” Elwyn explained. “In addition, I was doing my Master’s in Audio-Visual Communication. The festival was a fit.”

A teacher at the Composite Junior High, Elwyn organized a new approach to education in Industrial Arts by setting up activity stations: photography, graphic arts, electricity, and computers. The activity stations required students to work independently using A-V materials as instructional tools. In addition to his class work, Elwyn ran an Audio-Visual Club for students particularly interested in film and A-V equipment. When a technician was required to run projectors for the closed screenings for festival adjudicators, Elwyn called on his students, then moved onto the Yorkton Regional High School, to act as technicians. The adjudicators were impressed.



Elwyn Vermette

Nowhere was Elwyn’s dedication to the festival more evident than the decision of the board to employ an Executive Director. Money was short and so the Vermettes agreed to house Don Humphries, the new employee. He stayed with the family for three months before finding a run-down house in the Jedburgh area.

“There was always pressure to move the festival away from Yorkton, to Saskatoon or Regina,” Elwyn added. “But we had the system, the energy, and the volunteers. It was doubtful if Saskatoon or Regina could match any of the three. I was unwilling to see the festival slide away for even one year because then I knew it was done for in Yorkton. I dug in my heels. I knew as long as the granting organizations were willing to fund us, we’d be okay.”

“The festival is important,” he concluded. “If people know about Yorkton, quite often they’ll know about it for the festival. It gives the city a profile.”

Brian Woodward

“Brian believed in the SCCO.” Those words of Paul Fudge, managing director of the Saskatchewan Council of Cultural Organizations, summed up the role of Brian Woodward in the formation of the organization that was to become SaskCulture in the 1990s.

In 1974, the provincial government established the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund. The purpose of the fund was to provide money to eligible, non-profit volunteer organizations in the areas of sport, culture and recreation.

The system as it existed (and still exists) in Saskatchewan is unique to the province. It provided for an umbrella organization for each sport, culture and recreation. Of the fund available from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund, sport would receive 50%, culture 40%, and recreation 10%. Each of these three communities would elect a peer group to determine eligibility and to distribute the funds. It would operate at arms length from government.

SaskSport already existed as an umbrella organization as did the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association. There was no such group for the cultural organizations within the province, a frustrating situation for the government and SaskSport, who had been named the receiving agency for lottery funds. These cultural group, numbering 25 in total, were as diverse as the Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Association, the Saskatchewan Genealogy Society, the Saskatchewan Writers Guild and the Saskatchewan Arts Board. It was a mess – a mess with loud, diverse and competing voices at the table.



Brian Woodward

The Saskatchewan Council of Cultural Organizations (SCCO) came out of that mess. SaskSport took the leadership role in pushing for the new umbrella organization, arguing that it was to the advantage of culture to have one voice at the table in talking to government.

The representatives of the various cultural organizations were called to a meeting to discuss the formation of the SCCO. The Yorkton International Film Festival Society was asked to represent film in the province. There were very few Saskatchewan filmmakers and in the late 1970s, there was really no movie industry either. The Yorkton Film Festival was a major player in film and it had a national reputation.

“That’s why it was chosen to represent film as a cultural entity,” Fudge said. Brian Woodward, president of the Yorkton International Film Festival, was the festival’s representative at a meeting of the province’s cultural organizations. From that meeting, he was appointed as board member and then president.

“The Yorkton International Film Festival played an important role in the formation of SCCO,” Fudge continued, “Brian Woodward especially. There were really strong voices at the table who felt that SaskSport was pushing them into something that they didn’t want, that lottery funds were being siphoned off to an unnecessary level of bureaucracy. In addition, some of the member organizations took a jaundiced view of other members at the table.” Brian faced dissension and antagonism. “In the end, Brian Woodward brought people together,” Fudge concluded. “Within the first year, even the doubters felt SCCO was useful.”

Brian Woodward was able to reduce dissension and bring in a spirit of conciliation and cooperation to the cultural community in the province. Job well done, Brian.

1969 – 1979: Change – Film, Food and Fun

Opening night for the 1969 festival was Wednesday October 22 at the Anne Portnuff Theatre. The new venue resolved the question asked at the 1964 festival when Grant Mclean of the NFB complained about the inadequacies of the gymnasium at the old Yorkton Collegiate Institute. The new theatre was a beautiful facility – good acoustics, comfortable seating, a large screen. The problem of a declining audience still remained however. The solution – one devised by Allan and Colleen Bailey – was the after-theatre social. The films were good, but more than that, the parties were fun.

Thursday evening, the Anne Portnuff was full to capacity. After the films 250 people flocked to the German beer garden. The hall was decorated with cuckoo clocks from the Black Forest, brightly coloured travel posters, and flower filled baskets. Roman Onufrijchuk wandered from table to table playing his accordion while waiter Steve Oucharek kept a steady supply of schnapps flowing. The late evening supper consisted of bierocks (meat filled pocket pastries), sausages, hot potato salad, wiener schnitzel, sauerkraut and black bread.

The food and the fun created the buzz around town that guaranteed a standing room only crowd at the Friday screening. The highlight of the evening was the appearance of the Chidori Kai Choir during intermission. The after-theatre party was even more exotic than the German beer garden. Japanese lanterns decorated the hall. Tomokiko Hayashi, the Japanese consul at Winnipeg, his wife and friends, prepared platters of “typical Japanese food.”

Did the plan work? It certainly did. “Attendance at the three-day event was believed to be the highest of any of the previous festivals as near-capacity audiences were present every night.”

Dave Sharples of the NFB reported:

During three days of the festival a most interesting phenomenon was observed: where the first day started out as “just another day”, the tempo increased the second day until, on the street, it was quite normal to observe conversations relating to the festival. On the final day, most conversations actually related to this festival and it was unusual to hear dialogues on any other subject which did not eventually veer to the festival. By the final night, the “in thing” to do was to attend the festival and to attend the social evening following. Festival Fever was really at a high pitch. I have never previously experienced anything like it in this field; one could smell “film festival” in the air as the locals savoured its aroma.

The Yorkton International Film Festival had taken a new and exciting direction. Film, food and fun – a winning combination.

1969 – 1979: Change – “An Eyeball Blistering Task”

Then there was what the *Western Producer* called the “eyeball blistering task” of prescreening. In 1969, a local committee previewed the entries in order to select those for presentation to the public and to

ensure that the film was placed in the correct category. The final judging by a panel of professional adjudicator took place during closed screenings. The problem was that those filmmakers whose films were rejected by a local volunteer committee before reaching the professional adjudication state were not pleased. Following the 1969 Festival, a recommendation was made that “the preliminary screening be done by qualified professional or semi-professional film critics rather than by volunteer amateurs.”

At the 1971 Festival, Frank Morriss, entertainment editor with the *Winnipeg Free Press* and Jean Oser, professor at the University of Saskatchewan at Regina, took on the task of prescreening as well as being members of the adjudication panel. The festival board note that “the purpose of using the services of such men was to give an air of professionalism.” Film makers would be assured their films would receive fair treatment in selection and so they would be more likely to submit their best films.

In 1973, the board predicted an increase in the number of entries and extended its three-day event to a week. Good thinking. The number of entries tripled. The reason why was difficult to determine. Perhaps, the 1971 prescreening by professionals was one reason. Perhaps, an all-out effort to reach beyond the embassy crowd was another, a necessity given that the embassies were submitting fewer entries. The festival sent out more than 1500 letters to independent film producers asking they consider the Yorkton International Film Festival. Perhaps, media promotion played a role as well. Perhaps, all three had significant impact. In any case, the entries rolled in.

In 1975, the festival received a stunning 304 entries. The task of prescreening and adjudication was overwhelming. Consensus was that the system had to change.

In 1979, Gary Deane, former festival board member and the audio-visual coordinator for the Regina Public Library, was asked to prescreen the films prior to the festival and select those adjudication.

“It was a great opportunity,” Gary said. “In 1979, I watched the films by myself. I felt the weight of responsibility, but still I felt honoured to be selected to do it.”

Gary had studied film at Sir George Williams University in Montreal. “I think I spent more time at university in movie theatres than I did in class,” Gary added.

In 1980 (when the festival moved from a biennial to an annual event) the task was divided between Gary Deane and Roger Trottier. They reduced the number of films for adjudication from 160 to 83. Still for everyone an “eyeball blistering” experience.



Gary Deane

Adjudication Today

The Yorkton Film Festival works with a jury committee chosen from the film industry people from across Canada. This group determines the rules and regulations for entries to the festival. In particular, it redefines categories, sets up new categories, and eliminates those that are no longer relevant. It is the filmmaker's responsibility to ensure their entry meets the requirement of the particular category they are entering.

The most important responsibility of the jury committee is film adjudication. In consultation with the Yorkton Film Festival office, the committee chooses jury heads, experts in the particular category of film they are adjudicating. It is the responsibility of the jury head to choose four or five other members to sit on their adjudication panel. That panel then gathers together to watch the films. The first time the panel members judge the films within the category and determine the winner within the category. They then watch the films a second time and make recommendations for:

- Craft Awards: Best Director – Fiction, Best Director – Non-Fiction, Best Research
- Special Awards: Emerging Filmmaker, Ruth Shaw Best of Saskatchewan
- Best of Festival

It is a careful process that seeks fairness for all entries. Adjudicators are no longer local people. They represent all regions of the country and various sectors of the film industry to ensure that the Golden Sheaf retains its status as an award worth winning. The adjudication process is a far cry from one adjudicator holed away in a cubby hole at the office of the Yorkton International Film Festival watching film after film after film...

1969 – 1979: Change – The Cool Cats

In 1968, the board decided the festival needed adjudicators of national and international stature, the "cool cats" whose presence would say to film makers – "Hey, I'm here. Why aren't you?" In addition to the naming of very credible people to the panel, the board sought to find a balance among the three adjudicators by finding people to represent three sectors from the film community: a technician, a critic and a director or actor.

Members of the 1969 adjudication panel fit the profile. They were people seen as credible within the Canadian industry and they represented a cross section of roles in the filmmaking process. Eva Langbord was Talent Development and Liaison Officer for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) while Guy Beaulne was the Director General of Theatre and Drama Conservatories, Province of Quebec. Satindar Kumar, former film columnist with the Indian Express, Dehli, was drafted as film critic. Kumar worked for the local television station.



Roger Trottier

Some of the “cool cats” of the 1969 – 1979 period included:

- Frank Morriss, arts editor of the *Winnipeg Free Press*, (1971)
- Micheline Lanctot, actor, *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravetz* (1975)
- John Hofsess, film critic, *Maclean's*, (1975)
- Don Owen, film maker for the National Film Board (1977)
- George Anthony, editor and film critic of the *Toronto Sun* (1977)
- Barry Morse, actor and star of the television series *The Fugitive*, (1979)



Elwyn Vermette and actor Barry Morse, 1979

Most importantly, there was money. The Saskatchewan Arts Board, realizing the importance of this festival and its objectives, assisted with the selection of the adjudicators and provided funds for their travel and fees.

Finding the cool cats was not always so easy. Those wishing to be “helpful” suggested the festival “try to obtain the adjudicators early!” Good luck. An actor or director could not guarantee a year in advance that they would be available and even if they signed a contract, that contract would mean nothing if a better offer appeared. For example, Gerald Prately, founder of the Ontario Film Institute and a director with the Stratford International Film Festival, backed out in August 1971 leaving the festival only two months to find his replacement. The Saskatchewan Deputy Minister of Culture and Youth suggested Donald Sutherland in his place! Lord Snowden, Gordon Pinsent, and Norman Jewison were unavailable as well. Finding adjudicators remained forever a project in chasing the “cool cats”.

For more information on the cool cats:

[Frank Morris](#)

[Micheline Lanctot](#)

John Hofsess; in 1991, John Hofsess formed the controversial Right to Die Society of Canada.

[Don Owen](#)

[George Anthony](#)

[Barry Morse](#)

1969 – 1979: Change – Money Was a Good Thing! It Still Is...

By 1975, the need for an increased revenue stream was pressing. The ever expanding demands of the festival had pushed the event beyond the time and energy of a volunteer group. The Yorkton International Film Festival Society needed an employee – preferably more than one, but at least one.

Around the board table in that little office above the bowling alley sat the local people who had dedicated their all to the festival, but given the demands of the festival their all could not be enough. They needed staff. They needed money. The only way to get it was to change their beloved festival. It was a case of do or die. With Elwyn Vermette as chair and the ever-faithful Nettie Kryski as secretary, the board made the momentous decision, the transformative change that would dictate the direction of the festival for the next 37 years. The board rejected its thirty year concentration on international film in favour of a competition limited to Canadian productions. With the change, the festival would qualify for government grants. Money was a good thing.

At the same time, the executive decided to apply for a charitable tax number so that those giving donations could receive a receipt for income tax purposes. Jim Milliken, president of the Yorkton Arts Council when the organization loaned the group \$200 to keep them afloat, stepped up once again and helped with the legal work.

In early 1977, Don Humphries was employed as the festival's first Executive Secretary. By April 1, the festival had run out of money and the board was forced to take out a loan. Later that month and probably in sync with the new fiscal year, grant cheques began to arrive:

- Canada Council (\$5000)
- Sask. Sport Trust Fund (\$3,150) to cover adjudication costs
- Sask. Sport Trust Fund (\$2,625) to cover half the salary and expenses of the Executive Secretary
- City of Yorkton (\$500)

The festival was saved, at least temporarily. And so began the never-ending pursuit of grants and funding to keep the festival afloat.

Ironically, even though they had moved to a Canadian format, the board members decided to retain the international aspect of the festival by screening foreign films – film not permitted to be a part of the competition. The board members thought the public might not accept the move to a Canadian format. Quite likely, the board, too, was leery of the change.

In 1977, the festival received funding for its first cash prize. The Queen City Junior Film Festival in Regina was disbanding – not for lack of interest, their members said, but because of a lack of good children's film. They decided to take some of their cash (\$2000) and create a fund for the encouragement of films about children for children.

In 2012, after 35 years, that \$2000 is long gone, but the initiative begun in 1977 continues. There are now three cash awards available:

- The Founder's Award - \$500 – a production showing historical Canadian characters or events
- Kathleen Shannon Award (National Film Board) - \$1000 – an independent filmmaker whose production focus is a minority community
- Ruth Shaw Best of Saskatchewan Award - \$500 – awarded to a Saskatchewan production

In the 1970s, money was a good thing. It still is.

1969 – 1979: Change – Learning the Trade

In the 1970s, the board began to offer workshops. In 1971 and 1973, this effort was limited, but by the end of the decade, the festival had succeeded in attracting well known facilitators from the Canadian film industry. A quick look at the list below proves the point. The workshops attracted filmmakers to the festival and also enhanced the reputation of the festival as a competition of some stature.

1969: Wayne Morgan, resident artist from Weyburn, led a seminar on film making for high school students.

1971: Thirty-two local high school students attended a workshop given by Lee Coxama of Moose Jaw and Roger Paradise and Jim Hill of Regina.



Students registering for the 1971 workshop.

1973: The Western Producer reported that young independent filmmakers had come to the festival to see film, talk shop and join the regular contingent of embassy representatives and film executives in the social festivities which Yorkton did so well. The interaction was an education of sorts, but there were no formalized workshops.

1975: First biennial Western Canadian Film Makers Workshop. The panel for discussion of the Future of Film in Canada were:

- Larry Hertzog, CTV's Program Director, producer – *Why Shoot the Teacher?*
- Allan King, independent film maker, a pioneer of the Cinema Verite technique and director- *Who Has Seen the Wind*
- Ken Black, CBC's assistant director of TV information programs
- Ted Rouse, Canadian Film Development Corporation
- Fil Fraser of Fraser Communications Ltd. of Edmonton, Executive Producer – *Why Shoot the Teacher?*

1977: Second biennial Western Canadian Film Makers workshop. The panel for discussion of Making a Living in Canada as a Filmmaker were:

- Jerry McNabb, president of the Canadian Film Makers Distribution Centre, Toronto
- Allan Palmer, chief of the Media Research Division of the NFB
- Hector Ross, president of Rokemay Theatres of Calgary
- Larry Hertzog, CTV Network Director of film and drama
- James Henry, North American representative for the Australian Film Commission
- Connie Tadros, editor of "Cinema Canada"



Attending the 1977 Western Canadian Film Makers Workshop panel

A workshop about the creative side of film making was conducted by Tom Radford, winner of many Golden Sheaf Awards including *Ernest Brown*, *Pioneer Photographer* (Best of Festival 1973), *The Man who Chooses Bush* (Best Film, Best Documentary, Best Cinematography, Best Direction, 1975), *Tommy Douglas: Keeper of the Flame* (Antoinette Kryski Canadian Heritage Award of \$500, 1987).

A Trade Day was held as a marketing initiative for Canadian filmmakers, distributors, and writers. 1979: Lothar Wolff, international filmmaker from New York, held a workshop on the Total Picture of Making a Film. Wolff was famous for *Wild, Wild World of Animals*, a 26 episode series for television, and *Other People, Other Places*, a 52 episode series for television. He was joined by Beverly Shaffer, who was famous for *I'll Find a Way*, which won an Oscar in 1978.

The workshops attracted more and more filmmakers to the festival, clearly a new direction for an event about to fail only one decade earlier.

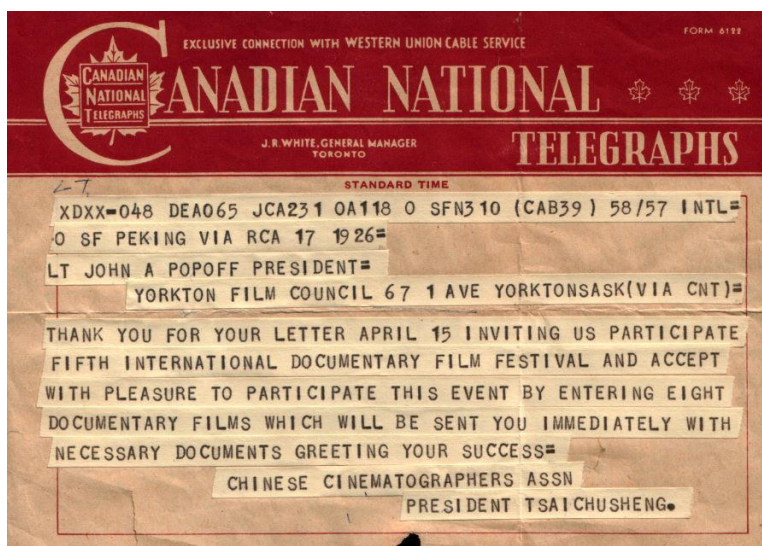
1971 – A Message to Venice

In 1971, the Venice Film Festival mistakenly proclaimed that it was the first to receive film entries from Red China. The following message was sent from Yorkton Festival organizers to the Venice Film Festival.

*"So you're three years older than we are. So what.
So you have the Golden Lion. We have the Golden Sheaf.
So you're international and we aren't. We used to be and we decided not to be. Like the beer, we're Canadian. We're here to celebration the best of our own country.
So you have Al Pacino a Career Golden Lion. Despite his name, he's American, not Italian. We celebrate the best in our own industry. Gordon Pinsent is just one of them. He came and drank our scotch not once but twice.
So China submitted a film to your glorious festival in 1971. You crowed that for the first time the People's Republic had participated in an international motion picture event. It's time to eat that crow, Venice. In our archives we have a telegram received from the Chinese Cinematographers Association, a telegram*

that entered not one but eight films in our 1956 competition. In 1962 and 1964, we saw three films from the People's Republic of China: *Landscape Painting*, *Great Hall of People* and *On Night Duty*. Clearly, Venice, you...were...wrong.

To all the film festivals of the world, we're Canadian and we're here and we're here to stay. And our message to Venice: take your impertinence and stick it up your nose."



Telegram from 1956 Competition from Chinese Cinematographers Association

1958 and 1977: The Golden Sheaf

From 1950 through 1956, there was no Golden Sheaf award. The Yorkton International Film Festival was truly a People's Choice event. The viewers saw all the entries and determined by ballot the best film in each category. Certificates of Merit were issued based on the judgement of a Yorkton audience, main street Canada if you will.

In 1956, the Yorkton Film Council moved from a People's Choice format to a team of three adjudicators. It was their role to view the films and determine the winners. Frank Morriss, entertainment editor with the *Winnipeg Free Press*, was one of the members of that first team. At the end of the three-day event, he concluded that Yorkton should have a grand prize, something that would represent the area, something would become a respected image of the festival. What better symbol, he thought, than the golden wheat he had seen on his travels from Winnipeg to Yorkton?

He suggested the Film Council adopt a wheat motif and that the award be called the Golden Sheaf. His idea met with unanimous approval. The Winnipeg Brass Company was commissioned to design and produce the first Golden Sheaf. In 1958, the first trophy was awarded to a Czech film, *Inspiration*.

In the 1960s, probably the brass award was expensive, the Council moved to a new design opting for the traditional engraved metal plaque and then for an acrylic stand-alone trophy.

In the mid-1970s, the board decided that the festival needed a truly unique award. Saskatchewan Government Insurance agreed to provide a grant of \$1,250, the moneys to be awarded to the artist of the winning design. The artists selected for the closed competition included Joe Fafard, Jerry Didur, Rick Gomes, Ruth Welsh and Russell Yuristy, all Saskatchewan residents.

Didur won the competition. He described his design as “an abstraction of the top half of a strike of wheat using an artesco-type of design.” Symbolic wheat heads would be etched onto the top shafts. The sheaf would sit on a stylized film reel, also cast in bronze. Both components would be cast separately and anchored to a walnut base. The new trophy would stand 18 inches high.

The board decided that the concept was too difficult to reproduce in quantity and called on Jim Trinder of Yorkton to come up with another idea. His design has become the icon of the festival, the stylized Golden Sheaf of today.

In 1977, *High Grass Circus*, an NFB production, won the first redesigned Golden Sheaf. However, because of production problems, it was not available for presentation at the festival. Dave Sharples of the NFB Regina office accepted the trophy for the film in November.

In 1979, the unthinkable happened. Barry Morse, film adjudicator and star of *The Fugitive*, rose to announce the best of festival. He shuffled his papers and then to the dismay of all, he said that the three adjudicators would not be handing out that newly designed thirty pound Golden Sheaf. He said that the three adjudicators felt that “it would be somewhat ‘grotesque’ to pick out one top film in the festival; a festival which had seen the best Canadian short films ever entered. It would be almost impossible to pick out the almighty from the almighty...the films are all terrific. This year, there are no losers. Everyone who has entered or participated in this event is a winner. All have won just by being here.”

The Golden Sheaf went back to the office. It could be used the following year when the festival moved from a biennial to an annual event.

The Office

Glory be! In 1977, the Yorkton International Film Festival moved into its own digs, an office above the Yorkton Public Library on Broadway between Third and Fourth Avenues. The City of Yorkton was willing to rent the space for a nominal fee, something the organization could afford. The festival shared the space with Brown’s Survey Limited.

That year Don Humphries was hired in February as the first and only festival employee. His first priority was the organization of a crew to paint the new premises. A photo in the March 23 edition of the *Yorkton This Week* showed Jim Huziak, Ernie Styba and the newly appointed executive secretary hard at work. A few days later, Humphries waxed the floor and the festival had an office...of sorts. Shelia Harris described the premises as small and the bathroom as grungy.

In 1979, the festival along with its neighbour, Brown’s Survey, moved next door to space above the Yorkton Bowl Arena. The area was bigger with two windows that fronted on Broadway. Another photo



The office in 1977.

in the *Yorkton This Week* showed two volunteers hanging banners from those windows, a banner announcing the good news of another Yorkton International Film Festival.

The festival came to benefit just one year later from the vision of Janette Dean. According to *Windows on our History*, she “made the dream of a permanent facility for the cultural activities of Yorkton a reality” with the donation of \$500,000 towards the construction of a building to be named in memory of her late husband, Godfrey. Four

community cultural groups, including the Yorkton International Film Festival, mounted a campaign to raise additional funds.

In 1981, the Godfrey Dean Cultural Centre opened its doors and the festival had a permanent home.

The Gala: Before and After



Inside the Anne Portnuff Theatre

Before

In the 1970s, the Anne Portnuff Theatre was the venue for the Golden Sheaf Awards. The auditorium, seating capacity 750, was nearly empty. Around town, there was no excitement, no buzz, no prestige.

“Look,” said Morris Stakiw pointing at the picture. “No hoopla. It was unbelievable, so I talked to the guys in the Kinsmen and we decided the festival needed a banquet.” Morris, long time festival supporter, is the son of Stan Stakiw, one of the founding members of the Yorkton Film Council.

In 1980, the Kinsmen initiated the first gala in fine Yorkton style: a dinner with the requisite perogies and cabbage rolls, the Golden Sheaf presentations, film clips from the winning entries and a foot-stompin’ old time dance. There was a scramble for tickets.

After

For the last number of galas, winners have come from across Canada to accept their awards. There were clips from the nominated films. In 2011, Shelia Coles, popular show host at CBC, emceed the event. Outside there were the paparazzi (played by the actors of Yorkton’s community theatre group, Paper Bag Players). There was excitement.

A far cry from the nearly-empty Ann Portnuff Theatre of the 1970s.



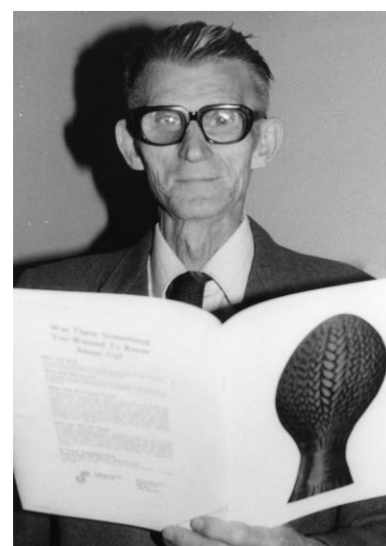
Gala Night, 2007 festival

Better Entries at the Film Festival

Adam Tokaruk said in an interview with the *Yorkton Enterprise* that over the years he has seen improvement in the films entered in the festival. He explained that the improvements were based on better photography and colour.

Adam should know. From 1972 to 1980, he attended nearly all the screenings of films at the Yorkton International Film Festival. In addition, Tokaruk, a festival committee member, participated in the prescreening process that was used to sort the entries into categories.

That meant he watched all the films not once but twice – a big advantage, he said, because that we he retained more detail from the films.



1981: Video Introduced – Why Not?

It took some discussion. It took some persuasion. There were those around the executive table who thought that film, the celluloid tradition, was the real thing, that video was an upstart destined to hit the scrap heap of failed technologies. Besides, some argued – it was too expensive – new equipment, new training. Better to stick with the tried and true. There were others more open to change, who saw video technology as the wave of the future.

November 10, 1981, Katherine Lawrence of *The Globe and Mail* reported that Yorkton had just completed its annual film festival. There was no hoopla to announce the introduction of video into the competition. The change simply recognized that the new technology had come into its own. The distinct advantage to video was that it was much more accessible to people seeking an economical way to tell a story visually.



“We saw very good drama this week produced out of Moose Jaw

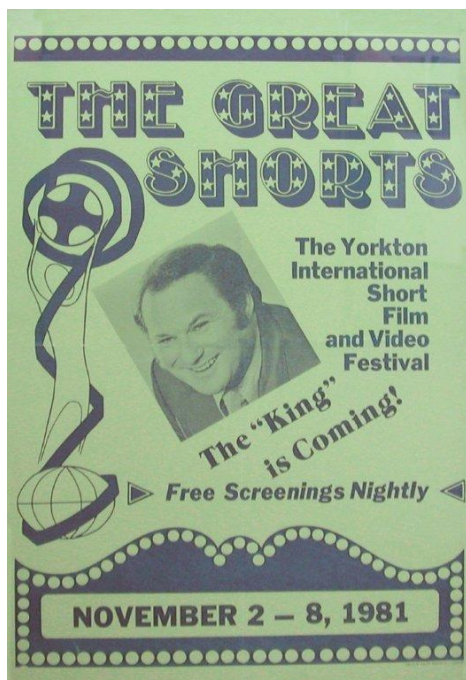
Joseph Dahonick and Diane Labreche unload boxes of film reels

(Saskatchewan) that could never have happened without video,” said adjudicator Bill Nemtin, president of Pacific Cinematheque. *Melanie* was a sensitive documentary about a young woman 4’2 in height, and he struggles to deal with the frustration that comes from being seen as different.

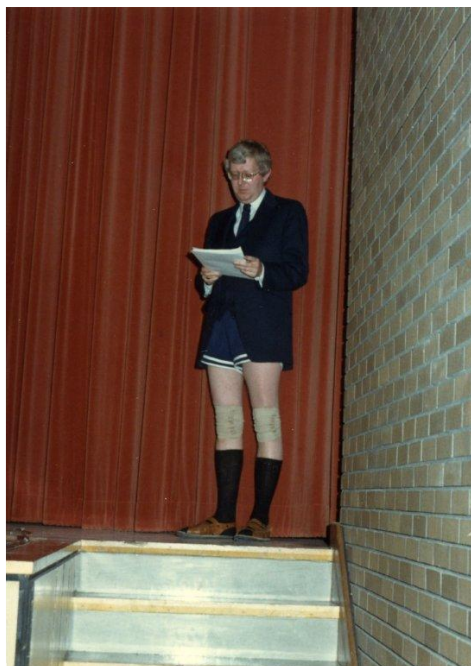
Director Robin Osemiak began the production with a team of volunteers. As word of the project spread through Moose Jaw, people appeared as if by magic – 15 actors, 200 extras, a hairdresser, a make-up artists, a sound technician and actor Faye Sopick as Melanie. The capital for the project was \$57. The video won the \$500 cash award for the depiction of a person with a handicap.

The Person’s Case by ACCESS Alberta was named the outstanding video production of the festival. It told the story of the Famous Five, the struggle of five prairie women for recognition as person in law. It won top awards for actress Frances Hyland and director John Wright.

That same year, the festival introduced the notion of The Great Shorts, the title of the festival program. If video crept on silent cat paws into the festival, the “shorts” pranced in as rollicking comedy. Bill Johnston, the master of ceremonies for the gala, stepped to the podium in tails, a formal white shirt, and shorts, attire normally worn by members of the local basketball team. He and Al Waxman in a conservative suit, paraded through the crowd arm in arm. The move from feature length to short documentaries entered the festival with “style” and panache.



1981 Festival Poster



Bill Johnston and his shorts, 1981

Over the next thirty years, the festival would continue to adapt to changing film technologies. Celluloid film has disappeared. The film projectors are now artifacts to decorate the festival office. Three-quarter inch video tape has given way to half-inch only to be replaced today by the DVD.

No more does a trip to the bus depot mean a trunk load of film reels. Videos arrive in padded envelopes. The staff records the pertinent information before they are reshipped for adjudication teams across the country.

With the increasing use of the internet, the waves of change will continue to lap against the shores of the festival, eroding the old, carving a new landscape. It is sure that the Yorkton Film Festival will be there to adapt to the seas of change.

1983: Festival Receives National Award

In May 1983, the Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival won the Dorothy and Oscar Burritt Memorial Award.

The award was a \$1,500 prize given to a volunteer group or individual by the Canadian Federation of Film Societies to honour the work of the Burritts in the Canadian Film Society movement in the 1950s and 1960s.

Saskatchewan Showcase

When the festival inaugurated a prize in 1980 for the best entry from a Saskatchewan filmmaker, the award was not given simply because there were no entries. Festival organizers called the lack a major disappointment.

One year later, things seemed to turn around with the introduction of video into the completion. The new technology was much more accessible to the emerging filmmaker. It required less in the way of capital and more in the way of collaboration with the local television community.



Doug McDougall, 1984

Just three years later there had been a significant change. At the festival's annual meeting Doug McDougall, festival chairman, announced a new competition, Saskatchewan Showcase. The competition was meant to encourage the film industry in the province. The festival was chosen to organize the new event because it had the staff and the expertise.

The first annual Saskatchewan Showcase was held in Yorkton. Ches Yetman of the National Film Board and Peter Haynes of Cintel Productions acted as adjudicators. The event included:

- A workshop on "How you can make a feature movie for \$35,000"
- Screenings
- Awards and cash prizes of \$3,000

Included at the showcase was a panel discussion of Saskatchewan government policy in regards to the motion picture industry in the province.

As the organization began for the event, Shelia Harris, executive director, reported that she expected 25 films, videos, and slide presentations in the competition. In fact, the event attracted 50 entries. Charles Konowal of Regina won best overall production for his NFB Film, *Grain Elevator*.

From zero to fifty in just four years – a sure sign of film industry growth in the province, an encouraging promise for the future.

1985: SMPIA Formed at Festival

In the 1980s, there was tension among film makers within the province, a tension based on too many seeking too little work. Paul Fudge, executive secretary of the Saskatchewan Council of Cultural Organizations, was called on to facilitate the formation of a new organization to resolve the problem, to

foster growth of the film as an industry. Fudge began by setting up a committee to draft bylaws for the group.

“I was nervous going into that meeting held during the 1985 Yorkton festival,” he said. “Thank goodness I didn’t know about the animosities among some of the filmmakers.” In the end, all went well; the day ended with the formation of the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Industry Association (SMPIA) with Don List as its first president.

List stated that the objectives for the new organization were extensive:

- To provide a forum for discussion and decision-making for its members
- To provide leadership
- To foster cooperation
- To gather and disseminate information
- To promote the values and benefits of the industry

In other words, to foster the growth of a fledgling film industry in the province.

List stated that increasing the association membership would be the group’s greatest challenge. In Alberta, a similar organization comprised more than a hundred members, while in Saskatchewan the group only had forty on the roll.

“The industry in Saskatchewan is developing,” List said. “It’s growing. It’s just a matter of tapping some of the resources of the people and making this thing grow.”

Just one year later, the differences between the Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival and SMPIA were apparent. An article in the *Yorkton This Week* explained that SMPIA sought to be recognized as the film community’s umbrella organization in the province. As such, it would become the dispenser of provincial lottery money.

The SMPIA proposal was first broached at the festival’s AGM in January 1986. Don List, festival board member and SMPIA chairman, requested that the two organizations work more closely together. Film maker Stephen Onda’s position seemed more definite.

Onda called the proposal a marriage undertaken with the hope of obtaining more funding. Festival President Laurence Pearson refused to be drawn into a position explaining he was disappointed the festival had not been involved in discussions about “merger” ideas prior to the meeting. The idea was seen by some as a take-over bid by the executive of SMPIA. Several members of SMPIA complained they had not had the opportunity to look at the proposal and questioned why.

Shelia Harris, festival executive director, said the festival’s role was to be supportive of filmmakers but at arm’s length from



Executive Director Shelia Harris, 1986

them in order to preserve a non-biased approach to the competitive aspect of the festival.

A motion was made to table the motion until the festival in the fall.

At the 1986 festival, Paul Fudge, executive director of the Saskatchewan Council of Cultural Organizations, pooh-poohed the idea that SMPIA be named the umbrella organization for dispensing of lottery funds. Formed just one year earlier, SMPIA did not qualify for the designation because it had not been incorporated for the required two years.

Elwyn Vermette, vice-president of the Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival board, said there was a feeling that “the tail was trying to wag the dog.” He didn’t see the SMPIA proposal as a threat to the future of the Yorkton festival.

In 1987, SMPIA was named the umbrella organization for film in the province and thereby responsible for the administration of moneys received from lottery funding. By 1992, the funding from the Saskatchewan Trust Fund to the festival had decreased by more than 40%.

Money – a good thing from the 1970s – continued to be a good thing in the 1980s and 1990s. Its lack created the need for more and more local fund raising and a wider search for grants and sponsorships.

1987: Festival Outreach

“This year, the festival will go all out to involve people in Yorkton and district.”

--Ian Reid, Executive Director

To create enthusiasm and to raise the profile of the annual event, the board and staff organized the Celebrity Slow Pitch Game and Family Party for the Friday night of the festival. It was an invitation for everyone to come and mingle with Canadian filmmakers.

The front page of the *Yorkton This Week* showed slugger Mayor Brian Fromm in fine form as he hit a home run.

The Four-Town Journal, with its offices in Langenburg, reported on a film workshop for grade six to nine students at Saltcoats School.

Alan Pakarnk, an independent filmmaker from Winnipeg was hired through the NFB to work with the students on their own animated films. A premiere of the films was shown the opening night of the festival.

Jerry Krepekevich, former Yorkton resident and filmmaker with the National Film Board, offered a



Community involvement in the 1987 festival; baseball to Babas.

workshop for high school students at North Eastern Cablevision offices.

Brown Bag Lunch Screenings were offered as well as a popular Children's Festival Saturday morning.

The festival hosted a street fair downtown called Cinerama. When the weather was good, the event was a huge success. With wind and rain – well, not so much.

The outreach tradition continues – pancake breakfasts, barbeques, lobster fest. It all makes for a good time at the festival.

The Way Ahead

The history of the festival has been like a stream with its rocky rapids and smooth flow of deep shimmering waters. The 1960s saw the rocky times when attendance at screenings fell and the festival faced closure. In the 1970s, leadership diverted the festival around the danger of collapse to a more productive journey. By the late 1980s, however, the event was once more in troubled waters. The festival, like many arts organizations, struggled to stay afloat. Government, faced with mounting deficits, cut budgets to all its departments and grants to cultural groups. The festival lost 40% of its lottery funding by 1993. The executive director spent more than four months each year on grand applications, the work sometimes to no avail.

For a while, the festival held parallel events to attract local people into the wider world of film, but it didn't seem to work. People flocked to see the gun fight or jousting on 2nd Avenue, but neither had little to do with film. The festival hosted feature length films at the Tower Theatre, but the audience proved sparse.

Then the festival encountered the stream of new media. Filmmakers looked to YouTube for their audience. Netflix and Pay-Per View offered films at any time, any where. It all made a difference. The festival's response was to organize the Golden Sheaf Awards Tours, a program where films were distributed to various organizations across the province. The philosophy was "get the films to the audience rather than the audience to the films." It was a positive re-launch of festival fortunes.

In 2008, Richard Gustin, an SCN executive, came to the festival board at the invitation of then board chairperson, Dean Sauer of the CBC.

"I told Dean I was coming on the board with the idea that we fix it or fold it," said Gustin, now co-chairperson of the board of the Yorkton Film Festival. "I didn't want to see it fold. It was the only Saskatchewan event of its type, but we needed a new map, a new direction."

The waters were definitely choppy.

Given the frustrations, the board struggled with many things, but the discussion came back to the central question – what was the function of the festival in the present. In the past when the festival was

founded, there was no television, no internet and so people flocked to the films hosted by the Yorkton Film Council.

“Today, we are in a universe of 150 television channels and a gazillion things on the internet,” Gustin said. “Film and video are everywhere.”

This is the reality of the film industry today. Yet despite the changes in technology, the filmmaker still returns to the fundamental goal, the desire to communicate, to tell a story. Their role is important.

To meet the challenges, Yorkton is becoming a media or screen festival. “We are establishing competition categories for the new media. We want to attract younger filmmakers and students. We want to bring in our fellow travelers, writers, and musicians. We need to build and strengthen the

community through a collaborative process with like-minded and not-so-like minded people.” Gustin said.

“The festival fosters the building of community,” Gustin continued. “The Golden Sheaf Award allow us to celebrate our successes. The workshops provide the formal learning experience. The events of the festival allow for fellowship, to make the contacts and friendships that foster growth.”

The 65th gives us the chance to look forward, to decide what’s next for the festival. The river downstream promises an exciting journey.

Yorkton Goes to the Oscars

These films were shown at the Yorkton Film Festival and then went on to be nominated for or to win an Oscar.

Year	Title	Filmmaker	Oscar Category	Outcome	YFF Category
1953	Neighbours	Norman McLaren (NFB)	Documentary	Won	3 rd – Sociological 1954
1953	Herring Hunt	Julian Biggs (NFB)	Short Subject	Nomination	2 nd – Agriculture and Industry 1954
1958	City of Gold	Wolf Koenig & Colin Law (NFB)	Live Action	Nomination	1 st – General Category 1958
1960	Universe	Roman Kroitor & Colin Law (NFB)	Doc. Live Action	Nomination	Golden Sheaf (GS) Best of Festival 1967
1967	Paddle to the Sea	Bill Mason (NFB)	Live Action	Nomination	GS – Creative and Experimental 1967
1968	Pas de Deux	Norman McLaren (NFB)	Live Action	Nomination	GS – Best of Festival 1969
1974	La Faim, Hunger	Peter Foldes & Rene Jodoin (NFB)	Animation	Nomination	GS – Animation 1975
1976	Blackwood	Tony Ianzelo & Andy Thompson (NFB)	Short Subject	Nomination	GS – Arts 1977
1977	High Grass Circus	Tony Ianzelo & Torben Schioler (NFB)	Feature Documentary	Nomination	GS – Best of Festival 1977
1981	Crac!	Frederic Back (Radio-Canada)	Animation	Won	GS – Best of Festival 1981
1983	After the Axe	Sturla Gunnarsson (NFB)	Feature Documentary	Nomination	GS – Best Direction 1981

Year	Title	Filmmaker	Oscar Category	Outcome	YFF Category
1983	If You Love this Planet	Terri Nash & Edward Le Lorrain (Independent film for the NFB)	Documentary Feature - Short	Won	GS – Certificate of Merit 1982
1984	Flamenco at 5:15	Cynthia Scott (NFB)	Documentary Short Subject	Won	GS – Fine Arts Production 1984
1985	The Painted Door	Bruce Pittman	Live Action	Nominated	GS – Best Performance, Best Script 1985
1985	Making Overtures	Larry Weinstein (Rhombus Media)	Documentary Short Subject	Nomination	GS – Best of Festival
1988	The Man who Planted Trees	Frederic Back (Radio-Canada)	Animation	Won	GS – Animation 1988
1998	Sunrise over Tiananmen Square	Shui-Bo Wang (NFB)	Short Subject	Nomination	GS – Documentary 1999
2001	Strange Invaders	Cordell Barker (NFB)	Short Animation	Nomination	GS – Jury Award 2002
2004	Hardwood	Hubert Davis (NFB)	Short Subject	Nomination	GS – Best of Festival 2004
2006	The Danish Poet	Torvill Kove (NFB)	Animation	Nomination	GS – Animation 2007

This listing may not be complete. Please advise the festival office if you know of other films that were screened at YFF and were nominated or won an Oscar.

Festival Staff and Board from 1950

Yorkton Film Council

1950

President: Paul Welgan

Vice-president: W. J. Croll

Secretary-treasurer: Antoinette Kryski

Executive: Charles Pachal, Robert. Adamson, Mrs. S. Hunter, Miss K. Francis, Otto Yackel, Mrs. G. Sinclair, Stan Stakiw

Advisor: Jim Lysyshyn, N.F.B. Representative, Canora, Sask.

1951

President: Norman Roebuck

Vice-President: William Stearn

Secretary-treasurer: Antoinette Kryski

Librarian: Stan Stakiw

Chairman of Family Fun Night: Paul Welgan

Other members: Bill Croll, Mrs. Sinclair, Mrs. Warren, Rev. Becker, Rev. Wendon, Mr. Gulalzen, John Uremko, Mr. Jensen, Mr. Skwarchuk

Advisor: Jim Lysyshyn, N.F.B. Representative, Canora, Sask.

1952

President: Wm. Stearn

Vice-president: Rev. L. Wenham

Secretary-treasurer: Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski

Finance: Charles Pachal

Publicity: Mrs. George Sinclair (newspaper), Merv Phillips (radio)

Projectionist: John Uremko

Librarian: Stan Stakiw

Social: Mrs. Harold Warren

Program: Rev. Wenham and Paul Welgan

Custodian: Norman Roebuck

Other Members: John Delton, Mr. Gulalzen, Mrs. Welgan, Robert Adamson, Harry Elder, Mr. Greer, William Blommaert (These members are representatives from Yorkton organizations to the Yorkton Film Council)

Advisor: Jim. Lysyshyn, N.F.B. Representative, Canora, Sask.

1953

President: Rev. L. Wenham

Vice-President: Rev. M. MacLean

Secretary-treasurer: Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski

Finance: Paul Welgan

Publicity: Mabel Andrews

Projectionist Convener: William Stearn

Librarian and custodian: Stan Stakiw

Social Convener: Mrs. H. Warren

Program: Phil Schick and William Stearn

Other members: Florence Anderson, John Delton, John Popoff, Ruth Shaw, Mr. Bergman (Jim Lysyshyn took a leave of absence June 11, 1953 so he could seek treatment for tuberculosis.)

1954

President: Rev. L. Wenham (Moved to British Columbia; he was replaced by John Popoff April 8, 1954)

Vice-president: E. Bligh

Secretary-treasurer: Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski

Finance Convener: Phil Schick

Publicity: Mrs. Paul Welgan
 Anderson Projectionist Convener: John Popoff
 Librarian and custodian: Stan Stakiw
 Social Convener: Ruth Shaw, Mrs. Weldman, Mabel Anderson
 Program: Rev. Becker, Phil Schick, William Stearn
 Other members: Robert Adamson, Mr. Underwood, Mrs. Nordquist
 Advisor: Jim Lysyshyn, N.F.B. Representative, Canora, Sask.

1955

President: Phil Schick
 Vice-President: John Popoff
 Secretary-treasurer: Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski
 Finance: Charles Pachal
 Projectionist Convener: John Popoff
 Librarian and custodian: Stan Stakiw
 Social Convener: Mrs. Nordquist, Mrs. Weldman
 Program: Mr. G. Underwood
 Other members: Rev. Becker, John Ginther

1956

President: John Popoff
 Vice-President: John Ginther
 Secretary-treasurer: Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski
 Finance: Charles Pachal
 Publicity: Ruth Shaw
 Projectionist Convener: John Ginther
 Librarian, custodian and program convener: Stan Stakiw
 Social: Mrs. Nordquist, Mrs. Weldman
 Other members: John Delton, Marie McDonald, Les Hughes, Ella Haacke, Isobel Birt
Festival Planning Committee
 John Popoff, Paul Welgan, Dr. H. A. L. Portnuff, Antoinette Kryski
 Assisted by: Ethel Castleden, Marie McDonald, Rev. Bruss, M. Phillips, Cliff Shaw,
 Isobel Birt, D. Forsyth, William Korb, Mrs. G. Weldman, Mrs. L. Nordquist, Ruth Shaw,
 Mrs. H. Stein., Mrs. D. Marchant, Les Hughes, John Ginther, J. Koshman, R. J. Reid, M.
 Borys, Charles Pachal, Stan. Stakiw

1957

President: John Popoff
 Vice-President: John Ginther
 Secretary-treasurer: Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski
 Finance: Charles Pachal
 Publicity: Ruth Shaw
 Projectionist Convener: John Ginther
 Librarian, custodian and program convener: Stan Stakiw
 Social: Mrs. Nordquist, Mrs. Weldman

1958

President: John Popoff
 Vice-President: John Ginther
 Secretary-treasurer: Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski
 Finance: Charles Pachal
 Publicity: Ruth Shaw
 Projectionist Convener: John Ginther
 Librarian, custodian and program convener: Stan Stakiw
 Social: Mrs. Weldman
 Other member: Isabel Birt

1959

President: John Popoff
 Vice-President: Mrs. D. J. Matheson
 Second Vice-President: Marie MacDonald
 Secretary-treasurer: Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski
 Finance: Charles Pachal and D. Forsyth
 Publicity: Ruth Shaw
 Projectionist: John. Ginther and Cecil Wilcox
 Social: Mrs. G. Weldman

1960

President: John Popoff
 Vice-President: Mrs. D. J. Matheson
 Second Vice-President: Marie MacDonald
 Secretary-treasurer: Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski
 Finance: Charles Pachal and D. Forsyth
 Publicity: Ruth Shaw
 Projectionist: John Ginther and Cecil Wilcox
 Social Mrs. G. Weldman
 Other members: Margaret ElDeiry, George Loewen, Fred Broadfoot, Frances Purves,
 Mrs. Andrews, William Blommaert
Festival Planning Committee
 Publicity: Norman Roebuck convener. Wilf Burney, The Enterprise, Jerry Birch, CKOSTV,
 Bill Graham, CJGX, Mrs. Ruth Shaw, Sifton papers, Miss Marie Macdonald
 Finance D. O. Forsyth, Royal bank manager; Paul Welgen, H. H. Miller
 House: Geoff Smith
 Banquet: Mrs. G. G. Weldman, convener
 Projection: John Popoff convener, Cecil Wilcox, John Ginther
 Hospitality: Nettie Kryski, convener

1961

According to the minutes, election of officers was postponed until an unspecified date.

1962

President: John A. Popoff
 First Vice-President: John Ginther
 Second Vice-President: Marie Holoday
 Secretary-treasurer Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski

Festival Planning Committee:

John Popoff, Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski, Mrs. G. E. Weidman, Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Smith, Ruth Shaw, Mrs. H. A. L. Portnuff, John Ginther, Cecil Wilcox, Frances Purves, Doug Munro, Miss E. Gardiner, Mrs. D. Logan, Dr. M. Nieuwenhuizen

1963

Past President: John A. Popoff
 President: Dr. M. Nieuwenhuizen\
 Vice-President: Doug Munro
 Second Vice-President: Hellmut Lang\
 Secretary treasurer: Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski
 Social Convener: Mrs. D. Logan
 Publicity Convener: Ruth Shaw
 Projection Convener: John Popoff
 Others: Mrs. Weldman, Mrs. Kohlert, Cecil Wilcox, Miss Gardner (film librarian), Frances Purvis

Other members: Ken Dodds, Sam Zeiben,

Festival Planning Committee:

Doug Munro, chairman, Hellmut Lang, Nettie Kryski, Ruth Shaw, Fred Broadfoot

1964

President: Doug Munroe
 First Vice-President: Hellmut Lang
 Second Vice-President: William Blommaert
 Secretary-treasurer: Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski
 Publicity: Ruth Shaw\
 Social Convener: Marianne Lee
 Projectionist Convener: Cecil Wilcox
 Other members: Mrs. G. A. Ives, Mrs. Andrews

1965

There is no record of an election of officers in the minutes for the year 1965.

1966

Past President: Hellmut Lang\
 President: Fred Broadfoot
 Vice President Mrs. W. Andrews
 Secretary-treasurer: Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski
 Publicity: Margaret ElDeiry
 Social Convener: Mrs. G. A. Ives
 Projectionist: Cecil Wilcox

1967

President: Fred Broadfoot
 Vice-President: George Loewen
 Secretary-Treasurer: Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski
 Publicity: Margaret. El Deiry

1968

There is no record of an election of officers in the minutes for the year 1968.

1969

President: Fred Broadfoot
 Chairman: 1969 Festival Committee Mr. G. H. Loewen
 Secretary-treasurer: Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski
 Promotion Chairman: Colleen Bailey, Mrs. D. F. Matheson, Ethel Castleden, Ruth Shaw
 Social Chairman: Mrs. V. Brown
 Program Sales: Laurence Pearson

Yorkton International Film Festival Society**1971**

Chairperson: Colleen Bailey
 Vice Chairman: Laurence Pearson
 Secretary: Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski
 Treasurer: Bill Parker
 Ian Holter, Elwyn Vermette, Bjorn Thorsrud, Harold Fenske, Mrs. P. Mooney, Margaret El Diery, Jeff Smith, Chas. R. Spencer, Chuck Schoffer, John Dowie, Don Logan, Otto. Yakel. Gary Deane, Valerie Deane, Michael Cooper, Frank Switzer, Mrs. George Taylor, Laurence Pearson

1973

Chairman: Laurence Pearson
 Vice-Chairman: Elwyn Vermette
 Executive Secretary: Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski
 Secretary: Monika Schindel
 Treasurer: Bill Parker
 Directors: Colleen Bailey, Margaret Cugnet, Gary Deane, Valerie Deane, Irene Grobowsky, Brent Logan, Louise Moore, Shirley Neufeld, Merle Sherwin

1975

Chairman: Elwyn Vermette
 Secretary: Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski
 Publicity Chairman: Brian McMillan
 Directors: Louise Moore, Peggy McCaig, Wilf Gardiner, Laurence Pearson, Bill Parker, Wayne Corbett, Colleen Bailey
 Consultant Dave Sharples, NFB

1977

Chairman: Elwyn Vermette

Vice-chairman: Brian Woodward

Past Chairman: Laurence Pearson

Secretary-treasurer: Nettie Kryski,

Secretary: Louise Moore

Directors: Shirley Huziak, Jim Huziak, Alex Morgotch, Scott Miller, Maxine Woodward
Brian Duchscherer, Claire Fluet, Deborah Steen and Randy Hudema

1979*Honorary Patrons*

The Honorable C. Irwin McIntosh – Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan

Mr. Dick Bird – Pioneer Cinematographer, naturalist

Board of Directors

Chairman; Elwyn Vermette

Past-Chairman: Laurence Pearson

Vice-Chairman: Brian Woodward

Secretary-Treasurer: Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski

Executive-Secretary: Sheila Harris

Committee Chairpersons

Finance: Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski

Film Competition: Louise Moore

Education: James Huziak

Publicity, Promotion and Public Relations: Deanna Klassen

Entertainment: Shirley Huziak

Facilities: Randy Hudema

Committee Members:

Dr. Doug MacDougall, John Savigny, Adam Todoruk, Jan White, Ruth Shaw, Chris Nickless, Maxine Woodward, Vange Vallaster, Ragnhild Sprong, Doris Florness

1980*Honourary Patrons:*

The Honourable C. Irwin McIntosh, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan,

Mr. Dick Bird, FP.S.A., A.R.P.S., FZ.S., Hon. LLD Regina University

Mrs. Evelyn Cherry, Cherry Productions, Regina, Saskatchewan

Board of Directors

Chairman: Brian Woodward

Vice-Chairman: Jim Huziak

Treasurer: Antoinette (Nettie) Kryski

Past Chairman: Elwyn Vermette

Directors: Louise Moore, Randy Hudema, Shirley Huziak, Maxine Woodward, Doug McDougall, Vange Vallaster, Ruth Shaw

Staff

Executive Secretary: Sheila Harris

Office Secretary: Rosalie Clark

Yorkton International Short Film and Video Festival**1981***Honorary Patrons*

The Honourable C. Irwin McIntosh, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan,

Mr. Dick Bird, FP.S.A., A.R.P.S., FZ.S., Hon. LLD Regina University

Mrs. Evelyn Cherry, Cherry Productions, Regina, Saskatchewan

Board of Directors

Chairman: Jim Huziak

Vice Chairman: Elwyn Vermette

Treasurer: Doug McDougall

Past Chairman: Brian Woodward

Directors: Shirley Huziak, Randy Hudema, Laurence Pearson, Ruth Shaw, Pat Bymak

Staff

Executive Secretary: Sheila Harris

Office Secretary: Mavis MacDonald

1982*Honorary Patrons*

The Honourable C. Irwin McIntosh, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan,

Mr. Dick Bird, FP.S.A., A.R.P.S., FZ.S., Hon. LLD Regina University

Mrs. Evelyn Cherry, Cherry Productions, Regina, Saskatchewan

Executive

Chairman: Douglas McDougall

Vice Chairman: Laurence Pearson

Treasurer: Pat Bymak

Past Chairman: Jim Huziak

Directors: Randy Hudema, Ruth Shaw, Linda Walker, Peter Legebokoff, Vange
Vallaster, Roger Trottier

Staff

Executive Secretary: Sheila Harris

Office Secretary: Mavis MacDonald

Part-time secretary: Sharon E. Bittner

Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival

1983

Honorary Patrons

The Honourable C. Irwin McIntosh, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan,
 Mr. Dick Bird, FP.S.A., A.R.P.S., FZ.S., Hon. LLD Regina University
 Mr. David Sharples Retired NFB
 Mr. James Lysyshyn, Information Officer, National Film Board
 Mr. John Popoff - Past president, Yorkton Film Council
 Mrs. Evelyn Cherry – Cherry Film Productions

Executive

Chairman: Douglas McDougall
 Vice Chairman: Laurence Pearson
 Treasurer: Gloria Lipinski
 Past Chairman: Jim Huziak
 Directors: Celeste Howland, Allan Bailey, Randy Hudema, Ruth Andrusyk, Elwyn Vermette, Bill Johnston

Staff

Executive Secretary: Sheila Harris
 Other staff not listed in Film Festival Program

1984

Honorary Patrons

The Honourable C. Irwin McIntosh, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan,
 Mr. Dick Bird, FPSA, A.R.P.S., FZ.S., Hon. LLD Regina University
 Mr. David Sharples Retired NFB
 Mr. James Lysyshyn, Information Officer, National Film Board
 Mr. John Popoff - Past president, Yorkton Film Council
 Mrs. Evelyn Cherry – Cherry Film Productions

Board of Directors

Chairman: Gloria Lipinski
 Vice Chairman: Laurence Pearson
 Treasurer: Cori Norman
 Past Chairman: Doug McDougall
 Celeste Howland, Ruth Shaw, Jim Huziak, Allan Bailey, Pat Bymak, Bill Johnston

Staff

Executive Secretary: Sheila Harris
 Executive Assistant: Mavis MacDonald
 Office Secretary: Nancy Hancock
 Projectionist: Joseph Dahonick

1985*Honorary Patrons*

Mrs. Evelyn Cherry, Cherry Film Productions
 Mr. David Sharples, Retired, National Film Board
 Mr. John Popoff, Past president, Yorkton Film Council
 Mr. Dick Bird, FPSA, A.R.P.S., FZ.S., Hon. LLD Regina University
 Mr. James Lysyshyn, Information Officer, National Film Board

Board of Directors

Ian Reid, Ron Balacko, Ruth Shaw, Gloria Lipinski, Doug McDougall, Sue Crowder,
 Laurence Pearson, Fran Hamilton. Gloria Trapp, Celeste Howland, Don List, Allan
 Bailey

Staff

General Manger Sheila Harris
 Executive Assistant: Mavis MacDonald
 Office Worker, Translator: Dian Labreche
 Office Worker, Projectionist: Lee Harris
 Projectionists: Celeste Howland, Will Grainger
 Projection Technician: Randy Hudema

1986*Honorary Patrons*

Mrs. Evelyn Cherry, Cherry Film Productions
 Mr. David Sharples, Retired, National Film Board
 Mr. John Popoff, Past president, Yorkton Film Council
 Mr. James Lysyshyn, Information Officer, National Film Board
 M. Jean Oser, Professor, University of Ottawa

Executive

President: Laurence Pearson
 Vice-President: Elwyn Vermette
 Treasurer: Ian Reid
 Past-President: Gloria Lipinski

Directors and Committee Chairman

Ian Reid: Resource Development and Education
 Don List: Film and Video Competition
 Gloria Lipinski: Film and Video Development
 Ruth Shaw: Advertising, Publicity and Promotion
 Ron Balacko: Public Relations

1987*Honorary Patrons*

Mrs. Evelyn Cherry, Cherry Film Productions
 Mr. David Sharples, Retired, National Film Board

Mr. John Popoff , Past president, Yorkton Film Council
 Mr. James Lysyshyn, Information Officer, National Film Board
 M. Jean Oser, Professor, University of Ottawa
 Directors: Ron Balacko, Elwyn Vermette, Wil Campbell, Laurence Pearson, Kathryn
 McNaughton, Veronica Gamracy, Roger Trottier, Don List

Staff

Executive Director: Ian Reid
 Assistant Director: Mavis MacDonald
 Bilingual/Communications Coordinator: Catherine Degryse

1988

Honorary Patrons

Mrs. Evelyn Cherry, Cherry Film Productions
 Mr. David Sharples, Retired, National Film Board
 Mr. John Popoff, Past president, Yorkton Film Council
 Mr. James Lysyshyn, Information Officer, National Film Board
 M. Jean Oser, Professor, University of Ottawa
 Nancy Morrison, QC
 Lorraine Thorsrud, Canada Council; Canadian Commission UNESCO

Board of Directors

Chairperson: Gloria Lipinski
 Vice-Chairperson: Roger Trottier
 Past Chairperson: Laurence Pearson
 Treasurer: Ruth Shaw
 Directors: Dolores Bonsal, Wendy DeBolt, Gerald Horne, Kathryn McNaughton, Ian
 Rogers, Wil Campbell, Penny Casey, Don List, Carol Olson Elwyn Vermette, Donna
 Yaholnitsky

Staff

Executive Director: Ian Reid
 Assistant Director Mavis MacDonald
 Bilingual/Communications Coordinator: Catherine Degryse

1989

Honorary Patrons

The Honourable Sylvia O. Fedoruk, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan
 Mrs. Evelyn Cherry, Cherry Film Productions
 Mr. David Sharples, Retired, National Film Board
 Mr. John Popoff , Past president, Yorkton Film Council
 Mr. James Lysyshyn, Information Officer, National Film Board
 M. Jean Oser, Professor, University of Ottawa
 Nancy Morrison, QC
 Lorraine Thorsrud, Canada Council; Canadian Commission UNESCO

Board of Directors

Chairperson: Gloria Lipinski

Vice-Chairperson: Roger Trottier

Past Chairperson: Laurence Pearson

Treasurer: Ruth Shaw

Directors: Dolores Bonsal, Wendy DeBolt, Gerald Horne, Kathryn McNaughton, Ian Rogers, Wil Campbell, Penny Casey, Don List, Carol Olson Elwyn Vermette, Donna Yaholnitsky

Staff

Executive Director: Ian Reid

Assistant Director Mavis MacDonald

Bilingual/Communications Coordinator: Catherine Degryse

1990*Honorary Patrons*

Honourable Sylvia O. Fedoruk, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

Mrs. Evelyn Cherry, Cherry Film Productions

Mr. David Sharples, Retired, National Film Board

Mr. John Popoff, Past president, Yorkton Film Council

Mr. James Lysyshyn, Information Officer, National Film Board

M. Jean Oser, Professor, University of Ottawa

Nancy Morrison, QC

Lorraine Thorsrud – Canada Council; Canadian Commission UNESCO

Board of Directors

Co-Chairpersons: Allan Bailey and Wendy DeBolt

Past Chairperson: Gloria Lipinski

Treasurer: Ruth Shaw

Directors: Roger Bakes, Carol Olson, Shirley Huziak, Ian Rogers, Joanne Havelock, Laurence Pearson, Jerry Horne, William Polushin, Frances Bergles, Bruce Rankin, Marshall Gilliland

Staff

Managing Director: Ken Panzer

Assistant Director: Mavis MacDonald

1991*Honorary Patrons*

Honourable Sylvia O. Fedoruk, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

Mrs. Evelyn Cherry, Cherry Film Productions

Mr. David Sharples, Retired, National Film Board

Mr. John Popoff, Past president, Yorkton Film Council

Mr. James Lysyshyn, Information Officer, National Film Board

M. Jean Oser, Professor, University of Ottawa

Nancy Morrison, QC

Lorraine Thorsrud, Canada Council; Canadian Commission UNESCO

Board of Directors

Chairman: Allan Bailey

Treasurer: William Polushin

Vice-Chairman: Robert Bakes

Directors: Rob Dewhirst, Brian Fromm, Chris Jones, Gloria Lipinski, Bruce Rankin, Ruth Shaw, Daryl Eberhardt, Tim Gibney, John Kennedy, Carol Olson, Don Reed, Robin Schlaht

Staff

Managing Director: (Feb. – Aug.) Dale Unruh (Nov. – Dec.) Gloria Lipinski

Assistant Director: Mavis MacDonald

1992

Honorary Patrons

Honourable Sylvia O. Fedoruk, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

Mrs. Evelyn Cherry, Cherry Film Productions

Mr. David Sharples, Retired, National Film Board

Mr. John Popoff - Past president, Yorkton Film Council

Mr. James Lysyshyn, Information Officer, National Film Board

M. Jean Oser, Professor, University of Ottawa

Nancy Morrison, QC

Lorraine Thorsrud, Canada Council; Canadian Commission UNESCO

Board of Directors

Chairman: Don Reed

Vice-Chairman: William Polushin

Treasurer: Ruth Shaw

Directors: Rob Dewhirst, Larry Horncastle, Bruce Rankin, Daryl Eberhardt, Ron Goetz, Lorraine Thorsrud

Staff

Managing Director: Gloria Lipinski

Assistant Director: Mavis MacDonald

1993

Honorary Patrons

Honourable Sylvia O. Fedoruk, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

Mr. David Sharples, Retired, National Film Board

M. Jean Oser, Professor, University of Ottawa

Nancy Morrison, QC

Lorraine Thorsrud, Canada Council; Canadian Commission UNESCO

Board of Directors

Acting Chairman: Robert Dewhurst

Past Chairman: Allan Bailey

Vice Chairman: Ruth Shaw

Treasurer: Larry Horncastle

Directors: Denise Barlow, Phil DeVos Daryl Eberhardt, John Foster, Ron Goetz, Daniel Gouws, Yvonne Malcolmson, Bruce Rankin, Lorraine Thorsrud, Axel Windt

Staff

Managing Director: Gloria Lipinski

Assistant Director: Mavis MacDonald

Office Assistant: Fay Kowal

1994*Honorary Patrons*

Honourable Sylvia O. Fedoruk, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

David Sharples, Retired, National Film Board

Jean Oser University of Regina

Lorraine Thorsrud, Canadian Commission for UNESCO

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Festival Manager: Fay Kowal
 Office Assistant: Michelle Mandryk
 Clerical Assistant: Lindsay Isaacson
 Volunteer Coordinator: Michelle Mandryk
 Projectionists: Jason Delesoy and Ken Kohlert

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Festival Manager: Fay Kowal
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Festival Manager: Fay Kowal
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Festival Manager: Fay Kowal
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 Clerical Support: Linda Channing

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Festival Manager: Fay Kowal
 Executive Assistant: Cheryl Turner
 Clerical Support: Stephanie Stumph

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Festival Manager: Fay Kowal
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 Joe MacDonald National Film Board of Canada

Cindy Witten, Director, Independent Production, History Television
 John Walker, Producer, Director, John Walker Productions Ltd.

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 Joe MacDonald, Producer of Documentary Western Centre, National Film Board
 John Walker, Producer, Director, John Walker Productions Ltd.
 Cindy Witten, VP Programming, History Television, Alliance Atlantis
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 Shawn Watson, Director, Producer, Ocular Productions

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Treasurer: Janet Pollock

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Terence McKeown, Producer, Lightship Media Ltd.

Elizabeth Klinck, Researcher and Copyright Clearances, E. Klinck Research

Joe MacDonald Producer of Documentary Western Centre, National Film Board

John Walker, Producer, Director, John Walker Productions Ltd.

Sydney Suissa, Executive Producer, National Geographics International

Shawn Watson, Director, Producer, Ocular Productions

Staff

Executive Director: Fay Kowal

Executive Assistant: Elaine Dobson

Office Assistants: Christine Diduck, Nola St. Pierre

Artistic Programmer: Rob Miller

Student Office Assistant: Janna Petersen

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 Joe MacDonald, Producer of Documentary, Prairie Centre- National Film Board
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 Christine Ramsey, Department of Media Production and Studies, University of Regina
 Kenton Vaughn, Producer/Director, Spontaneous Human
 John Walker, Producer/Director John Walker Prod. Ltd.
 Shawn Watson, Producer/Director. Ocular Productions
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Staff

Executive Director: Randy Goulden

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Yorkton Film Festival

2009

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Allan Bailey, Bailey's Funeral Home

David Rusnak; Rusnak Balacko Kachur Rusnak and Kyba

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Inverarity, Karey Harris, Dennis Jackson, Stephen Onda

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Jeff Stecyk

Bruce Steele

Kenton Vaughn, Filmmaker, Toronto

John Walker, Producer, Director, John Walker Prod. Ltd.

Shawn Watson, Producer/Director, Ocular Productions

John Welsman, Composer Producer, Welsman Music

Staff

Executive Director: Randy Goulden

Office Manager: Lisa Lanigan

Festival Coordinator: Mitch Doll

Festival Coordinator: Allison Mitchell

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 David Rusnak; Rusnak Balacko Kachur Rusnak and Kyba
 Dick DeRyk, UncommonSense Web Solutions

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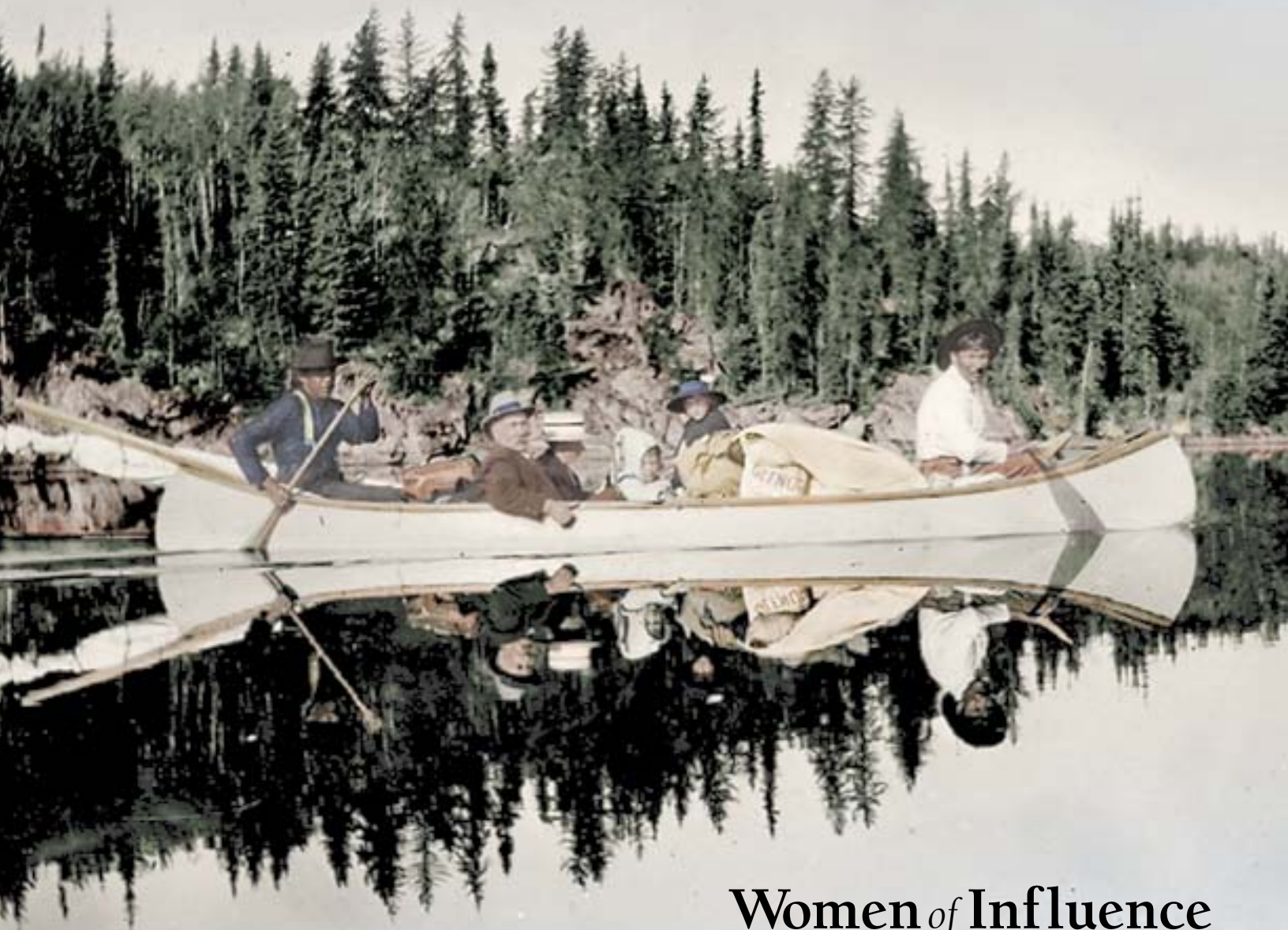
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Saskatchewan HISTORY



Women of Influence

I.O.D.E.: *Glorifying war
in Canadian schools?*

Doing the impossible:
*An international film
festival in Yorkton*

Wish you were here:
Camping in the north, 1919

The little engine that could: Nettie Kryski and the Yorkton Film Festival

By Kathy Morrell

In 1947, a group of volunteers – those heroes of Saskatchewan culture – established what would become the Yorkton International Film Festival (YFF) in a city many considered too small and too isolated for a major documentary competition. Within this group was one determined, soft-spoken little woman. Her name was Antoinette Kryski, but everyone called her Nettie. She was not the champion who heralded the pages of the national newspapers. She was not the centre of attention at festival events. She was the one with the smile, the one with determination, the one whose meticulous attention to detail got the job done. In a recent interview, Elwyn Vermette, long-time YFF board member and former chair, called Nettie the glue that held the festival together.



A happy Nettie Kryski (left) after she was awarded the Golden Sheaf for her hard work and her dedication to the Yorkton Film Festival.

Nettie's work at the festival began in 1947 when an employee with the National Film Board (NFB) in Regina, called a meeting of Yorkton organizations with a view to creating a film council. From 1940 to 1945, the NFB had hired projectionists to show its films across rural Canada, to lift the spirits of the people during war. With peace, the NFB faced a drastic cut to its budget. A new way had to be found to distribute their documentaries. That new way was the establishment of volunteer film councils to take on the role of a distribution service.

Nettie attended that first meeting April 17, 1947, representing her chapter of the Imperial Order

Daughters of the Empire (I.O.D.E.). She had always been an active member of the group. Her grandmother, Ellen D'Aoust, was Scottish by origin, and passed down her pride in all things British to her daughter, Aurelia Kryski and her granddaughter, Nettie. After high school, Nettie attended Success Business College, trained as a secretary and found employment with the law firm of Patrick, Doherty and Milligan and then for McPhee, Smith and Matheson. She worked at the law office, but her vocation was the film festival.

She contracted tuberculosis as a young woman and spent time in the sanitarium at Fort Qu'Appelle. In her letters, Nettie often complained of colds that kept her

home. In their replies, friends in film councils outside Yorkton showed a constant concern for her health. Her letters from Mabel Littlejohn, film librarian at the Saskatoon Public Library, were a mix of film council business and friendly personal concern.

In a letter written June 1, 1956, Jim Lysyshyn, NFB field man for East Central Saskatchewan, wrote, "I surely hope nothing serious comes out of this (your medical tests) and that you'll be able to carry on in the outside world...although perhaps at a slower speed." He asked that she drop him a line at the Banff School of Fine Arts where he would be attending a conference of the National Film Board. In her reply of July 8, 1956, Nettie wrote, "Since writing to you I have had two bronchograms but as yet haven't had a report on them. They weren't bad, except I did get nauseated when I first ate (you know that 3 hour wait). Expect I shall be a real guinea pig before they decide whether or not anything should be done about my bronchiectasis. I may just wind up living with it." The exchange told so much about Nettie's perspective on life. It can be assumed that Nettie's bronchial condition was the result of the tuberculosis. Lysyshyn could well sympathize with her. He had spent more than a year in treatment for the disease at the sanatorium at Fort Qu'Appelle. Nettie had gone to visit him there. Lysyshyn knew clearly what it was to spend a year as an invalid; he knew too the hope "that you'll be able to carry on in the outside world. (i.e. outside the sanatorium)."

From the letters on file, it is clear that Nettie formed many close friendships with the folks who toiled away in the film council movement. Some say, in fact, that her film buddies became the family Nettie never had.

YFC AND FILM DISTRIBUTION

Nettie invested much of her spare time in the work of the Yorkton Film Council (YFC). She sent letters to Yorkton organizations asking for three things: they become members of the organization, they appoint a working representative to the council and they donate towards the purchase of a projector, screen and films. Cheques appeared as if by magic – not in great amounts, but in dribs and drabs – the I.O.D.E., St. Andrew's Sunday School, the Canadian Cancer Society, the Yorkton and District Board of Trade, the Registered Nurses' Association, the service clubs. Nettie sent thank you letters. By January 1949,

the Yorkton Film Council had raised \$778 of the required \$983.25. And don't forget that 25 cents – Nettie certainly didn't!

In addition to raising money, the council members trained projectionists – 24 by October 1951. They previewed documentaries and wrote summaries and critiques so that local organizations and schools could judge the suitability of a particular

film for their purposes. They purchased films for the rental depot operated from Avalon Studios. By October 1951, the group owned 11 films with the expectation to buy 14 more over the coming season. In a letter to the I.O.D.E., Nettie Kryski explained that "each year since the formation of the Film Council the use of films has increased, and during the past year approximately 600 films were shown to 14,156 persons in this district." The Yorkton Film Council, however, was not allowed to rest on its laurels for any extended period of time. In 1953, the group joined a new association, the Federation of Film Councils of Northern Saskatchewan, a group formed under the auspices of the NFB. Officers of the new organization included two film stalwarts from Yorkton: Nettie



The first committee for the film festival, formed in 1948 to mount the first festival in 1950: Edna Sinclair, Paul Welgan, Jim Lysyshyn, Nettie Kryski, Bill Croll, Helen Croll.

Kryski and Paul Welgen. As a member of the Federation, the YFC took on a new and extended role in film distribution. Each month the Saskatoon office of the NFB would send Yorkton two boxes or blocks of its films for distribution to the two rural circuits under the council's responsibility. The first block went to Lestock, Muscowequan, Jasmin, Hubbard, Ituna, Goodeve, and Punnichy, towns along Highway #15 north and west of Melville. The second block traveled west to Dysart and Southey, then on to Grayson, a village south of Yorkton, before ending the circuit at Bredenburg and Ebenezer. The two blocks were then sent out in reverse order – the second to the towns along Highway #15; the first the route from Dysart to Ebenezer. The films were due back in Saskatoon shortly after completion of the two-month schedule, so they could be sent out to other film councils in Northern Saskatchewan for distribution to rural communities.

There were ongoing issues in the new system. Blocks of films would arrive late. Someone would forget to include all the films in the box when they were shipped onto the next district. Prints of the same film were sometimes mixed up. Districts would neglect to send on the statistics cards showing the number of showings and the number in the audience. The following, an excerpt from a Kryski letter, is typical.

Now for more grief: I have checked every film in our library and cannot find Down in the Forest. I have also checked through our record book and apparently it was never booked by anyone (at least there is no record of it). You also mention that we should have received Fisheries of the Great Slave and Tempest in Town from the NFB. I have no knowledge of this... Somewhere, somehow I cannot locate Print 12S of Birds of Canada #6 which is supposed to be on long term loan to us. I have print #117 which I think perhaps belongs to Block 18. But perhaps it doesn't. Do you happen to have the numbers of the prints given to us by NFB?

A flurry of letters would follow, sometimes even a telegram. If worse came to worst, Nettie Kryski might make a long distance phone call, but the expense had to be clearly justified. Nettie was treasurer and knew that money was always short. The detail, the complications, would have caused a less-dedicated

spirit than Nettie Kryski to abandon the whole enterprise in frustration.

TRIAL BY FIRE

In February 1957, the YFC film distribution responsibility ended in flames – literally. Fire destroyed the Smith Block that contained Avalon Studios. All that was left of the business, according to *The Yorkton Enterprise*, was its name. The Yorkton Film Council lost everything in the fire – two projectors and cases, one screen, a filmstrip and slide projector with 24 filmstrips, splicer, rewind, and the films – some belonging to the council, others on loan from the NFB and various corporations. It was a devastating blow. While the city cleaned up the gutted remains of the building, Nettie and friends began rebuilding the Yorkton Film Council. Once again, Nettie wrote to local organizations asking for donations, pleading for the \$1800 to replace their equipment.

The response was tremendous: it seemed that everyone stepped up to the council's assistance. The NFB lent the organization a projector – one in need of repair to be sure – but still the council had a projector. Shell Oil said they were prepared to absorb the loss of their film, *Screw Drivers and Screw Jays*. The Canadian Cancer Society assured Nettie that their films were insured and not to worry about their loss. Once again, the people of Yorkton came to the assistance of the YFC. Local groups and organizations donated enough money that the council had the funds to replace its equipment. The major problem, however, was the loss of Avalon Studios as film depot and rental agency. The solution – the Yorkton Public Library took over responsibility for storage and distribution of the films.

No longer charged with distributing films, Nettie and the YFC could now concentrate on the film festival – for which it had gained a truly national reputation.

YFC AND THE FILM FESTIVAL

Ten years before the fire that brought an end to its film distribution role, the NFB field man James Lysyshyn proposed an innovative project for the Yorkton Film Council to consider.

“This was the era of great film stars who won Oscars and filled Canadian movie houses,” he wrote in his history of the festival. “I searched for an idea



Jim Lysyshyn, Nettie Kryski and Paul Welgan, seated at the table. Jim Lysyshyn had a monthly program on CJGX to promote the work of the Yorkton Film Council; Nettie did a lot of the work preparing the script.

which would restore the prestige of documentary films, as a way of convincing people that serious films could be important, glamorous in their own right.”

The project he was proposing was a documentary film festival to “steal some of the glitter from the Hollywood Oscar.” Lysyshyn had heard that the Edinburgh Festival of the Arts was to add a film section, a totally new offering in its festival lineup. In his mind, the Yorkton Film Council would be perfect to take on a similar venture. Lysyshyn thought that the members of the council, these hard-working, community-minded descendants of pioneers, “would be likely to try something new.”

At first, however, this group was not so willing to take on the task. Nettie Kryski was a hard worker, but no risk-taker. Her fellow volunteers thought the idea a little crazy – hadn't everyone already seen the NFB films? And no one on the council had heard of a film festival. Never one to take no for an answer, Lysyshyn returned one month later with another, even bigger proposal – an international film festival. Ruth Shaw, longtime volunteer, said it took a year to convince the council.

“The idea of foreign films coming here (to Yorkton) to compete was the clincher,” Lysyshyn said. The festival would offer different films than the Canadian

documentaries already seen by the Yorkton audience. Moreover, the international aspect of the festival was prestigious and innovative.

Nettie, who became secretary-treasurer in 1948, took on much of the administrative load. The first festival was scheduled for 1950, giving the council two years for the complex organization involved. The members devised rules and regulations, set categories for film entries and established the dates of the festival (October 11 and 12). Nettie was there for every meeting, taking notes, ensuring a meticulous correctness.

It fell to Nettie Kryski to write the embassies in Ottawa. Her first task was to explain what a film festival was because, of course, such a venture was almost unknown at the time. The second was to invite the submission of films. Just think about the receipt of that letter. Quite likely, the third undersecretary of the Netherlands or the clerk from the New Zealand High Commission would shake his head and then go off to consult an atlas of Canada to determine the location of the place called Yorkton.

Following receipt of the letters, phone calls came in from the embassies – but not from Nettie of course. She was the very careful guardian of the almost non-existent festival funds and long distance was



Nettie Kryski, centre, and Jim Lysyshyn, district representative of the National Film Board Saskatoon, meet Maritana Heinrichs, third secretary of the Federal Republic of Germany, at the Yorkton airport for the third international documentary film festival at Yorkton, 1954.

expensive. There were more letters. But finally, the entries came in – some of course from the National Film Board and Canada's Crawley Films and even one each in the amateur category from Yorkton's own film makers: Stan Stakiw, H. Ferman, R. Adamson and Rev. P. O. Olson. Foreign entries arrived from the Netherlands, India, Sweden, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Norway, France and the United States. In all, the newly minted festival received entries from nine different countries, 40 films in all.

Nettie made up the program to be sold for 25 cents each, money to be used to defray the costs of running the festival. The council booked venues for screenings, contacted the United Church Women at St. Andrew's to cater the lunch, and booked City Council Chambers for a film use workshop. Nettie arranged for screenings at the York Theatre and the City Hall Auditorium. She contacted *The Yorkton Enterprise* and CJGX Radio and asked for advertising.

On the completion of the two-day event, the *Canadian Film News* reported, "Canada's first International Film Festival happened in Yorkton, Sask.

In Ottawa, film producers and distributors marveled at the enterprise, if not audacity of the prairie city that dared to organize a traditionally European event. Until the entry of Yorkton, all International Film Festivals had been held in London, Edinburgh, Brussels, Paris, Locarno or Venice."

Quite a coup for a fledgling organization with no particular expertise in film making! The excitement of their first success propelled the council members to plan the second Yorkton International Film Festival two years hence.

In the interval between the first and second festivals, Nettie Kryski received numerous requests for information about the Yorkton competition from film societies and producers worldwide and from cities in Canada hoping to mount a similar venture. In his history of the Yorkton Film Festival, James Lysyshyn reported: "The success of Yorkton's first festival unleashed a torrent of film festivals across Canada and in many parts of the world. The festival craze spread like wildfire."

The second festival was even more successful than the first. The event, originally two days, was now extended to three, October 15 – October 17, 1952. Once again, Yorkton people jammed the screening venues to see the films. The success continued through the Fifties. In 1954, Maritana Heinrichs from the Ottawa Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany was the visiting dignitary. Nettie met her at the airport, the abandoned Commonwealth Air Training Base just outside of Yorkton. The fourth Yorkton International Film Festival (1956) welcomed a two-man delegation from the embassy of the USSR. The arrival of P. F. Strounnikov and S. D. Romanovtsev caused great excitement in town – particularly when it became obvious that their footsteps were dogged by two plainclothes members of the RCMP. It was, after all, the period of the Cold War and the dreaded Red Menace.

In 1957, the Association of Motion Picture Producers and Laboratories of Canada presented the YFC with a Certificate of Merit. The citation read:

The Yorkton Film Council in its International Film festival offers for public viewing a selection of films of high quality from many countries and recognizes and encourages high standard of film production. This special Award is given to the Yorkton Film Council in recognition of its

outstanding International Film festival which demonstrates the contribution of the film council movement in Canada.

Sadly, notification of the awards ceremony held in Toronto was sent to Avalon Studios and the letter was misplaced in all the confusion associated with the fire. Nettie was disappointed.

Through the 1960s, the YFC persevered despite severe setbacks. With the advent of television, interest in documentary film plummeted. Canadians including Yorktonites simply considered *The Ed Sullivan Show* and *Hockey Night in Canada* to be more interesting than an evening of documentary film. Membership declined in the Yorkton Film Council. The 1962 festival ran a deficit of \$291.54. Nettie must have been appalled. Attendance at screenings dropped from 4000 in 1956 to 1000 in 1964. Nothing summed up the decline more clearly than an editorial in the local newspaper, *The Yorkton Enterprise*, on October 28, 1964:

On congratulating ourselves on the importance of this event and its continued success, we, like the festival's founders and many local supporters, may have been guilty of overlooking matters that vitally affect the nature of this film competition.

Not so Grant McLean, ex-Yorktonite and one of the three adjudicators during the three-day event. Eminently qualified to assess the quality and progress of the festival, Mr. McLean, a highly placed officer with Canada's National Film Board in Montreal, had some rather sharp comments to make as guest speaker at the festival banquet last Wednesday evening.

He stated the Yorkton festival is now at the crossroads and must either grow and develop or wither and die. A fundamental decision must be made by the whole community, he suggested, to support the pioneers and workers who have made this event possible...

Facilities such as better screening condition, better seating and better projection must be provided to put the festival on a professional level required to attract the size and kind of audience that should be receptive to such a festival.

The council decided to postpone the scheduled 1966 festival for one year. They hoped the excitement of Centennial Year (1967) would bring more support from the local community, but the move failed. Attendance at screenings that year dropped to an all-time low of 750. Faced with such a sharp decline in support, the Yorkton Film Council decided to call a meeting to disband the Yorkton Film Council.

A disappointed Nettie Kryski, for twenty years YFC secretary, made an appointment with Mayor Allan Bailey. She wanted to leave the valued guest book with the City: the book containing the signatures of the visiting dignitaries from foreign embassies and the world of film. She wanted to emphasize to Yorkton's most influential citizen that the festival was about to close – forever.

Bailey went home that evening to talk over the situation with his wife, Colleen, a dynamo in the local arts community and a future woman of influence on the Saskatchewan and Canadian arts scene. They went to the meeting called for the sole purpose of disbanding the film festival, but Colleen and Allan Bailey would not see the festival die. From that meeting was formed the Yorkton International Film Festival Society. The determination and commitment of this group would see the festival through to a new beginning.

When asked if Nettie had planned the meeting with Mayor Bailey, Ruth Shaw, long-time board member, grinned and said, "She was nobody's fool, that Nettie Kryski." In other words, the YFC secretary had planned well. She knew Allan and Colleen Bailey were the best hope of preserving her beloved festival.

TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

Between 1969 and 1980, the people of the festival launched a transformation so fundamental it would ensure the continuation of the festival for the next 35 years. There were efforts aimed at securing more involvement from the local population, increasing film entries, and attracting Canadian filmmakers to the festival by offering workshops and conferences.

In 1969, Colleen Bailey, then the board chair, came up with the idea of after-theatre socials to attract a local audience to the screenings and then to the parties. People in Yorkton still talk about the fun. One night it was a beer garden complete with accordion player, schnapps, and a midnight supper of weiner schnitzel and bierocks (meat-filled pastries). The next

was an exotic evening with the Chidori Kai Choir from Winnipeg, platters of Japanese delicacies and the presence of Tomohiko Hayashi, the Japanese consul at Winnipeg. In the early Seventies, the after-theatre parties continued to celebrate Canadian diversity - Ukrainian, Chinese, Hungarian. The combination of film, food and fun brought the local people back to the festival.

In addition, the board emphasized the need to bring in adjudicators of national and international stature. The decade saw the arrival of:

- Frank Morriss, arts editor, *Winnipeg Free Press* (1971)
- Micheline Lanctot, actor, *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravetz* (1975)
- George Anthony, editor and film critic, *Toronto Sun* (1977)
- Barry Morse, actor and star of the television series, *The Fugitive* (1979)
- Raymond Cloutier, actor, CBC's *Louis Riel* (1980)

These very credible adjudicators said to the filmmakers - "We're here. Why aren't you?" The strategy worked. In 1974, the festival tripled its entries from an average of 100 to a whopping 304. Two years later, the number increased again to 325. Prodded by the increasing status of the festival, the board decided to move from a biennial to an annual format.

In the 1970s, the efforts of the festival board moved from the education of the public about film to an education about making film. In 1971, 32 local students attended a workshop given by Lee Coxama of Moose Jaw, and Roger Paradise and Jim Hill of Regina. Four years later, independent filmmakers came to Yorkton to discuss the future of film in Canada. The panel of experts, chaired by Fil Fraser

of Fraser Communications in Edmonton, included Larry Hetzog, (*Why Shoot the Teacher*), Canadian film genius, Alan King, (*Who has seen the wind?*), independent film maker Ken Black, and Ted Rouse of the Canadian Film Development Corporation. The workshop/conference initiative was to become a mainstay of festival events over the next 35 years.

And where was Nettie Kryski in all this frantic activity? She was simply there - handling the correspondence, typing the newsletters, tracking the expenses, setting up the new office over the local bowling arena. Cheery, smiling, enthusiastic. Sheila Harris, executive secretary of the festival from 1979-1985, remembered that signing cheques meant tea at Nettie's house and an explanation for the expense involved. Ever careful, ever the treasurer on guard over a slim bank account, Nettie Kryski did her due diligence with a smile and the question - "One sugar or two?" As noted in the 1981 festival program:

When asked by a Vancouver film critic in 1969, 'why Yorkton?' Nettie Kryski answered, 'We wanted a film festival so we just went ahead and organized one. There isn't any reason why ordinary people who aren't glamorous or well-known can't enjoy the same things they enjoy in the big capitals of the world.' That reply sums up Nettie Kryski's down-to-earth philosophy of hard work. If you want something, go after it with energy and enthusiasm, and you'll succeed.

Nettie Kryski was an unsung hero of Saskatchewan culture, a woman of dedication and an extraordinary volunteer. Thanks to Nettie's determination and hard work, the Yorkton festival will celebrate its 65th anniversary in 2012. Sixty-five years - a long time for an organization deemed as only temporary in a 1947 edition of *The Yorkton Enterprise*.

Barry Morse, Richard Lavoie and Natalie Edwards celebrate Nettie Kryski, recipient of a 1979 Golden Sheaf for her contribution over more than thirty years to the Yorkton International Film Festival.

Kathy Morrell is a Saskatoon-based freelance writer primarily interested in the history of Western Canada. Her work has been published in Prairies North, Saskatchewan Folklore and right here in Saskatchewan History. Kathy operates a business writing legacy histories for families and businesses.

Citations available upon request to saskhistory@archives.gov.sk.ca

Courtesy Yorkton Film Festival.



TITLE: National Volunteer Week 2023	DATE OF MEETING: March 27, 2023
CLEARANCES:	REPORT DATE: March 17, 2023 ATTACHMENTS: 1. Infographic for SDG and Volunteer Factor 2. Poster for National Volunteer Week
Written by: Lisa Washington, Manager of Community, Culture and Heritage <p style="text-align: center;">Lisa Washington</p>	
Reviewed by: Darcy McLeod, Director of Recreation and Community Services <p style="text-align: center;">Darcy McLeod</p>	
Approved by: Lonnie Kaal, City Manager <p style="text-align: center;">Lonnie Kaal</p>	

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

Since 1977, Volunteer Canada has collaborated closely with volunteer centres, businesses, nonprofit organizations, government departments, and educational institutions to promote and broaden volunteering. Their programs, research, training, resources, and national initiatives provide leadership on issues and trends in Canada’s volunteer landscape.

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to mobilize global efforts to improve social, economic and environmental conditions around the world. Canada is one of 193 member states that agreed to work towards achieving these goals by 2030. Volunteer Canada has adopted the goals because volunteering is an essential vehicle to help us tackle some of the pressing challenges facing the world. I’ve included an infographic (Attachment 1) with more information and would like to show a short video, explaining a bit more.

<https://youtu.be/aOBNUdzRROg>

Volunteers are essential for healthy, vibrant communities and National Volunteer Week is a time to recognize and thank volunteers in and around Yorkton, Saskatchewan and Canada for their time and energy. This year, during April 16-22, 2023, we celebrate the contributions of Canada’s millions of volunteers: their actions, their understanding, and their genuine concern for the world around them.

The theme this year, “Volunteering Weaves us Together”, celebrates our individual and collective actions in creating a strong, interconnected and vibrant community! (Attachment 2) Volunteering builds the strength and vibrancy of our communities through the interconnected actions we take to support one another. These diverse forms of sharing our time, talent and energy strengthen the fabric of our community.

Through volunteering we experience our interconnectedness, making our lives more meaningful. Getting involved in various ways, we find friendship, develop trust, and link our relationships. Threading these connections, we come to belong as we contribute towards the same goals.

Like each individual thread makes weaving stronger, every volunteer's experience, perspective, and abilities add to our collective resilience. Woven together from coast to coast to coast, volunteering reinforces our ability to grow, thrive, and create change within Yorkton, the Parkland area, Saskatchewan, and nationally.

Knowing our volunteer contributions are valued and meaningful creates a greater sense of purpose and dedication. From helping build a home, cleaning up a park, or coaching a sports team to cooking for an ill friend, checking in on a neighbour, or helping a stranger, each action we take impacts our community's overall wellness, now and for future generations.

During National Volunteer Week 2023, we celebrate our collective impact: through our kindness, generosity and commitment to volunteering, we weave our lives together. We ask our residents to stop and reflect on the contributions of our community's volunteers and volunteer organizations and thank them for their time, energy and commitment to the betterment of Yorkton. From formal and informal settings, volunteers create caring, collaborative, and compassionate communities, the collective result helping make Yorkton a more desirable place to live, work and play. Therefore, we encourage fellow citizens to recognize the crucial role played by volunteers in our community and to thank a volunteer and to seek more information about Volunteer Canada and National Volunteer Week at www.volunteer.ca

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

COMMUNICATION PLAN/PUBLIC NOTICE

We are promoting National Volunteer Week in the Newspaper and online through our social media platforms.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES/OCP/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION(S)

Recognizing National Volunteer Week at this level aligns with the Council's strategic priorities of creating a sustainable, welcoming and inclusive community where contributions to the collective well-being are recognized and publicly appreciated.

OPTIONS

1. That Council receive and file this presentation.
2. Provide alternate direction to Administration.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council receive and file the 'National Volunteer Week 2023' presentation given by the Manager of Community, Culture and Heritage for the City of Yorkton, and further, recognize and thank all the volunteers that contribute to our community.

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE VOLUNTEER FACTOR

VOLUNTEERING IN CANADA

79%

OF CANADIANS 15 YEARS AND OLDER VOLUNTEER EITHER FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY



THAT'S **24 MILLION** CANADIANS ENGAGED IN VOLUNTEERING



ON AVERAGE, VOLUNTEERS DEDICATED **206 HOURS** FORMALLY, INFORMALLY, OR A COMBINATION OF BOTH

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to mobilize global efforts to improve social, economic and environmental conditions around the world by 2030.



WHY LOOK AT VOLUNTEERING AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?



ILLUSTRATE HOW VOLUNTEERS ALREADY CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVING THE GOALS IN CANADA



RAISE AWARENESS THAT THE GOALS ARE RELEVANT TO CANADIAN COMMUNITIES



DEMONSTRATE HOW ORGANIZATIONS ARE WORKING TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS

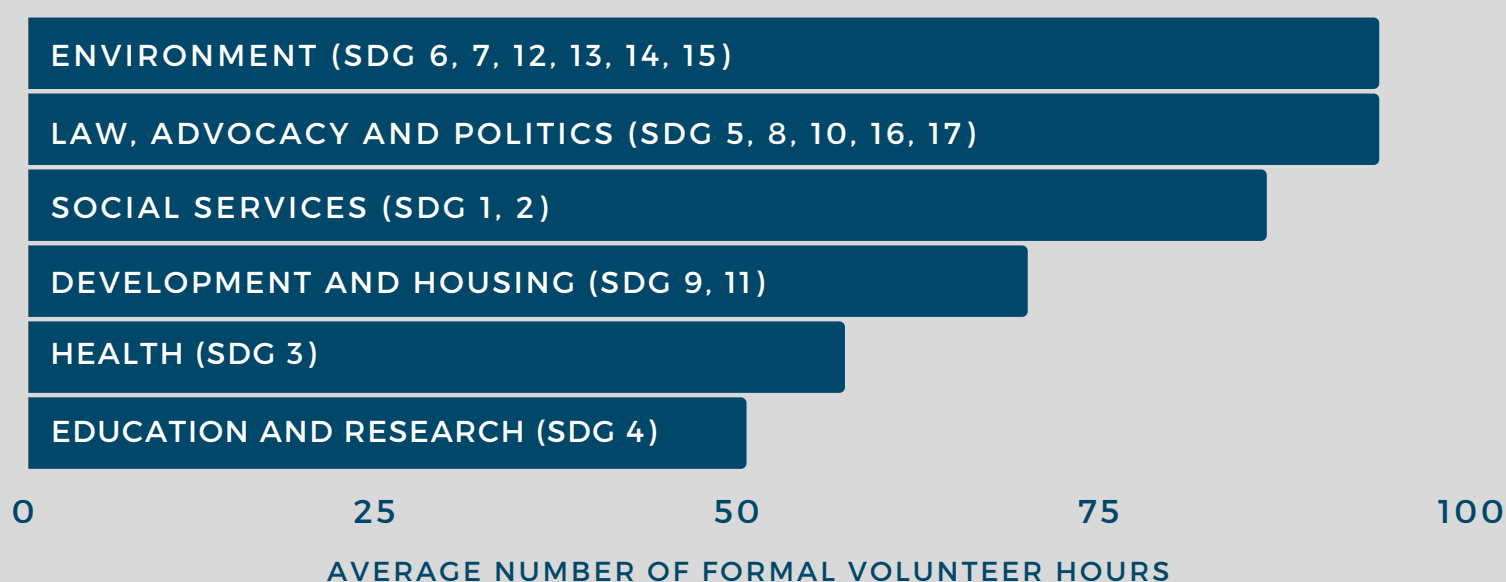


IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE INCREASED VOLUNTEER EFFORT IS NEEDED



COMMUNICATE TO VOLUNTEERS THEIR IMPACT IN A CLEAR AND COMPELLING WAY

TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS CANADIANS VOLUNTEER WITH MOST



Visit Statistics Canada for the full report [General Social Survey, Giving, Volunteering and Participating 2018](#) developed in collaboration with Employment and Social Development Canada.

Volunteering Weaves Us Together



**NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER WEEK**
APRIL 16 - 22, 2023
#NVW2023 #WEAVINGUSTOGETHER



**PUBLIC NOTICE
PROPOSED BYLAW NO. 2/2023
Amendment to the Traffic Bylaw No. 18/2016**

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the City of Yorkton intends to consider approving *Bylaw No. 2/2023, to amend the Traffic Bylaw No. 18/2016*, at the March 27, 2023 Regular Council Meeting. The Proposed Traffic Bylaw amendment will include changes to include a section relating to temporary weight restrictions that may be declared for certain roads and for a limited time. A Public Hearing will be held at the March 27, 2023 Regular Council Meeting to allow the public to express their opinion or concern with any of the changes being proposed.

You can review the bylaw on the city's website www.yorkton.ca or by visiting City Hall. Questions regarding the proposed bylaw may be directed to:

René Richard, Director of Engineering & Asset Management
Phone: (306) 786-1734
Email: richard@yorkton.ca

OR

Nicole Baptist, Bylaw & Safety Supervisor
Phone: (306) 828-2425
Email: nbaptist@yorkton.ca

Public Hearing: City Council will hear all persons who are present and wish to speak to the proposed bylaw and all written submissions will be read verbatim aloud unless the submitter is in attendance to speak on the submission, on **Monday, March 27, 2023 in City Hall Council Chambers, Yorkton, Saskatchewan at 5:00 p.m.**

Any written submissions must be received by 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 and must be directed to:

Jessica Matsalla, City Clerk
Box 400, 37 Third Avenue North
Yorkton, SK S3N 2W3
Email: jmatsalla@yorkton.ca

Request for Proposals

Name of Proposal: **Gallagher Centre Ride-On Floor Scrubber**

Proposal must be received **before 2:00 p.m. on March 31, 2023**

Proposals will be received through the City of Yorkton's e-bidding system at www.biddingo.com/yorkton

Details of Proposal:

The City of Yorkton is requesting proposals for the supply and delivery of a ride-on floor scrubber to the Gallagher Centre, located at 455 Broadway Street West, in Yorkton, Saskatchewan.

Specifications are available at:

Online at www.biddingo.com/yorkton

Proposal shall remain open for acceptance by the City and irrevocable for thirty (30) calendar days following the date specified for closing.

Proposals received after the date and time specified for closing will be marked late and returned unopened.

Contact Person

Enquiries regarding the proposal procedure and particulars can be directed to:

Taylor Morrison
Gallagher Centre General Manager
Recreation & Community Services
City of Yorkton
Phone: 306-786-1750
Email: parksandrec@yorkton.ca

The City reserves the right to reject any or all tender. Lowest or any proposal not necessarily accepted.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Facility Attendants - Full Time & Casual
GALLAGHER CENTRE

Apply today:
www.yorkton.ca/employment



JOIN OUR TEAM!

Waterworks Operator
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

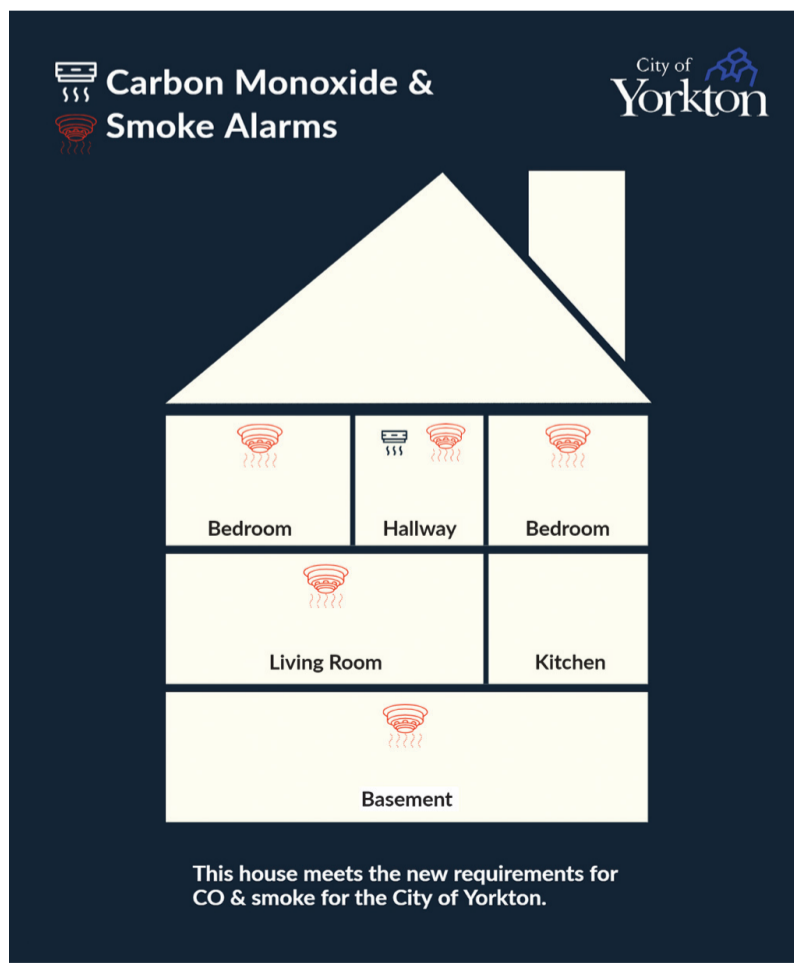
Apply today:
www.yorkton.ca/employment




Carbon Monoxide & Smoke Alarms
CONSTRUCTION CODE

Keep your home safe, healthy, & habitable.

→
SWIPE TO SEE EXAMPLE HOUSE.



Carbon Monoxide & Smoke Alarms

City of Yorkton

Bedroom	Hallway	Bedroom
Living Room	Kitchen	
Basement		

This house meets the new requirements for CO & smoke for the City of Yorkton.

TITLE: Proposed Bylaw No. 2/2023 to Amend the Traffic Bylaw No. 18/2016 [2nd and 3rd Reading]	DATE OF MEETING: March 27, 2023
	REPORT DATE: March 17, 2023
CLEARANCES: Rene Richard - Director of Engineering & Asset Management <p align="center">Rene Richard</p>	ATTACHMENTS: 1. Proposed Bylaw No. 2/2023 to Amend the <i>Traffic Bylaw No. 18/2016</i> 2. March 6, 2023 Council Report on Proposed Bylaw No. 2/2023
Written by: Nicole Baptist – Bylaw & Safety Supervisor <p align="center">Nicole Baptist</p>	
Reviewed by: Jessica Matsalla - City Clerk <p align="center">Jessica Matsalla</p>	
Approved by: Lonnie Kaal - City Manager <p align="center">Lonnie Kaal</p>	

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

As was noted in the last Council Report introducing this bylaw amendment, in the past, and only when necessary, the Public Works Department has restricted the weight on certain gravel roads in the spring to preserve infrastructure during the spring thaw months. Unfortunately, as there was nothing formally noted in the Traffic Bylaw for temporary weight restrictions, it meant that enforcement was a very limited. Administration took this opportunity to also look into other potential bylaw amendments and is proposing other minor administrative changes.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS/IMPACT

The proposed Bylaw No. 2/2023 to amend the Traffic Bylaw No. 18/2016 was introduced and given First reading at the March 6, 2023 Regular Council Meeting (see Attachment 2). At that meeting, Council authorized Administration to give Public Notice. As such, Public Notice was given permitting the public to review the Bylaw and express their opinion or concern with the content by either providing a written submission or attending the Public Hearing which was held earlier in the meeting. As of the date of this report, no written submissions were received.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications with the proposed Bylaw Amendment.

COMMUNICATION PLAN/PUBLIC NOTICE

As was discussed previously, Public Notice was provided for the Public Hearing that was held earlier in the meeting. The majority of the changes included in the Bylaw Amendment are minor

in nature and will not require wide-spread communication to the public. However, the implementation of weight restrictions when declared will be communicated to residents through our typical communication such as Bylaw Fast Facts, the website and will also be shared with the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce to be relayed to their members. Further, as stated in the proposed amendment, signage will be put up when road bans are in effect. The Community Safety Officers will also play a role as they will provide an education period following the implementation of the weight restrictions.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES/OCP/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION(S)

The majority of the proposed Traffic Bylaw changes are minor in nature and would not typically require committee feedback.

OPTIONS

1. That the proposed Traffic Bylaw Amendment (Attachment 1) be approved for 2nd and 3rd Reading.
2. That the proposed Traffic Bylaw Amendment be denied for reasons as listed by Council.
3. That Administration be provided with alternative direction.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

1. That Bylaw No. 2/2023, a bylaw of the City of Yorkton in the Province of Saskatchewan to amend the Traffic Bylaw No. 18/2016 to regulate traffic, the use of public streets and to preserve order thereon be given 2nd Reading this 27th day of March, A.D., 2023; and

That Bylaw No. 2/2023, a bylaw of the City of Yorkton in the Province of Saskatchewan to amend the Traffic Bylaw No. 18/2016 to regulate traffic, the use of public streets and to preserve order thereon be given 3rd Reading this 27th day of March, A.D., 2023 and be entered in the City of Yorkton Bylaw register.

**City of Yorkton
Saskatchewan**

Bylaw No. 2/2023

A Bylaw of the City of Yorkton in the Province of Saskatchewan to Amend the Traffic Bylaw No. 18/2016 to Regulate Traffic, the Use of Public Streets and to Preserve Order Thereon

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 8 of *The Cities Act*, a Council has the authority to pass any bylaw that it considers expedient in relation to the use of vehicles and the regulation of pedestrians, subject to *The Traffic Safety Act*;

AND WHEREAS, a bylaw known as “The Yorkton Traffic Bylaw” that has been approved by council, requires certain amendments to be made;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Yorkton in the Province of Saskatchewan in Council assembled hereby enacts as follows:

1. That Bylaw No. 18/2016, Clause 58, be amended as follows:
 - a) In the title, by inserting the word “Accessible” in front of the words “Parking Stalls” and removing the words “for the Disabled”.
 - b) In subclause (1), by removing the word “disabled” following the words “authorized to establish” and replacing it with the word “accessible”.
 - c) In subclause (1), by removing the words “disabled license plate stickers” following the words “vehicles bearing current” and replacing it with the words “accessible parking permit”.
 - d) By removing subclause (2) and replacing it with “No person shall park a vehicle in a parking stall marked as an accessible parking stall unless the vehicle displays a valid accessible parking permit issued by the Saskatchewan Abilities Council or such equivalent from any Province or Territory in Canada, and be displayed on the rear-view mirror.”
2. That Bylaw No. 18/2016, be amended by adding in the following as Section 64.1:

“Weight Restrictions

64.1 (a) Notwithstanding Section 62, the City Manager Designate shall be authorized to restrict the maximum allowable weights that may be driven on or over any street or lane within Yorkton city limits at any time of year and for any period of time deemed necessary. Further, the City Manager Designate shall ensure that proper signage is installed to inform traffic that maximum allowable weight restrictions are applicable.

(b) No person shall operate a vehicle on or over any street or lane where a weight restriction is in effect and is signed as such.”

3. That Bylaw No. 18/2016, Schedule “Y” be removed in its entirety and be replaced with Schedule “A” of this Bylaw.

This Bylaw shall come into force and take effect on the date of final passing thereof.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

Introduced and read a first time this 6th day of March, A.D. 2023.

Read a second time this ____ day of _____, A.D. 2023.

Read a third time and adopted this ____ day of _____, A.D. 2023.

Schedule "A"

Amended
by Bylaw
No. 6/2022

SCHEDULE "Y" PENALTY

VOLUNTARY PAYMENTS FOR NOTICE OF VIOLATION PART 1 - PARKING VIOLATIONS (As provided for in Section 73)

Bylaw Section	Amount	Bylaw Description
Fine reduced by fifteen dollars if paid within 10 days of date of violation.		
12	\$100	Parking a commercial vehicle on Residential property
16(1)	\$100	Obstructing/closing a street or lane without permit
17(1)	\$100	Obstructing/closing a sidewalk without permit
18(1)	\$100	Driving over curb
22(1)(a)	\$200	Littering
22(1)(b)	\$200	Attaching leaflets to parked vehicles
24(1)/(2)/(3)	\$30	Obstructing traffic
24(4)(a)	\$30	Dumping snow on City Property, street or lane in Residential Zone
24(4)(b)	\$300	Dumping snow on City property, street or lane in Commercial zone
27(a)	\$50	Splashing pedestrian
27(b)	\$50	Project dirt at person by spinning tires
27(c)	\$250	Creating waves driving through puddle
37(1)	\$45	Engaging in Pedestrian Assisted Activity on street or lane
37(2)	\$45	Engaging in Pedestrian Assisted Activity on sidewalk
41(1)	\$45	Parking on street in excess of posted time limit
41(2)	\$45	Parking on street in excess of twenty four hours
43(1)	\$45	Improper parallel parking
43(2)	\$45	Improper parallel parking of a motorcycle

Schedule "A" continued

**SCHEDULE "Y" continued
PENALTY
VOLUNTARY PAYMENTS FOR NOTICE OF VIOLATION
PART 1 - PARKING VIOLATIONS
(As provided for in Section 73)**

Bylaw Section	Amount	Bylaw Description
44(1)	\$45	Improper angle parking
45	\$50	Double parking
46(1)	\$50	Parking strictly prohibited
47(1)	\$50	Washing vehicle on street or lane
47(2)	\$50	Vehicle repair in excess of three hours
48(1)	\$50	Parking in violation of minimum required distance
49(3)	\$45	Parking on a street exceeding the 2 hour limit
50(3)	\$35	Parking at expired meter
51(3)	\$45	Parking without a valid pay station ticket clearly visible
51(6)(a) or (b)	\$45	Enter, leave or park in an off-street parking lot other than as indicated
52(1)(c)	\$45	Parking in permit lot without clearly displayed permit
52(3)(a) or (b)	\$45	Enter, leave or park in an off-street parking lot other than as indicated
53(1)	\$45	Unauthorized parking in City owned parking lot
53(2)	\$100	Parking in accessible stall without valid placard
54	\$45	Parking on City owned property
55(1)	\$100	Parking a prohibited vehicle
56(1)	\$200	Parking a vehicle with dangerous goods in restricted area
57	\$45	Parked in loading zone beyond posted limit
58(2)	\$100	Parking in accessible stall without valid placard
59(1)	\$75	Loading or unloading violation

Schedule "A" continued

**SCHEDULE "Y" continued
PENALTY
VOLUNTARY PAYMENTS FOR NOTICE OF VIOLATION
PART 1 - PARKING VIOLATIONS
(As provided for in Section 73)**

Bylaw Section	Amount	Bylaw Description
60(1)	\$45	Parked on a Snow Route Parking Area while a ban is in effect
71(2)	\$50	Removing or erasing a chalk mark placed on a tire
72(1)	\$50	Unauthorized person place a ticket on vehicle

Schedule "A" continued

SCHEDULE "Y" continued
VOLUNTARY PAYMENTS FOR SUMMARY OFFENCE TICKET
PART 2 - MOVING VIOLATIONS
(As provided for in Section 73)

Bylaw Section	Amount	Bylaw Description
5	\$400	Tampering with City signs
10(1)	\$200	Drive off heavy vehicle route - First Offence
10(1)	\$300	Drive off heavy vehicle route - Second Offence
10(1)	\$500	Drive off heavy vehicle route- Third and Subsequent Offences
10(2)	\$200	Fail to proceed to weigh scale
11(1)	\$200	Failing to use truck training and testing route
11(2)	\$200	Failing to obtain a Training and Testing Permit
13(5)	\$100	Drive on temporarily closed highway
14(1)	\$100	Parade or assembly on highway without permit
14(4)	\$50	Cross through or obstruct parade
15(2)	\$200	Moving an oversized load without permit
19(1)	\$50	Allow vehicle to be driven with unsecured load
19(2)	\$75	Placing an item that causes obstruction
23	\$100	Permitting livestock on any street or lane
28	\$100	Hitchhiking
29(1)	\$100	Soliciting business from a vehicle
29(2)	\$100	Enticing person to vehicle
30	\$85	Failing to stop and yield right of way to pedestrians
31	\$85	Failing to obey School Crossing Guard
32(2)	\$100	Drive wrong-way on one-way lane

Schedule “A” continued

**SCHEDULE “Y” continued
VOLUNTARY PAYMENTS FOR SUMMARY OFFENCE TICKET
PART 2 - MOVING VIOLATIONS continued
(As provided for in Section 73)**

Bylaw Section	Amount	Bylaw Description
33(2)	\$100	Driving in Two Way Left Hand Turn Lane
34(2)	\$100	Driving incorrectly on a roundabout
34.1(1)or(2)	\$100	Making a U-turn where not permitted or unsafe
34.1(3)	\$100	Making a U-turn in a play or school zone
36	\$50	Driving over freshly painted lines
38	\$50	Using school bus safety lights and arms in school zones
39	\$200	Use of engine retardant brakes
40	\$50	Drive vehicle across city owned property
61	\$100	Operating unlicensed vehicle
62(1)(b)	\$200	Driving over-weight vehicle without permit
62(1)(c)	\$200	Driving over-size vehicle without permit
62(1)(d)	\$200	Driving farm equipment during prohibited times
62(1)(e)	\$200	Driving road construction equipment during prohibited times
63(1)	\$200	Drive off dangerous goods route – First Offence
63(1)	\$300	Drive off dangerous goods route – Second Offence
63(1)	\$500	Drive off dangerous goods route – Third Offence
64	\$100	Operate slow-moving vehicle during prohibited time
64.1(b)	\$500	Exceed weight restrictions (specified streets)
67(1)(a)	\$25	Ride bicycle on sidewalk or through crosswalk
67(1)(b)	\$25	Ride bicycle recklessly

Schedule “A” continued

67(1)(c)	\$25	Carry prohibited load on bicycle
67(1)(d)	\$25	Carry passenger on bicycle
67(1)(e)	\$25	Ride bicycle without a helmet
68(1)	\$25	Ride bicycle at night without lights

PENALTY **(As provided for in Section 73)**

In accordance with Section 73(2)(c), where the City Treasurer receives voluntary payment within ten (10) days after issuance of the Notice of Violation, the amount prescribed in this Schedule may be reduced by fifteen dollars (\$15.00).

Schedule “A” continued

**SCHEDULE “Y” continued
VOLUNTARY PAYMENT NOT ALLOWED
PART 3 - COURT APPEARANCE REQUIRED
(as provided for in Section 73)**

Bylaw Section	Amount	Bylaw Description
26(2)	\$360	Speeding in a construction zone 7 – 12 km/hr over speed limit
26(2)	\$385	Speeding in a construction zone 13 – 17 km/hr over speed limit
26(2)	\$400	Speeding in a construction zone 18+ km/hr over speed limit

TITLE: Proposed Bylaw No. 2/2023 to Amend the Traffic Bylaw No. 18/2016 [First Reading and Public Notice authorization]	DATE OF MEETING: March 6, 2023
CLEARANCES: Rene Richard - Director of Engineering & Asset Management <p style="text-align: center;">Rene Richard</p>	REPORT DATE: February 23, 2023 ATTACHMENTS: 1. Draft Bylaw No. 2/2023 to Amend the <i>Traffic Bylaw No. 18/2016</i> 2. Public Notice – Bylaw No. 2/2023 3. Draft Traffic Bylaw with changes included 4. Municipality Comparisons and Sample Oversized Vehicle
Written by: Nicole Baptist – Bylaw & Safety Supervisor <p style="text-align: center;">Nicole Baptist</p>	
Reviewed by: Jessica Matsalla - City Clerk <p style="text-align: center;">Jessica Matsalla</p>	
Approved by: Lonnie Kaal - City Manager <p style="text-align: center;">Lonnie Kaal</p>	

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

Historically, and only when necessary, the Public Works Department has restricted the weight on certain gravel roads in the spring to preserve infrastructure during the spring thaw months. Unfortunately, as there was nothing formally noted in the Traffic Bylaw for temporary weight restrictions, it meant that enforcement was a very limited. While proposing new regulations for temporary weight restrictions, Administration took this opportunity to also look into other potential bylaw amendments.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS/IMPACT

The following are the suggested or potential amendments for the Traffic Bylaw. All changes are highlighted in Attachment 3.

1. Administration identified a concern in regards to the “Commercial Vehicle” definition in the Bylaw. With the current definition, Officers would verify the registered Gross Vehicle Weight (G.V.W.) with what is stated on the registration and that number would be used to determine if the vehicle is a ‘commercial vehicle’ or not, per the Bylaw. Administration has recently discovered that the G.V.W. on the registration is ‘declared’ which can mean that there may be significant discrepancies between the weights of two seemingly identical vehicles (same make/model/year). There may even be discrepancies between the weight that is on a vehicle’s registration to that of what is listed on the vehicle identification sticker. In speaking to SGI, they explained that typically if a vehicle is registered with a G.V.W. of 5,000kg or higher, they would typically flag that and ask the customer if the vehicle will be used for commercial purposes. In the previous

Traffic Bylaw (10/2000), a commercial vehicle was defined as any vehicle exceeding 4,500kg. Currently the Bylaw states that a commercial vehicle is a vehicle with a registered G.V.W. exceeding 6,350kg. At 6,350kg, that means that some large cube vans/delivery trucks are not classified as a commercial vehicle. (See Attachment 4 for picture of a similar vehicle.) When a vehicle is considered a commercial vehicle under the Traffic Bylaw, it means that it is not permitted to be parked on the street at any time. If the intent of the Bylaw is to prevent large delivery vans from parking on the street, then Administration would recommend that we reduce the registered G.V.W. to 5,000kg to better capture what we're trying to restrict. Administration has also considered how other cities across the province handle oversized vehicles (see Attachment 4).

2. Administration identified that when the previous amendment was done in 2022 to update the terminology in the Bylaw that referred to 'handicap' parking, to the term more commonly used now, being "accessible parking stalls", Section 58 was missed. As such, we've updated the language in that section.
3. As was noted earlier in the report, Administration is proposing to include Section 64.1, regarding Weight Restrictions. This will essentially allow Administration to implement spring weight road bans to prevent gravel roads from being damaged during the spring thaw period. The proposed section allows Administration the flexibility to implement the road ban only when needed. For example, if we have a late winter, it may not be required until mid-April. A corresponding fine of \$500 was also incorporated into the Fine Schedule of the Bylaw.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications with the proposed bylaw amendment.

COMMUNICATION PLAN/PUBLIC NOTICE

As per the *Public Notice Bylaw No. 8/2003*, Public Notice is required as the *Traffic Bylaw No. 18/2016* also provided Public Notice. As such, Administration would like to initiate the Public Notice process, including advertisement in the local newspaper, at City Hall and on the City website (see Attachment 2). The proposed amendment will be brought back to Council for review and decision, in conjunction with the Public Hearing at the March 27, 2023 Regular Council Meeting. At the March 27 Council Meeting, Administration will include more information about how road bans will be communicated to the public.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES/OCP/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION(S)

The majority of the proposed Traffic Bylaw changes are minor in nature and would not typically require committee feedback. However, Council may direct Administration to seek feedback from the Planning & Infrastructure Commission regarding the suggested bylaw amendments.

OPTIONS

1. That the proposed Traffic Bylaw amendment (Attachment 1) be approved for introduction and First Reading and furthermore be approved for public notice.
2. That the proposed Traffic Bylaw amendment be denied for reasons as listed by Council.
3. That Administration be provided with alternative direction.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That Bylaw No. 2/2023 being a Bylaw of the City of Yorkton in the Province of Saskatchewan to amend the Traffic Bylaw No. 18/2016 to regulate traffic, the use of public streets and to preserve order thereon be introduced and given First Reading, this 6th day of March, 2023, A.D., and furthermore that Administration be authorized to proceed with the Public Notice process.**



YORKTON FIRE PROTECTIVE SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT – 2022

VISION

SAFEGUARDING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

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1.0 FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE



I would like to take this opportunity to thank City of Yorkton management, council, and staff for the support shown for each other as we worked our way through difficult times with a global pandemic. With the lifting of health restrictions Sept 19, 2022 we were able to safely navigate the effects to our operations and our staff. The pandemic however has had impact on our fire service in many ways, much like every other business model in our community.

As a result an overwhelmed healthcare system we have experienced an increase in medical responses, providing support as well as first response. We endeavor to staff each platoon with more advanced medically trained personnel to provide a higher more adequate level of care in first response situations.

Our temporary firefighter program continues to be the envy of departments nationwide, this model has provided us with the ability to maintain levels of service expected by our citizens during times of long term illness or injury in a cost effective manner.

Cancer is now the number one killer of firefighters in North America. We have taken steps to protect our members with more education on self-protection, both at the scene and back in the fire hall. We have instituted programs such as cancer prevention specific PPE. We have also established decontamination procedures to ensure firefighters don't take the carcinogens home

We continue to provide our smoke detector and carbon monoxide (CO) program, where if a residence is attended that does not have smoke or CO detection we provide and install free of charge.

We continue succession planning with fire officer training through recognized colleges, ensuring our future leaders are prepared with the tools to lead our department safely into the future.

THANK YOU

Trevor Morrissey

Fire Chief

2.0 DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS

Yorkton Fire Protective Services has accomplished some significant achievements in 2022 and has set some new goals for 2023. In addition, on a yearly basis the department completes charity work and educates the community on fire prevention.

2.1 Major Accomplishments

- Successful launch of mass alerting platform Voyent Alert
- Hosted Grain rescue training and certification
- Participated in a live exercise at Yorkton Airport.
- Temp firefighter program
 - Increased number of temp to 5
 - Total of 6741 hours covered for 2022. *****

2.2 Future Initiatives

- Purchase equipment/apparatus to deal with wildland/urban interface.
- Continue to build on fire regionalization progress through interdepartmental training plans.

2.3 Emergency Management Office

- EMO Coordinator attended the Saskatchewan Emergency Planners Conference in Saskatoon.
- Plan reviews to incorporate surrounding emergency planners
- Plan reviews to address homeless response in local emergencies.

2.4 Giving Back to the Community

The Yorkton Professional Firefighters Charitable Foundation raised \$17,000 and donated over \$16,000 throughout 2022. Most of the donations were to local organizations including:

- Soup Haven
- Kinsmen Telemiracle
- Close Cuts for Cancer
- PTSD Awareness Campaign
- Yorkton Health Foundation
- Fire Prevention Magazine
- SPFFA Burn Fund
- Various Local Families
- Royal Canadian Legion
- Yorkton Pipe Band
- Co-Op Nursery School
- Bruno's Place
- Salvation Army
- Yorkton Minor Hockey



The Tyee Variety Show is a major fundraiser for the Yorkton Professional Firefighters Association Firefighter's Charitable Foundation. The event is family orientated providing free tickets to all elementary school children by the local individuals and businesses to enjoy an evening of comedy, illusions and juggling. This fundraising effort has been ongoing for approximately 30 years with annual net proceeds in excess of \$5,000.

Proceeds stay within the community meeting local immediate needs and benefiting established charities.

These are the financial contributions made within the community. The association is pleased to be able to make donations of time to help other various charities within the community. Pancake breakfasts, community lunch events and other volunteer requests are done throughout the year.

2.5 Student Work Experience Program

Since 2022 the department has hosted Yorkton Regional High School Work Experience students wishing to get a critical look at the fire service as a career. Last year the department hosted one student in the fall semester.

2.6 Public Education and Community Safety

The Fire Department concentrates considerable resources and time on the concept of prevention. We use current, previous and new initiatives to capture the attention of our residents and the public. Each of these projects educates and engages citizens to hopefully consider safety on a daily basis and as part of their regular routine.

2.6.1 Smoke Alarm Program

The Smoke Detector/ CO Program is an ongoing initiative of the department. Any time YFPS interacts with a residence who does not have working smoke or CO alarms, they are provided free of charge. This along with a home safety assessment is meant to build awareness to the dangers of unsafe fire behavior and the risks posed by everyday appliances in the home.

2.6.2 Public Education and Tours

The Fire Department continues to provide education to schools, clubs and early learning center programs, and senior's residences throughout the year. We use station visits as an opportunity to create a learning opportunity for our visitors while keeping the tours and information age appropriate. In addition to our station tours and visits we also provide education for groups and associations outside the fire hall including fire extinguisher training, emergency evacuation orientations, and assistance in reviewing building evacuation plans, seniors building education, and general fire safety education.

2.6.3 Fire Prevention Week

Yorkton Fire Protective Services continues to participate in the annual fire prevention week campaign, held October 8-14, 2022. We use this week as the main kickoff for our local campaign, school program, and the National theme. Our program uses school activities, student grab bags with

fire prevention themed items, and a home escape plan activity.

The department's main event of the week is to get students to complete and submit a copy of their families home escape plan.

2.6.4 Media Campaign

The department's media campaign is directed to involve not only multiple age groups but multiple media types, using a variety of approaches to reach the greatest number of people in the community. We are using traditional methods of radio morning shows, advertising, newspaper articles, along with social media methods, including Twitter and Facebook to get safety information out to the public.

2.6.5 Occupational Health and Safety

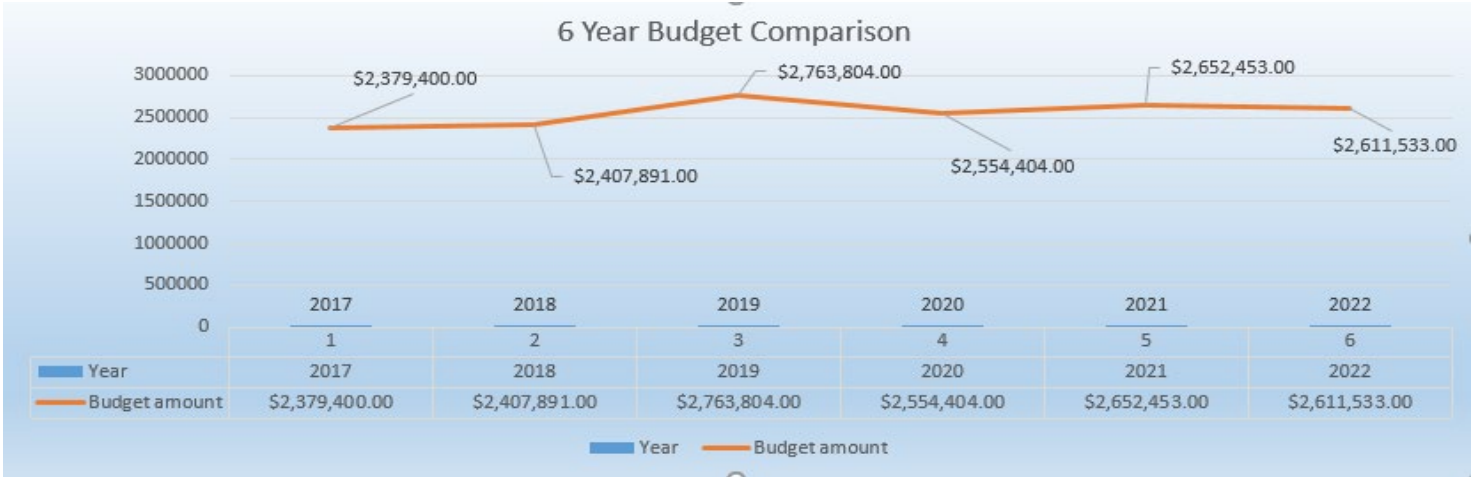
Yorkton Fire Protective Services operates an Occupational Health and Safety Committee. Meetings are held on a regular basis with variance provided to accommodate the shift rotation of committee members. Committee members voice concerns and issues that have been brought forward from staff to be addressed, discussed and corrective action taken where applicable. The Department completes a monthly inspection of the facility. Through our OH&S committee YFPS has instituted upgrades to our PPE, decontamination procedures, rehabilitation policy, and training programs.

2.6.6 Occupancy Inspections

Building inspections are conducted by the on duty crews and the Deputy Chief of Prevention. Inspections are done on a request basis and as an annual requirement for senior's residences.

2.7 Budget

The following three figures show the annual budget, and annual revenue with a 6 year reference for comparison.



3.0 Employees

3.1 Appointments

Neil Matechuk – Captain
Shane Lafontaine- Captain
Darren Wilkins- Firefighter (Fulltime)
Kyler Rubeniuk- Firefighter (Temp)
Cole Frankfurt– Firefighter (Temp)

3.2 Retirements: *Captain Barry Thies*

3.3 Employee Certifications

Yorkton Fire Protective Services strives to continue with its on-going education for all firefighters. **Table 4.1** summarizes the fire education that was completed in 2022 by full-time firefighters while **Table 4.2** shows the EMS Education that was upgraded in 2022.

Table 4.1 2022 Fire Education Statistics

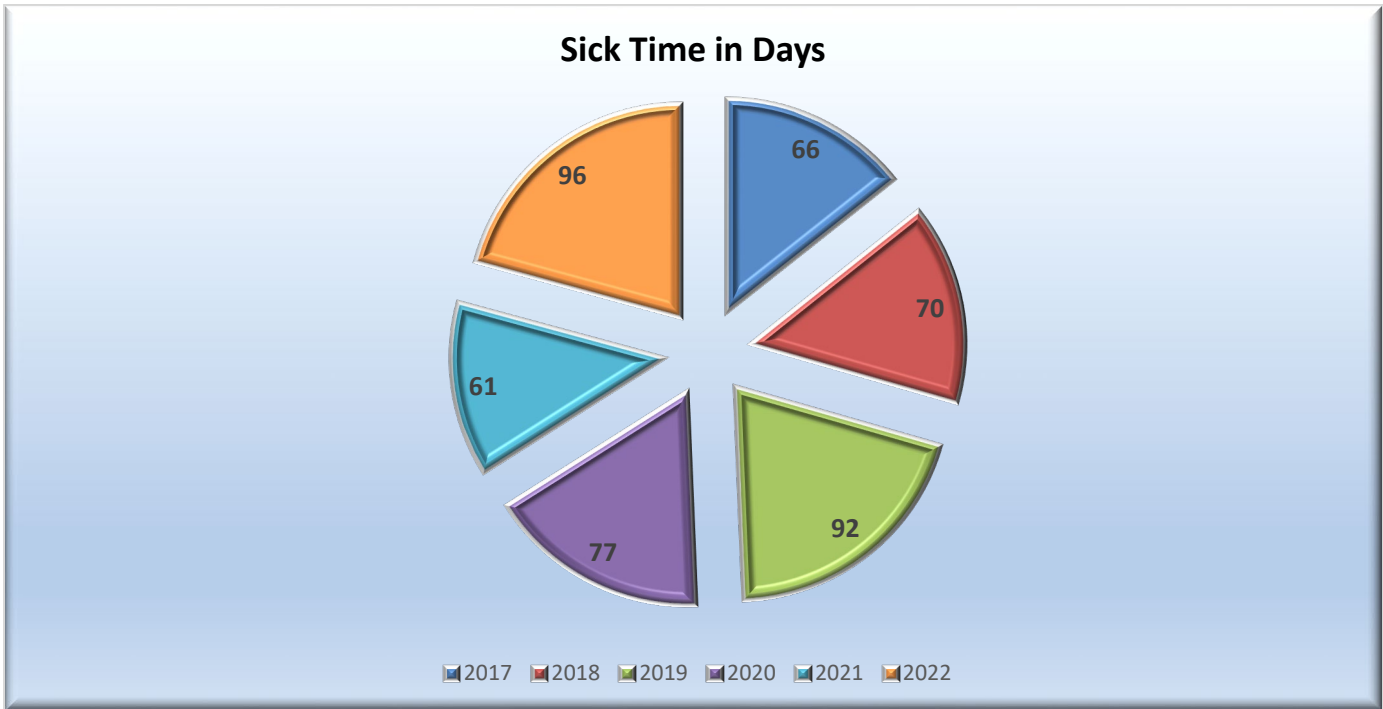
Fire Education	# of Firefighters
NFPA 1021 Fire Officer 2	2
NFPA 1031 Fire Inspector Level 2	1
Fire Fighter Safety	10
Fire Dynamics	12
Ropes and Knots	16
Grain Rescue	16

Table 4.2 2016 EMS Education Statistics

EMS Education	# of Firefighters
First Aid CPR	16

3.4 Department Sick Days

The year 2017 shows a decrease in department sick days and does not include Worker's Compensation benefits.



AVG 4.8 sick days

Figure 4.1: Department Sick Days

4.0 CALL VOLUME SUMMARY

The following two graphs illustrate the total call volumes and incident types with a six year comparison. As you can see in **Figure 4.1**, the number of emergency calls spiked in 2018 followed by a decline in 2019 during COVID restrictions and has begun to increase post restrictions.

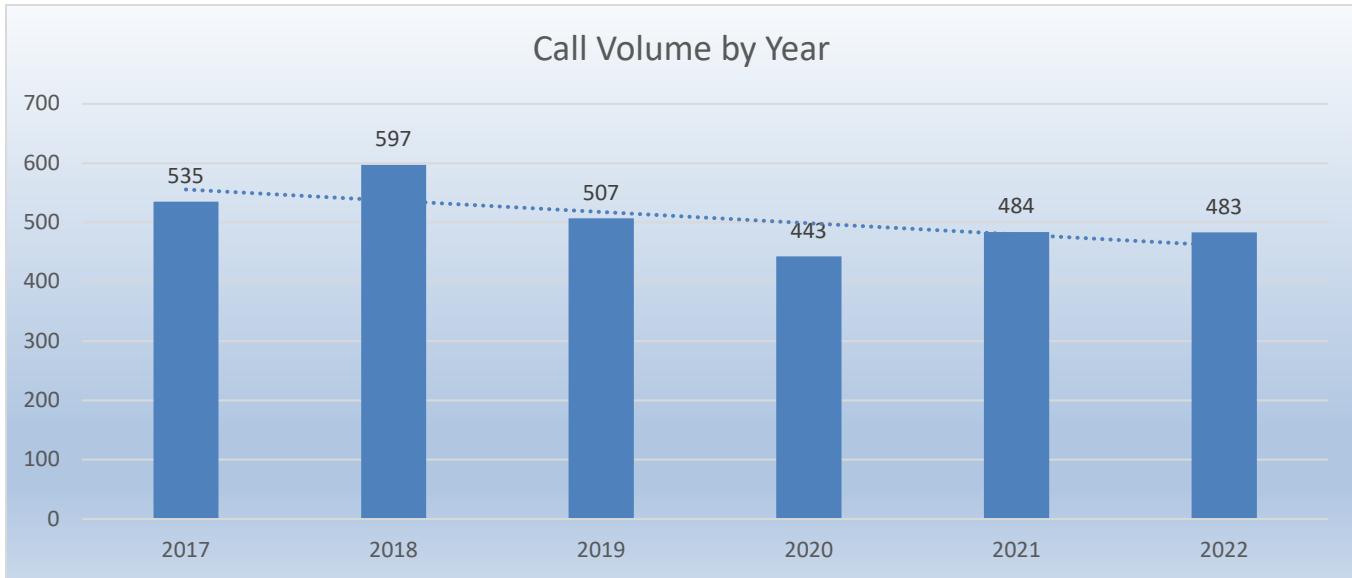
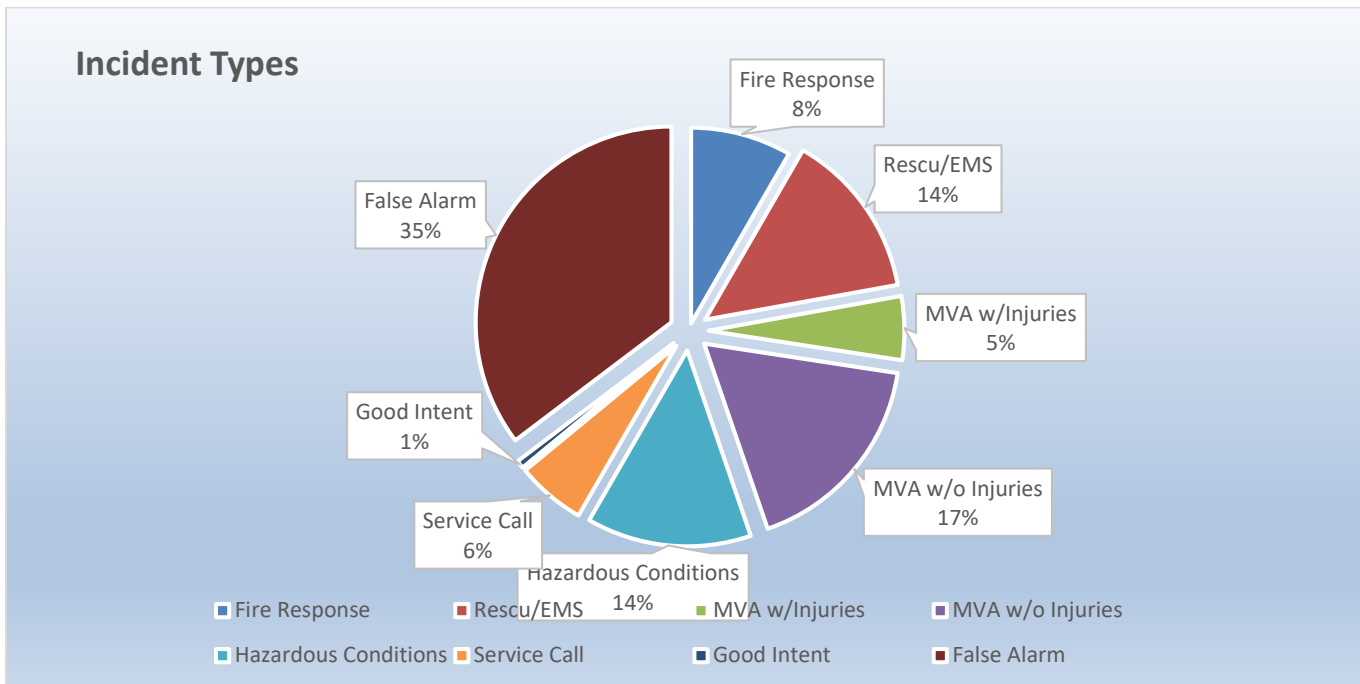


Figure 4.1: Total Call Volume



4.1 Fire/Rescue Responses

The fire/rescue responses are broken down based on month, day of the week and time of day as shown in **Figure 4.3**, **Figure 4.4**, and **Figure 4.5**

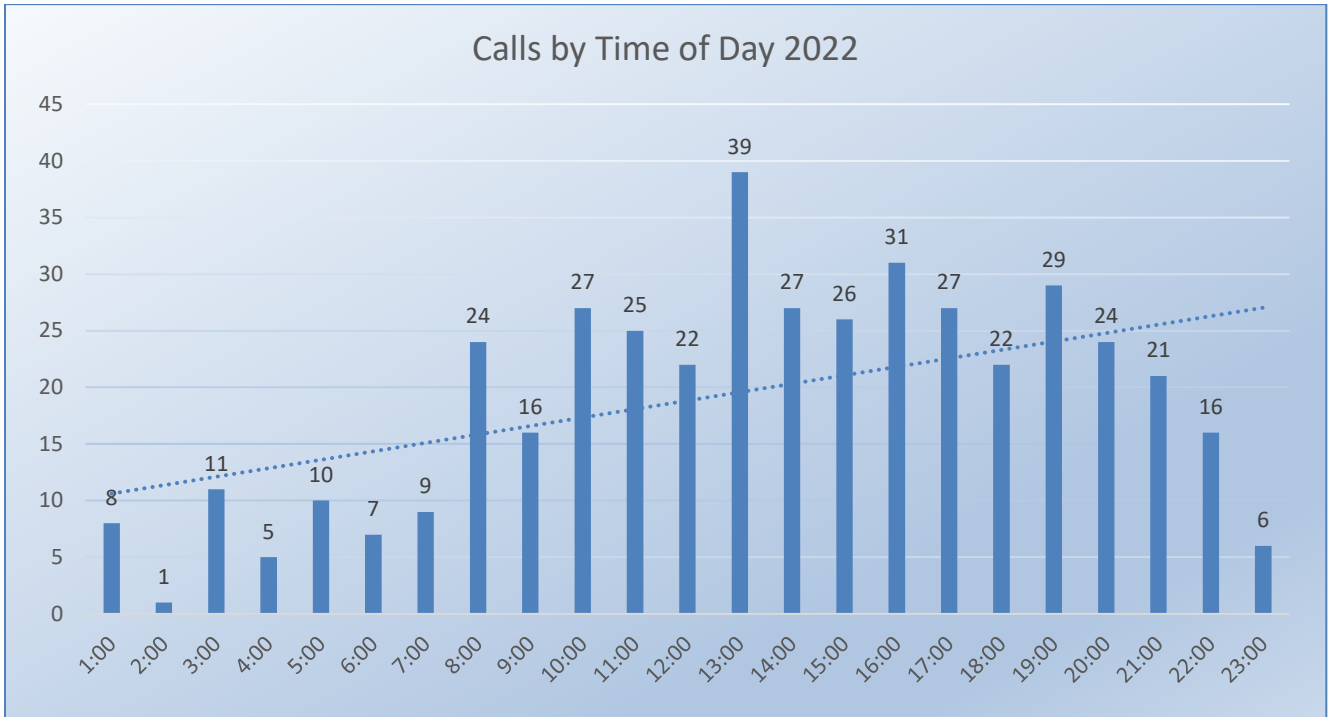


Figure 4.3

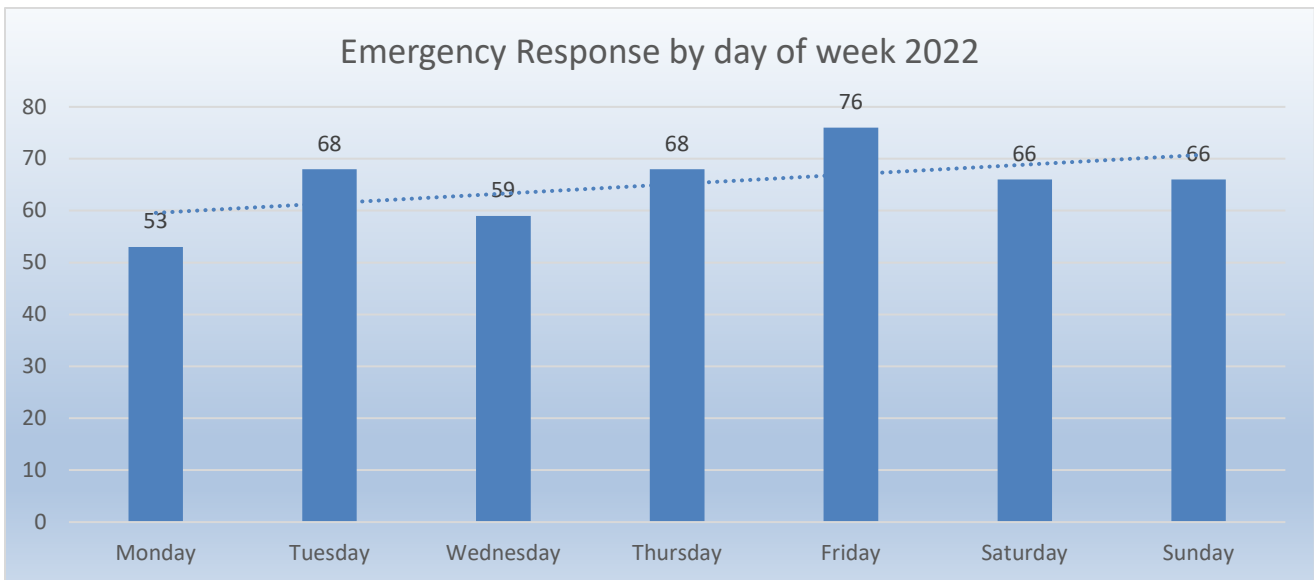


Figure 4.4

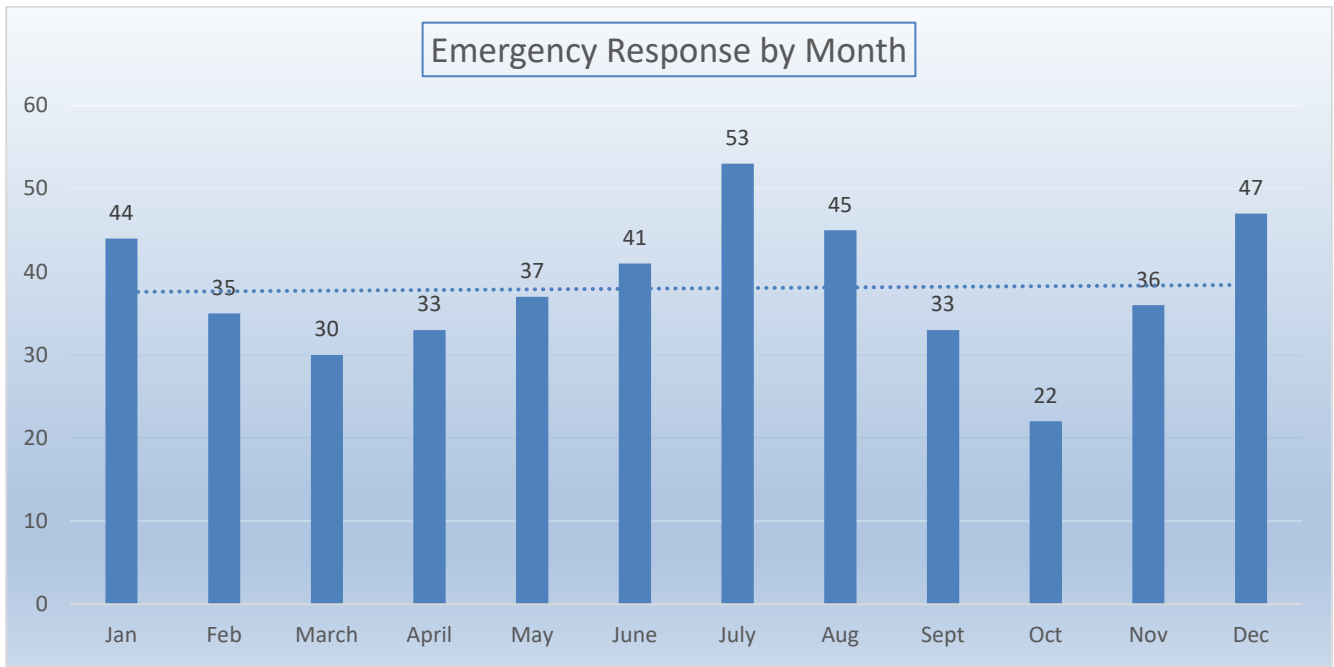


Figure 4.5

Yorkton Fire Protective Services responds to the rural municipalities surrounding the City for mutual aid support as well to fulfill contracts that are currently in place between the department and the rural municipalities. **Table 4.1** shows the rural emergency responses completed in 2022.

Rural Municipality	Emergency Response
RM Wallace #244	7
RM of Orkney #243	12
Total	19

Table 4.1: Rural Responses

APPENDIX A

The service level targets are as follows:

#1. 7 minute (420 second) or less response time for the arrival of the first engine company at fire rescue incidents, for 90% of all requests for emergency service.

#2. 7 minute (420 second) or less response time for the arrival of the first pumper company with Basic Life Support (BLS) capability at life threatening emergency medical incidents, for 90% of all requests for emergency service.

#4. 15 minute (660 second) or less response time for the arrival of a full alarm assignment of a minimum of 8 firefighters at a suppression incident, for 90% of all requests for emergency service.

Results: Fire/Rescue

Overall response targets were met. Instances where travel distances were beyond city boundaries are excluded in the averaging of response times.

Conclusion

Yorkton Fire Protective Services strives to meet the needs of our community through training, prevention, mitigation, and community involvement. As the landscape of emergency response changes, we continue to adapt to meet those needs. We see great benefit in partnership with surrounding municipalities and communities to diversify our response capabilities and strengthen our relationships in training. We will continue to work with community groups, local businesses, and industry to provide the best possible service we can.



Fire Chief
Trevor Morrissey

TITLE: Proposed Bylaw No. 1/2023 Amend Urban Forestry Bylaw [First Reading and Public Notice Authorization]	DATE OF MEETING: March 27, 2023
	REPORT DATE: March 22, 2023
CLEARANCES:	ATTACHMENTS: 1. Proposed Bylaw No. 1/2023 2. Public Notice – Bylaw No. 1/2023
Written by: Darcy McLeod – Director of Recreation & Community Services <p style="text-align: center;">Darcy McLeod</p>	
Reviewed by: Jessica Matsalla - City Clerk <p style="text-align: center;">Jessica Matsalla</p>	
Approved by: Lonnie Kaal - City Manager <p style="text-align: center;">Lonnie Kaal</p>	

PURPOSE

This report is being provided to update the City of Yorkton *Bylaw No. 15/2007 known as the Urban Forestry Bylaw*, which ensures the urban forest is properly maintained as an asset to the City of Yorkton.

BACKGROUND

Urban Forestry is the generally accepted reference that is used when dealing with the maintenance and care of the trees and shrubs that line our streets and beautify our parks. It does not refer to trees on private property however, it is recommended that the public refer to the *Urban Forestry Bylaw* for a recommended list of tree species for Yorkton, when planting is planned.

The Urban Forestry Bylaw was established as per Chapter 7.1 of the City of Yorkton Development Plan that speaks to the importance of the Urban Forest as a community asset. The Council of the City of Yorkton approved the Municipal Development Plan by enacting the Bylaw in 2003. As a result, to ensure the Urban Forest is properly maintained as an asset of the City of Yorkton and its residents, an effective and efficient Urban Forestry Management Program was established in the City of Yorkton. The intent of the Bylaw is to ensure the health and longevity of our urban forest for future generations and as a result, trees will only be removed as a last resort unless they are deemed to be hazardous.

DISCUSSION

In order to ensure the health and longevity of the urban forest, a variety of tree species is required in the event species specific diseases impact the existing trees (ie Dutch Elm Disease, Emerald Ash Borer). Therefore, the Bylaw should be updated to reflect that further planting of some species is not permitted, and allow a wider variety of trees to diversify and preserve our urban forest. More specifically, it is being recommended that the Black Ash, Green Ash and Manchurian Ash be removed from the approved species list. The American Elm had previously been removed from the list and has not been planted in a number of years. A detailed list of these additional species is attached for your reference.

Further, we have also updated the Bylaw to reflect the recent change in Department name.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to the Urban Forestry Bylaw changes as they are housekeeping in nature.

COMMUNICATION PLAN/PUBLIC NOTICE

Once approved by Yorkton City Council, a copy of the amended Bylaw will be placed on the City's website. Public notice is required prior to giving all three readings, therefore, Council could provide the first reading of this Bylaw at the March 27, 2023 Council meeting.

OPTIONS

1. That Bylaw No. 1/2023, a bylaw to Amend Bylaw No. 15/2007, a bylaw to ensure the Urban Forest is properly maintained as an asset to the City of Yorkton, be given first reading and authorization for Public Notice at the March 27th, 2023 Council meeting.
2. That the bylaw be denied.
3. Provide alternate direction to Administration.

RECOMMENDATION

That Bylaw No. 1/2023, a bylaw in the City of Yorkton in the Province of Saskatchewan to Amend Bylaw No. 15/2007, a bylaw to ensure the Urban Forest is Properly maintained as an asset to the City of Yorkton be introduced and given first reading this 27th day of March A.D., 2023, and further that Public Authorization be authorized.

**CITY OF YORKTON
SASKATCHEWAN**

BYLAW NO. 1/2023

**A BYLAW IN THE CITY OF YORKTON IN THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN
TO AMEND BYLAW NO. 15/2007 A BYLAW TO ENSURE THE URBAN FOREST IS
PROPERLY MAINTAINED AS AN ASSET TO THE CITY OF YORKTON**

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Yorkton deems it expedient to amend Bylaw No. 15/2007 known as the Urban Forestry Bylaw;

THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Yorkton enacts as follows:

1. That the term “Community Development, Parks and Recreation” be replaced with “Recreation and Community Services” throughout the entirety of Bylaw 15/2007.
2. That in order to update the list of Recommended tree Species for Planting list, that Appendix ‘A’ of Bylaw 15/2007 be replaced with the Appendix ‘A’ attached hereto.
3. Effective Date of Bylaw: This bylaw shall come into force and take effect upon the day of final passing thereof.

Mayor

City Clerk

Introduced and read a first time this ___th day of March A.D., 2023.

Read a second time this ___th day of _____, A.D., 2023.

Read a third time and adopted this ___th day of _____, A.D., 2023.

APPENDIX A – Recommended Species for Planting

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME
Silver Maple	Acer Saccharinum
Black Ash	Fraxinus nigra
	Fraxinus nigra "Fall Gold"
Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Machurian Ash	Fraxinus mandshurica
Little Leaf Linden	Tillia cordata
Basswood	Tillia americana
Bur Oak	Quercus macrocarpa
Amur cherry	
Hawthorn	
Ohio Buckeye	
Russian Olive	
Hackberry	
Ruby Slippers Amur Maple	Acer Ginhala "Ruby Slippers" ¹¹
Regal Celebration Freedom Maple	Acer x Freemanii
Boxelder Maple	Acer Negundo
Deborah Norway Maple	AcerPlantanoides "Deborah" ¹¹
Silver Cloud Silver Maple	Acer saccharinum "Silver Cloud" ¹¹
Ohio Buckeye	Aesculus glabra
Prairie Horizon Manchurian Alder	Alnus hirsute "Harbin"
Royal Frost Hybrid Birch	Betula x "royal frost"
Gladiator Rosybloom Crabapple	Malus x adstringens "durleo"
Spring Snow Flowering Crabapple	Malus baccata "spring snow" ¹¹
Prairie Sky Hybrid Poplar	Populus x Canadensis "prairie sky" ¹¹
Schubert Chockecherry	Prunus virginiana "Schubert"
Bur Oak	Quercus macrocarpa
Majestic Skies Northern Pin Oak	Quercus ellipsoifdalis "Bailskies"
Shooting skies Northern Pin Oak	Quercus ellipsoifdalis "durmarg"
Laurel Leaf Willow	Salix pentandra
Black Hawk Mountain Ash	Sorbus aucuparia "Black Hawk"
Russian Mountain Ash	Sorbus aucuparia "Rossica" ¹¹
Japanese Tree Lilac	Syringa reticulate
Ivory silk Tree Lilac	Syringa reticulate "Ivory Silk"
Dropmore Hybrid Linden	Tilia x flavescens "Dropmore" ¹¹
Glenleven Hybrid Linden	Tilia x flavescens "Glenleven"
Greenspire Littleleaf Linden	Tilia cordata "Greenspire"
Harvest Gold Mongolian Linden	Tilia x mongolica "Harvest Gold"
Siberian Larch	Larix sibirica
Baby Blue Colorado Blue Spruce	Picea pungens "Baby Blue"

Colorado Blue Spruce
Scotch Pine

Picea pungens "Glauca"
Pinus sylvestris

Note: The American Elm is probably the best available species for boulevard planting, however, given the current approach and threat of Dutch Elm Disease, it is not recommended that this species of tree continue to be planted in the City of Yorkton until such time effective control measures are developed or it runs its course and is no longer a threat.



PUBLIC NOTICE
PROPOSED BYLAW NO. 1/2023
Amendment to the Urban Forestry Bylaw No. 15/2007

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the City of Yorkton intends to consider approving *Bylaw No. 1/2023, to amend the Urban Forestry No. 15/2007*, at the April 24, 2023 Regular Council Meeting. The Proposed Urban Forestry Bylaw amendment will include changes to increase the variety of trees to diversify and preserve our urban forest. A Public Hearing will be held at the April 24, 2023 Regular Council Meeting to allow the public to express their opinion or concern with any of the changes being proposed.

You can review the bylaw on the city's website www.yorkton.ca or by visiting City Hall. Questions regarding the proposed bylaw may be directed to:

Darcy McLeod, Director of Recreation and Community Services
Phone: (306) 786-1750
Email: parksandrec@yorkton.ca

OR

Matt Charney, Parks Manager
Phone: (306) 786-1780
Email: parksandrec@yorkton.ca

Public Hearing: City Council will hear all persons who are present and wish to speak to the proposed bylaw and all written submissions will be read verbatim aloud unless the submitter is in attendance to speak on the submission, on **Monday, April 24, 2023 in City Hall Council Chambers, Yorkton, Saskatchewan at 5:00 p.m.**

Any written submissions must be received by 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 and must be directed to:

Jessica Matsalla, City Clerk
Box 400, 37 Third Avenue North
Yorkton, SK S3N 2W3
Email: jmatsalla@yorkton.ca

TITLE: Enabling Accessibility Grant	DATE OF MEETING: March 27, 2023
CLEARANCES: Darcy McLeod – Director of Recreation & Community Services Darcy McLeod	REPORT DATE: March 21, 2023
Written by: Lisa Washington – Manager of Culture, Community & Heritage Lisa Washington	ATTACHMENTS:
Reviewed by: Jessica Matsalla – City Clerk Jessica Matsalla	
Approved by: Lonnie Kaal - City Manager Lonnie Kaal	

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Council about a federal accessibility grant we recently received, which needs matching funding. This is a follow-up from December 20, 2021, when Council received a report - Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit “Indoor Public Facility Audit”. At that meeting, Council instructed administration to ‘not let this report sit on a shelf’.

BACKGROUND

In April 2020, the Recreation and Community Services department was invited to attend an information session about a new project that was launching in Yorkton - *Interventions to Enhance Social Inclusion of Older Adults with Dementia in Saskatchewan*. This five-year project is federally funded and focuses on improving the public’s awareness of the stigma and social isolation experienced by people with dementia and their care partners. It focuses on supporting individual, community and organizational interventions to enhance social inclusion of older adults and their care partners in small cities and rural communities. The project is conducted by the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit, a bi-university health research unit based at the Universities of Regina and Saskatchewan, and is funded by the Government of Canada New Horizons for Seniors Program.

In March 2021, our department applied for and received funding for an “Indoor Public Facility Audit”, to encourage our facilities to be more inclusive and accessible for seniors living in Yorkton, including those living with dementia. The final report is a resource to inform our ongoing operations. The document was also included in a recent application to Employment and Social Development Canada for “Small Projects under the Enabling Accessibility Fund”.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS/IMPACT

Our project “Increase Accessibility at the Gallagher Centre” was recently awarded \$100,000. The funding is to ensure barrier free travel from an outside entrance through to the pool deck by

installing three automatic door operators at an estimated cost of \$55,000. The funding also includes the installation of two pool lifts in the water park at an estimated cost of \$145,000. One lift will be installed for access to the lap pool and a second lift will be installed for access to the hot tub. These lifts will enable persons with disabilities to participate in community activity within the pool area.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This grant was awarded for \$100,000 and requires a matching financial commitment from the municipality. The period to use this funding is March 20, 2023 to March 19, 2024. Resources to support this project are available in the Gallagher Centre Reserve account (budget allocation of \$150,000 per year), however Council approval is required to access this funding.

COMMUNICATION PLAN/PUBLIC NOTICE

The publicity about this project needs to follow the guidelines that are attached to the funding.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES/OCP/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION(S)

This project meets the objectives of “seek partnerships that promote health, wellness and healthy lifestyles” and “community engagement provides opportunity for all members of the community to be involved, and supported” as outlined in the 2020 Strategic Plan goals of “promoting and building a healthy community” and “fostering a safe community that embraces cultural and social diversity by providing social, recreational and educational opportunities for all community members”, respectively.

Additionally, it aligns with the Official Community Plan, Part Four “Our Healthy Community”, Goal 4.5 “Balanced strategies for a complete, healthy and livable community, ensuring that Yorkton continues to be a great place to live”, and 4.5.1. Public Health and Safety where our community strives to offer a wide variety of community-based services that are inter-generational, accessible, prevention-oriented, supportive, coordinated, responsive to change and effective. It increases accessibility in our largest indoor public facility.

OPTIONS

1. That Council authorize Administration to access the Gallagher Centre Reserve account in the amount of \$100,000 to provide the required matching funding in support of Increasing Accessibility at the Gallagher Centre through the Federal Government Employment and Social Development Canada Enabling Accessibility Fund.
2. That Council not authorize Administration to access the Gallagher Centre Reserve account in the amount of \$100,000 to provide the required matching funding in support of Increasing Accessibility at the Gallagher Centre through the Federal Government Employment and Social Development Canada Enabling Accessibility Fund.
3. That Council give other direction to administration.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council authorize Administration to access the Gallagher Centre Reserve account in the amount of \$100,000 to provide the required matching funding in support of Increasing Accessibility at the Gallagher Centre through the Federal Government Employment and Social Development Canada Enabling Accessibility Fund.

TITLE: 2023 Smith Street Roadway Improvements – Phase Two Tender Award	DATE OF MEETING: March 27, 2023
CLEARANCES: Ashley Stradeski – Director of Finance Ashley Stradeski	REPORT DATE: March 15, 2023 ATTACHMENTS: 1. 2023 Smith Street Improvements – Project Limits
Written by: Trent Mandzuk – Director of Public Works Trent Mandzuk	
Reviewed by: Jessica Matsalla, City Clerk Jessica Matsalla	
Approved by: Lonnie Kaal, City Manager Lonnie Kaal	

BACKGROUND

Phase 1 of the Smith Street Improvement project included rehabilitation of the roadway, curb, sidewalk and drainage piping between 6th Avenue and 1st Avenue. The second and final phase of the project is scheduled this year and will complete the remaining section of Smith Street between 2nd Avenue and Myrtle Avenue.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS/IMPACT/ FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Only one bid was received from Fedorowich Construction Ltd for \$576,017 plus taxes. Unit prices on contract items have all increased for 2023, ranging from 7 to 17% in comparison to 2022. This is on par with contracted services seen in other areas of infrastructure rehabilitation. Rehabilitation programs typically require a 20% allowance for contingency and related project costs. Funding available for this project is \$856,000 comprised of \$616,000 from Surfaced Streets and \$240,000 from Curb and Sidewalk operating accounts.

Current levels of underfunding make it difficult to address the backlog of rehabilitation work in a quick manner. Once roads deteriorate below “fair” the rate of deterioration and reinvestment costs both increase substantially. If we were to attempt to address the current backlog over the next 25 years, the City needs to put a minimum of \$1.3M into the operating budget for roadways every year. This will require the annual operational budget for future overlay programs to be doubled, as current funding is \$616,000/year.

COMMUNICATION PLAN/PUBLIC NOTICE

Advertisements will be put on the City website and radio two weeks prior to 2023's Smith Street Improvement Project start up. The contractor is required to advise citizens and local businesses, via letter notification, of dates for street closures prior to paving. Completion date deadline for the contract is September 30, 2023.

Longer term communication plans should endeavor to increase Yorkton citizens and road user's awareness of the forthcoming "roadway problem" to proactively inform residents on realistic service level expectations in years to come.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES/OCP/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION(S)

Develop a long term infrastructure plan that includes water, sewer, roads, sidewalks, walking-trails, bike-paths, facilities, transit, and future development.

OPTIONS & RECOMMENDATION

1. Award the 2023 Smith Street Roadway Improvements tender to Fedorowich Construction Ltd for \$576,017 (plus taxes).
2. Other direction as per Council's request.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council award the 2023 Smith Street Roadway Improvements tender to Fedorowich Construction Ltd for \$576,017 (plus taxes), and further that Council authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the contract.



PLAN 1:3000
PROJECT LOCATION

TITLE: Municipal Gas Tax – 5 Year Capital Plan	DATE OF MEETING: March 27, 2023
	REPORT DATE: March 15, 2022
CLEARANCES: Ashley Stradeski Ashley Stradeski – Director of Finance	ATTACHMENTS: 1) City of Yorkton - 5 Year Capital Plan
Written by: Amber Matechuk – City Controller Amber Matechuk	
Reviewed by: Jessica Matsalla - City Clerk Jessica Matsalla	
Approved by: Lonnie Kaal - City Manager Lonnie Kaal	

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

The City of Yorkton receives annual funding from the Canada Community Building Fund (formerly known as the Gas Tax Program). This grant is typically used for large scale capital projects. Previous projects using this funding include: Highway #9 improvements, street light improvements, roadway reconstruction, storm water management and most recently the reconstruction of Darlington/Mayhew. We receive approximately \$980,000 annually from this Federal grant, which goes towards the annual capital budget.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS/IMPACT

Under our Municipal Gas Tax Fund Agreement (MGTFAs), which has been signed and approved by the City, we are required to provide the province with a five year capital plan, updated annually. This plan, attached to this report, is due March 31st. Per the MGTFAs, the capital plan must be approved by Council.

The attached plan is a general guideline in order to meet the requirements of the MGTFAs. A more realistic ranking of projects will be undertaken this year, in conjunction with a separate Committee of the Whole meeting, scheduled for May 8th. Additionally, as facility priorities and asset management plans evolve; so too will the capital plan. Administration will continue to update the five year plan as priorities and costs are determined, and present to Council for approval each year.

Note that this plan has not undergone the capital budget process; rather, it is a listing of optional potential projects that could be proposed over the next five years. The purpose of this is to identify to the Province that the City is planning ahead, identifying project needs in advance and taking appropriate steps to achieve long-term goals and funding requirements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Approval and submission of this five year capital plan to the province is a requirement to continue to receive our Gas Tax funding. The City relies on this funding to complete capital projects.

OPTIONS

1. That Council approve the City's Five Year Capital Plan – March 2023, in order to meet the terms of the Municipal Gas Tax Fund Agreement.
2. That Council deny the approval of the City's Five Year Capital Plan – March 2023, for reasons listed by Council.
3. Other direction as Council deems appropriate.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council approve the City's Five Year Capital Plan – March 2023, in order to meet the terms of the Municipal Gas Tax Fund Agreement.

CITY OF YORKTON
5 Year Capital Plan
Prepared March 17, 2023

Attachment 1

Landfill - Self Sustaining

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Recycling Centre (New community drop off HHW site)						\$ -
Landfill Master Plan (capping design, transfer station design)	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000				\$ 150,000
Landfill Storage Building - Design & Construction			\$ 3,000,000			\$ 3,000,000
Compost Pad / Stormwater Pond - Design & Construction					\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000
Existing Landfill Closure - Capping + Transfer Station					\$ 4,300,000	\$ 4,300,000
Phase II Cell - Design & Construction					\$ 5,500,000	\$ 5,500,000
Total Program Cost	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ -	\$ 10,600,000	\$ 13,750,000

Water Works - Self Sustaining

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
BHL - Aquifer Investigation	\$ 375,000					\$ 375,000
Water Meter Replacement AMI						\$ -
Water Well Improvements (Well 9, 16, 17)						\$ -
New Well 13 - Remaining Work						\$ -
New Water Well Buildings & Generators (13 and 9)						\$ -
Boiler Replacement at Water Treatment Plant	\$ 125,000					\$ 125,000
Water Tower - Inspection/Recoating/light up tower	\$ 1,075,000					\$ 1,075,000
Water Main Replacement Circlebrooke	\$ 1,818,700					\$ 1,818,700
Water Main Replacement - Park / Agriculture		\$ 441,300				\$ 441,300
Watermain replacement			\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 1,600,000
Well 10 - Undergrounds and Mechanical	\$ 223,500					\$ 223,500
Well rehab / well demo / Yorklake line inspection	\$ 420,000					\$ 420,000
Well 11 - Well Replacement/New Building/Mechanical/Generator			\$ 325,000	\$ 800,000		\$ 1,125,000
Well 7 - Waterline Replacement (7 - well 6, ~1635m)/Well Replacement/Mechanical				\$ 700,000		\$ 700,000
Well 7 - well replacement / mechanical					\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000
Well 8 - Well Replacement/Building / Mechanical					\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Well 8 & 9 Waterline - Replace Well Line Under Yorklake (~500m)					\$ 1,700,000	\$ 1,700,000
Well 16 - New Well/Building/Mechanical/Electrical/Line Easements				\$ 1,450,000	\$ 1,450,000	\$ 2,900,000
Well Line from #16 to #15					\$ 3,300,000	\$ 3,300,000
Water Plant - Filter media			\$ 650,000			\$ 650,000
Water Plant Expansion					\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
North Industrial Water Line					\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
North Industrial Water Tower - Design/Construction/Installation					\$ 4,000,000	\$ 4,000,000
Total Program Cost	\$ 4,037,200	\$ 441,300	\$ 1,475,000	\$ 3,450,000	\$ 22,650,000	\$ 32,053,500

Wastewater Treatment Plant - Self Sustaining

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
WPCP Conceptual Design						\$ -
WPCP Prelim Design	\$ 1,200,000					\$ 1,200,000
WPCP Detailed Design		\$ 5,800,000				\$ 5,800,000
WPCP Plant Expansion			\$ 10,000,000	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 70,000,000
Total Program Cost	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 5,800,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 77,000,000

Total Self-Sustaining Capital	\$ 5,312,200	\$ 6,316,300	\$ 14,475,000	\$ 43,450,000	\$ 53,250,000	\$ 122,803,500
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CITY OF YORKTON
5 Year Capital Plan
Prepared March 17, 2023

Planning, Building & Development

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Hwy 9 / Hwy 10 Corner Revitalization						\$ -
Airport - Runway Rehabilitation	\$ 250,000				\$ 250,000	\$ 500,000
Airport - New Terminal Building	\$ 268,000	\$ 232,000				\$ 500,000
Airport - Recreational Taxiway Entrance from Taxiway A						\$ -
Airport - Cracksealing & Line Painting	\$ 25,000	\$ 38,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 38,000		\$ 126,000
Airport - Runway Lights Upgrades				\$ 250,000		\$ 250,000
Airport Equipment - Plow Truck, Back Up Generator & Snowblower		\$ 370,000	\$ 350,000			\$ 720,000
Total Program Cost	\$ 543,000	\$ 640,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 288,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 2,096,000

Engineering & Asset Management

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Drainage Plan - Victoria Ditch				\$ 350,000	\$ 4,200,000	\$ 4,550,000
Traffic Pole Replacement @ Intersections		\$ 670,000		\$ 450,000		\$ 1,120,000
Broadway Street West - Culvert Under Highway #52						\$ -
Intersection Signals - Hwy 9 & King St		\$ 2,300,000				\$ 2,300,000
Ball Road - Paving						\$ -
Intersection Signals - Hwy 9 & Queen St				\$ 1,200,000		\$ 1,200,000
Traffic Sign Replacement/School & Park Zone Signs						\$ -
Intersection Upgrade - Hwy 9 & York Road					\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,500,000
South Access @ Roundhouse Subdivision			\$ 560,000			\$ 560,000
Fibre Optic Cable Installation	\$ 107,000					\$ 107,000
Intersection Signals - Hwy 9 & Potoski Road					\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Intersection Signals - Smith St & Myrtle Ave					\$ 450,000	\$ 450,000
Timber Bridge Repairs - Landfill Road			\$ 300,000			\$ 300,000
York Road Underground Utilities	\$ 4,400,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000		\$ 10,400,000
York Road Reconstruction	\$ 3,100,000	\$ 3,100,000				\$ 6,200,000
Fleet Purchases	\$ 1,061,500	\$ 450,000	\$ 700,000	\$ 700,000	\$ 700,000	\$ 3,611,500
City Hall Elevator Modernization		\$ 225,000				\$ 225,000
Downtown Streetlights Upgrade	\$ 185,000	\$ 185,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 365,000
Pedestrian Crossing Signals		\$ 137,000	\$ 56,000	\$ 66,000		\$ 259,000
Highway 10 East Upgrades (UHCP)		\$ 460,000				\$ 460,000
Access Transit Bus Replacement			\$ 100,000	\$ 110,000		\$ 210,000
Total Program Cost	\$ 8,668,500	\$ 9,527,000	\$ 3,776,000	\$ 4,936,000	\$ 9,410,000	\$ 36,317,500

Public Works

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Residential Reconstruction - Weinmaster Design	\$ 75,000					\$ 75,000
Gladstone Ave Improvements & Reconstruction			\$ 200,000			\$ 200,000
Resurfacing/Overlay Program	\$ 616,000	\$ 631,400	\$ 647,185	\$ 663,365	\$ 679,949	\$ 3,237,898
Total Program Cost	\$ 691,000	\$ 631,400	\$ 847,185	\$ 663,365	\$ 679,949	\$ 3,512,898

CITY OF YORKTON
5 Year Capital Plan
Prepared March 17, 2023

Pathways

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Weinmaster Park Pathway			\$ 1,000,000			\$ 1,000,000
Heritage Heights Pathway				\$ 200,000		\$ 200,000
Riverside Terrace Park Path Paving					\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000
Total Program Cost	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 1,600,000

Gallagher Centre

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Fencing & Gate Upgrades	\$ 50,000					\$ 50,000
Flexihall Sound Suystem Upgrade	\$ 50,000					\$ 50,000
Westland Arena Hot Water Heaters	\$ 55,000					\$ 55,000
Lighting Upgrade - Ag Pavilion & Flexihall	\$ 170,000					\$ 170,000
North Fire Lane Paving	\$ 50,000					\$ 50,000
Water Park Hot Water Storage Tanks	\$ 19,000					\$ 19,000
Ride-on Floor Scrubber	\$ 25,000					\$ 25,000
Rooftop Replacement Program	\$ 50,000					\$ 50,000
Wavepool Underwater Lighting Upgrade	\$ 35,000					\$ 35,000
Water Park Dehumidification System Replacement	\$ 572,000					\$ 572,000
Water Park Swirl Pool UV Filter System		\$ 125,000				\$ 125,000
Interior Common Area LED Lighting Upgrade			\$ 100,000			\$ 100,000
Roof Top Replacement			\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 300,000
Replace Water Park Filters			\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000		\$ 200,000
Ag Pavillion/Flexihall Lighting				\$ 170,000		\$ 170,000
Arena Beverage Rail				\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000
Hot Water Heaters and Storage Tanks				\$ 75,000		\$ 75,000
Replace Ozone Generator				\$ 75,000		\$ 75,000
Ice Covering System					\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
Building Plumbing Upgrades					\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Total Program Cost	\$ 1,076,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 545,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 2,546,000

Deer Park

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Parking Lot Compound	\$ 15,000					\$ 15,000
Course Drainage	\$ 50,000					\$ 50,000
Maintenance Staff Trailer	\$ 50,000					\$ 50,000
Irrigation	\$ 100,000					\$ 100,000
Topdressing and Soil Storage	\$ 15,000					\$ 15,000
Equipment Replacement	\$ 60,000					\$ 60,000
Irrigation		\$ 100,000				\$ 100,000
Seacan Storage		\$ 26,000				\$ 26,000
Irrigation & Drainage			\$ 100,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 350,000
Equipment Purchases - Mowers			\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 300,000
Storage Seacan & Base			\$ 30,000			\$ 30,000
Fleet & Cart Storage Building				\$ 750,000		\$ 750,000
Driving Range Tee Mats				\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000
Road Lights				\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000
Driving Range Netting					\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000
Total Program Cost	\$ 290,000	\$ 126,000	\$ 230,000	\$ 1,075,000	\$ 325,000	\$ 2,046,000

CITY OF YORKTON
5 Year Capital Plan
Prepared March 17, 2023

Indoor Facilities

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Godfrey Dean Exterior Renovation	\$ 160,000					\$ 160,000
Godfrey Dean Flooring Replacement	\$ 25,000					\$ 25,000
Kinsmen Arena Ice Systems Upgrades	\$ 2,775,000					\$ 2,775,000
Westland Arena Ice Plant Replacement	\$ 1,085,000					\$ 1,085,000
Roof Replacement Program - Godfrey Dean & Gloria Hayden CC		\$ 330,000	\$ 50,000			\$ 380,000
Godfrey Dean/Gloria Hayden Windows			\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 120,000
Facility HVAC Roof Top Replacement			\$ 75,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 175,000
Library - Sewer Line			\$ 50,000			\$ 50,000
Gloria Hayden - Court Wall Replacement			\$ 100,000			\$ 100,000
Kinsmen Arena LED Sign				\$ 85,000		\$ 85,000
Godfrey Dean - Flooring				\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000
Library - Flooring Replacement					\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000
Total Program Cost	\$ 4,045,000	\$ 330,000	\$ 315,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 210,000	\$ 5,100,000

Parks and Outdoor Facilities

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Cemetery - Chemical Shed	\$ 21,000					\$ 21,000
Parks & Rec Master Plan Study	\$ 100,000					\$ 100,000
Cemetery - Mower Replacement	\$ 15,000					\$ 15,000
Broadway & Hwy 9 Beautification - Grass & Trees		\$ 75,000				\$ 75,000
Heritage Heights Tennis & Pickleball Court Improvements		\$ 220,000				\$ 220,000
JC Beach Diamond #3 & 4 - Dugout Upgrades		\$ 60,000				\$ 60,000
Jubilee # 1 Daimond Improvements		\$ 100,000				\$ 100,000
Logan Gree Tree Planting		\$ 30,000				\$ 30,000
Columbia Park Basketball Courts			\$ 300,000			\$ 300,000
Equipment - Mowers			\$ 37,000		\$ 75,000	\$ 112,000
Fit-Park (Logan Green)				\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000
Columbia Park Pump Bike Course				\$ 450,000		\$ 450,000
Weinmaster Park - Washrooms & Shelter					\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000
Total Program Cost	\$ 136,000	\$ 485,000	\$ 337,000	\$ 550,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,758,000

Total Capital (Requiring Funding)	\$ 15,449,500	\$ 11,864,400	\$ 7,180,185	\$ 8,457,365	\$ 12,024,949	\$ 54,976,398
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Total City Capital - 5 Year Plan	\$ 20,761,700	\$ 18,180,700	\$ 21,655,185	\$ 51,907,365	\$ 65,274,949	\$ 177,779,898
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