

APRIL 2017

Issue 62

This issue includes some highlights of the major accomplishments that the SaskTel Pioneers have been involved with in your community. We DO encourage you to share this newsletter with your family.

*Please give us a call or letter if you have any **comments or suggestions** regarding this bulletin or future newsletter items.*

Newsletter Editor:

Jacque Perigny at (306) 789-1414 or Fax: 777-2831
3266 Mountbatten Cres, Regina S4V 0Z4
E-mail: jacgary@yahoo.com

Chapter 59 President

Sharon Finnik
Email: sharon.finnik@directwest.com
Phone: 306 777-1317



Pioneer Membership Updates

Please advise us of any of the following changes:

- ⇒ address or name change
- ⇒ marital status change (either way)
- ⇒ spousal information
- ⇒ death (employee, superannuate or spouse)

Pioneer Manager - Darrell Liebrecht

Phone: (306) 777-2515
Toll Free: 1-866-944-4442

E-mail: darrell.liebrecht@sasktel.com

Fax: (306) 777-2831

Write: 2nd Floor
2121 Saskatchewan Drive,
Regina, Sask S4P 3Y2

**YOU CAN HELP US STAY IN TOUCH
BY KEEPING US ADVISED**

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Happy
Spring!



Saskatchewan Chapter 59

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Advisory Bd Member | Ken Keesey | 931-3915 |
| Pioneer Manager | Darrell Liebrecht | 777-2515 |
| President, Chapter 59 | Sharon Finnik | 777-1317 |
| Past President | Jolene Norleen | 949-7607 |
| Sr. Vice President | Judi Livingstone | 737-19171 |
| 2nd Life Member Rep | Jean Bryski | 782-7114 |
| 1st Life Member Rep | Carol Sagin | 525-8383 |
| Secretary | Michelle Hankewich | 220-8822 |
| Club & Council Presidents | | |



Message from our 2016 Chapter #59 President



Greetings Fellow Pioneers,

2017, another fantastic year to be a SaskTel Pioneer!!!

We have awesome things happening across the province because of all the thoughtful and inspiring people and groups that are in our communities! STARS Air Ambulance Home Lottery is the perfect example of the partnering of two groups that really care! The 2017 Home Lottery ticket sales will be starting up soon in Regina and Saskatoon and many volunteers are needed to make this a successful project!! Please contact Darrell Liebrecht for more details about days, times and shifts!

Over the years we've cultivated many other partnerships across the province. Habitat for Humanity, The Saskatoon Blades, The Melfort Mustangs, The Western Development Museum in Moose Jaw and First Books Canada are just a few examples of the good things that can happen when like-minded people get together to make a positive impact on communities in our province.

I am very proud to be a SaskTel Pioneer; we are an amazing group of caring people!!!!

I am inspired everyday by the people I've met to be the best person that I can be!

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do." -Pele

Yours in Pioneering,

Sharon Finnik
Chapter 59 President

*Happy
Spring!*



*"If you want to touch the past, touch a rock.
If you want to touch the present, touch a flower.
If you want to touch the future, touch a life."*

~Author Unknown



Pioneer Mission & Vision



Pioneer Mission

We are a volunteer network dedicated:

To making a recognized contribution to a variety of community needs.

To providing value to our partner organizations by contributing to their strategic priorities.

To creating rewarding fellowship opportunities and personal growth of our members.

Our Vision

To be recognized as a network of volunteers who effect immediate, tangible change in local communities, in partnership with their sponsor companies.



>>>>> Pioneer WebSite <<<<<

An electronic version of this Provincial Newsletter is on the website.

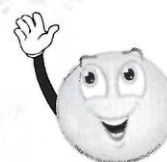
This newsletter is issued twice a year - April and November.

www.sasktelpioneers.com

Visit the International TelecomPioneer website to learn more about our organization as it provides an overview of benefits unique to Pioneer membership

www.telecompioneers.org

www.pioneersvolunteer.org



Upcoming Special events



SaskTel PROVINCIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT—no location and date set at time of printing



Prairie Council (Regina) Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 26—Murray Golf Course, Shot Gun. contact bev.cyca@sasktel.com



Regina and Saskatoon need volunteers to man the Stars Home Lottery Home and sell tickets.


Regina—Contact Darrell Liebrecht—306 777-2515 <darrell.liebrecht@sasktel.com>

Saskatoon—Contact Valerie.lukash@sasktel.com **Phone # is 306 931-5115.**

| | Direct West | HAD Allen | Mel fort | MJ | NB | PA | REG INA | SC | Secur Tek | SKTN 1 | WYB | YTN |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------|------------|------------|
| Affiliate | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Associate ** | | 138 | 5 | 21 | 9 | 14 | 7 | 7 | | 56 | 7 | 10 |
| Life Partner** | 12 21 | 1121 642 | 52 35 | 86 85 | 95 78 | 126 103 | | 79 71 | 5 8 | 573 452 | 93 61 | 120 90 |
| Regular | 71 | 0 | 14 | 53 | 38 | 79 | 851 | 23 | 66 | 443 | 26 | 32 |
| TOTAL | 83 | 1122 | 66 | 139 | 138 | 205 | 851 | 102 | 71 | 1016 | 119 | 152 |

There are 4060 Life and Regular Members as of December 30, 2016

Great Job!



Love

SaskTel Superannuate Alex Dumalski of Regina
passed away April 30, 2012. Survived by spouse Annie.

In Memoriam. . . (Employees, Superannuates and Spouses)

Sympathy is extended to the following employees, Superannuates and their families.

SaskTel Superannuate Bob Hunter of Nanaimo, BC passed away on Feb. 17, 2015 at age 87. Retired in 1983. Survived by spouse Marjorie.

Daisy West of Regina (spouse of deceased SaskTel Superannuate Cyril West) passed away on August 15, 2015 at age 98.

Doreen Elder of Saskatoon (spouse of deceased superannuate Darby Elder) passed away on February 5, 2016 at the age of 79.

SaskTel Superannuate Maxine Johnson passed away on February 7, 2016 at the age of 89.

SaskTel Superannuate Glen Richardson of Lake Cowichan, BC passed away on March 25, 2016 at age 83. Retired in 1986. Survived by spouse Audrey.

SaskTel Superannuate Myrna Loustel of Swift Current passed away on June 3, 2016 at age 75. Retired in 1993. Survived by spouse Joe.

Alfred Fiedelleck of Regina (spouse of SaskTel Superannuate Dorothy Fiedelleck) passed away on July 31, 2016.

Irene Couttie of Regina (spouse of deceased SaskTel Superannuate Al Couttie) passed away on August 2, 2016 at age 75.

Margaret Metz of Regina (spouse of deceased SaskTel Superannuate Murray Metz) passed away August 2016 at age 68.

SaskTel Superannuate Myrtle Murray of Sylvan Lake, AB passed away on August 26, 2016 at age 86. Retired in 1986. Survived by spouse Ray.

SaskTel Superannuate Bob Jensen from Swift Current passed away on September 3, 2016 at age 73. Retired in 1997. Bob is survived by spouse Joanne.

SaskTel Superannuate Richard Kurcin passed away on September 22, 2015.

SaskTel employee Brett Busse of Saskatoon passed away on October 15, 2016 at the age of 28.

SaskTel Superannuate Walter Reibin of Castlegar, BC passed away on October 16, 2016 at the age of 95. He retired in 1979.

SaskTel Superannuate Bill Spence of Regina, passed away on October 20, 2016 at the age of 81. He retired in 1989. Bill is survived by spouse Betty.

SaskTel employee Lisa Duncan of Regina, passed away on October 28, 2016 at the age of 51. Survived by spouse Barry.

Ron Leib of Regina (spouse of SaskTel employee Jo Leib) passed away on October 30, 2016.

SaskTel Superannuate Larry Church of White Rock BC passed away on October 30, 2016 at age 95. Retired in 1981.

SaskTel Superannuate Elaine Armstrong of Regina passed away Nov. 16, 2016. Retired in 1997. Survived by spouse Neil.

Yvonne Hawrysh of Calgary (formerly Regina) (spouse of SaskTel Superannuate Moe Hawrysh) passed away on November 28, 2016. at age 76.

SaskTel Superannuate Marian Gorski of Regina passed away on December 21, 2016 at age 69. Retired in 1997.

Lenora Rogne of Saskatoon (spouse of SaskTel Superannuate Ralph Rogne) passed away on December 19, 2016.

SaskTel Superannuate Arnold Birch of Regina passed away on December 1, 2016 at age 78. Survived by spouse Joan.

DirectWest Employee Amber Kemp of Regina passed away on December 10, 2016 at age 38.

SaskTel Superannuate Miron Balych of Vernon BC (formerly of Regina) passed away December 13, 2016 at the age of 94. Miron retired in 1987.

SaskTel Superannuate Alex Wilson of Saskatoon passed away on December 16, 2016 at age 67. He retired in 1999. Alex is survived by spouse Linda King.

SaskTel Superannuate Jim Whiteside of Osoyoos BC (formerly Saskatoon) passed away on December 28, 2016 at age 83. Retired in 1990. Survived by spouse Gladys.

SaskTel Superannuate Bob Milne of Regina passed away on January 1, 2017 at the age of 90. Bob retired in 1983.

SaskTel employee Donna Nordquist of Regina passed away January 1, 2017 at age 56. Survived by spouse Kevin.

Shirley Lane of Regina (spouse of SaskTel superannuate Leo Lane) passed away on January 4, 2017 at age 70.

SaskTel Superannuate Brian Schneider of Regina passed away on January 5, 2017 at age 72. Retired 1997.

SaskTel Superannuate Ken Leibel of White Rock BC (formerly of Regina) passed away on January 10, 2017 at age 70. Retired in 2000. Survived by his spouse Patricia.

SaskTel Superannuate Lucienne Osiowy of Saskatoon passed away January 29, 2017 at age 81. Retired in 1993.

Howard Butterfield of Regina, (spouse of deceased SaskTel Superannuate Doreen Butterfield), passed away on February 5, 2017 at the age of 66.

SaskTel Superannuate Florence Hayes of Saskatoon passed away February 21, 2017 at age 99. Retired in 1982.

Norman Bonk of Kinistino (spouse of SaskTel Superannuate Patsy Bonk) passed away on February 28, 2017.

Ruth Reimer of Saskatoon (spouse of deceased SaskTel Superannuate Walter Reimer) passed away March 4, 2017 at age 92.

SaskTel Superannuate Walter Kowal of Regina passed away March 8, 2017 at age 80. Retired in 1997. Walter is survived by spouse Angeline.

SaskTel Superannuate Lloyd (Chas) Thomson of Fort Qu'Appelle passed away March 4, 2017 at the age of 85. He retired in 1987. Lloyd is survived by spouse Betty.

SaskTel Superannuate Nancy (nee Pidnorny) Protz of Regina, passed way March 12, 2017 at age 73. Nancy retired in 1994.

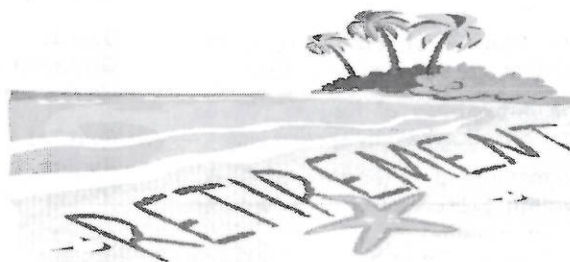
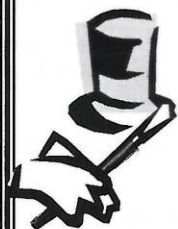
SaskTel Superannuate Ralph Rogne of Saskatoon, passed away March 16, 2017 at age 83. Retired in 1986.

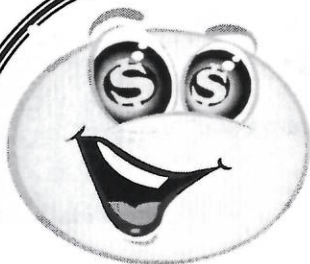
SaskTel's Retirements—2016-17

Congratulations and good luck to all of you who have chosen Retirement.
We hope to see you involved in SaskTel Pioneer functions.

Due to Privacy Laws we can only provide a list of
employees who have given us permission to release their names:

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|------------|---------------|
| 14 Jul 16 | CHRIS | GERWING | SASKATOON |
| 23-Nov-16 | LEN | MAURICE | SASKATOON |
| 30-Dec-16 | THOMAS | MOERSCH | REGINA |
| 30-Dec-16 | SHEILA | SCHLECHTER | REGINA |
| 31-Dec-16 | SANDY | ARENDT | REGINA |
| 31-Dec-16 | DONNA | NEU | REGINA |
| 4 Jan 17 | BRUCE | KORINETZ | SASKATOON |
| 14-Jan-17 | JAMES | WIESE | REGINA |
| 16 Jan 17 | GERALD | BODNARCHUK | SASKATOON |
| 27-Jan-17 | DARCY | GETTEL | MELVILLE |
| 31-Jan-17 | DWAYNE | SCHMITZ | REGINA |
| 31 Jan 17 | DAWN | MATTHEWS | SASKATOON |
| | | CAVANAGH- | |
| 4-Mar-17 | JO ANNE | PETRYCHYN | REGINA |
| 7 Mar 17 | COLETTE | COWAN | REGINA |
| 10 Mar 17 | GLORIA | LAWSON | REGINA |
| 10-Mar-17 | DONNA | WIESE | REGINA |
| 11-Mar-17 | KAREN | DOBSON | REGINA |
| 12-Mar-17 | DIANNE | FOSTER | REGINA |
| 18-Mar-17 | BOB | BENDER | SASKATOON |
| 21-Mar-17 | CAROL | WHITEHEAD | N. BATTLEFORD |
| 24-Mar-17 | DAVE | BAILEY | REGINA |
| 27-Mar-17 | HEATHER | MILLER | REGINA |
| 31-Mar-17 | LOIS | ROURKE | SASKATOON |
| 7-Apr-17 | PATRICK | KLEIN | REGINA |
| 10 Apr 17 | LISA | LEE | REGINA |
| 28-Apr-17 | JOANNE | TRAINOR | SASKATOON |
| 28-Apr-17 | WILLIAM | EGAN | REGINA |
| 30-Apr-17 | KEN | KEESEY | REGINA |
| 30-Apr-17 | SHELLEY | KITZUL | SASKATOON |
| 4-May-17 | DENNIS | PANAS | P. ALBERT |
| 19-May-17 | TONY | BEREZOWSKI | N. BATTLEFORD |
| 19-May-17 | NOREEN | SCHROEDER | REGINA |
| 30-Jun-17 | PHIL | ROOKE | SASKATOON |





WHO GOT LUCKY with the 2017 SaskTel Pioneer Payday Lottery

Draws are made every two weeks (on SaskTel payday)

Two Special draws valued at \$2,500
\$500 winners every two weeks

PAYDAY LOTTERY WILL START UP AGAIN
in JANUARY 2017

CONTACT DARRELL LIEBRECHT FOR MORE INFORMATION
306 777-1515

>>>>>> No information at time of printing

*On behalf of the Pioneer Lottery Committee we would like to thank you all for
participating. We appreciate your continued support.*

*The funds raised from this lottery goes towards the improvement of our
communities throughout Saskatchewan.*

Congratulations to the 'Winners'



SaskTel Pioneer Payday Lottery More Money, More Chances in Payday Draw

Bi-weekly draws for \$500 and three \$2,500 draws.

SecurTek employees and Life Members can choose one of the following
Payday Lottery payment options:

>>> one cheque, covering the entire \$130 enrolment fee or two cheques @\$60 (post-dated)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT !!!

Over \$400,000 raised since 2005

Funds are used to provide assistance to many of the communities that you live in

If you have any questions please call SaskTel Pioneer office (Darrell Liebrecht) at 306 777-2515. darrell.liebrecht@sasktel.com
2nd Floor, 2121 Saskatchewan Drive, Regina SK S4P 3Y2

***Do you have any of the following items ?
Check with your Club Executive as to where to send them.***

Keeping Tabs: Metal Tabs

Please save your metal tabs off of aluminium cans. The current tab collection program benefits the Pasqua Hospital.

Contact: Janice Muir, Phone: 306-777-4635



CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS—Labels for Education

Program has shut down as of December 2016.

STAMPS – Stamp out Leprosy

—You can help “Stamp Out” Leprosy by saving all your postage stamps.

The SaskTel Pioneers are shipping them to the Leprosy mission in Ontario.

The Leprosy Mission is 130 years old. Any monies realized from the stamps after they have been sold to collectors will be used to pay for education and medicine etc.

Contact: Darrell Liebrecht—306 777-2515



QUILT MATERIAL

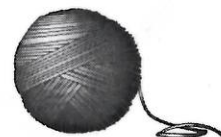
The SaskTel Pioneers are making lap quilts for Seniors and the Allan Blair Cancer Clinic. If you have left over quilt material that you no longer need and would like to make a donation of it to the pioneers, we would be happy to make use of it. The material does not all have to be 100% cotton. Soft materials like fleece and mink are great for the backings. In 2013, we were able to make 27 lap quilts that we donated. The majority of the material was from donations.

Contact: Jolene Norleen Phone: 306-949-7607

WOOL

If you have any wool taking up space in your closets, we will gladly turn it into lap robes for seniors. The SaskTel choir visits senior establishments each Christmas and leaves them with a selection of lap robes for their residents.

Contact Jeannine Nelson at 306-777-1848



Donations for Local Shelters / Outreach Centers

SAEN and the SaskTel Pioneers are accepting donations of unused hygiene items (e.g. soap, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste / brushes, feminine hygiene, etc) to be distributed to local shelters / outreach centres.

Contact Gina Angielski at 306 777-3341

USED EYEGLASSES - can be forwarded to Darrell Liebrecht at Head Office. District locations can drop them off with their pioneer executive.



SaskTel Pioneer contacts are: Darrell Liebrecht at 306 777-2515 or
Email darrell.liebrecht@sasktel.com

Pioneer Salvage Sales

>>>>OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISER >>>>

All monies raised go towards Pioneer projects.

**Raised over \$100,000 last year for our
Saskatchewan Communities ... GREAT JOB !**

They can teach you all you need to know on inventory,
repairing/refurbishing computers/parts.

If you are interested in volunteering or purchasing,
please call your local Club President.



Computers for Schools

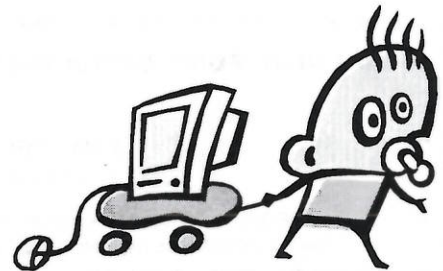
Computers for Schools (CFS) in Regina and Saskatoon are looking for Volunteers to assist in their weekday and Saturday operations.

They collect and repair donated computer equipment from government and private sector sources and distribute them free of charge to K-12 schools and libraries in Saskatchewan.

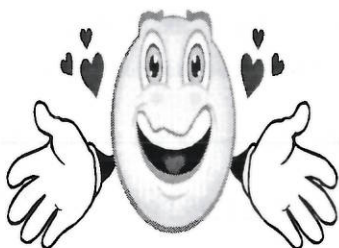
Contact:

Regina call Keith Grill @ 777-3435

Saskatoon call Barry Rutherford @ 931-5625



*To all our Volunteers who have
generously donated their
time and talent.*



*This project is a major fundraiser
To help our communities*

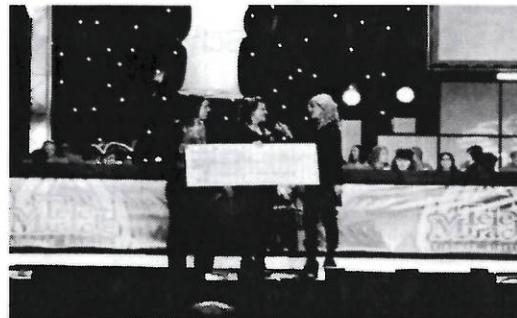




CHAPTER 59 PROVINCIAL PROJECTS

- Chapter donated \$1000 to the **Sask AG Bell Association** to support camp expenses at Redberry Lake - Camp is dedicated to deaf & hard of hearing.
- **Sasktel Pioneer Hero Award** – Received one entry for every 20 hours worked on projects. Separate draws for life members, SaskTel employees & partners. Winner gets a gift certificate for dinner for 2.
- **SaskTel Pioneer Reach for the Stars Award:** Clubs can enter any project that is active between January 2015 & October 2016. Project doesn't have to be completed and can only win/be submitted once. Project template must be filled out for entry by October 31/16 or all entries voted on, club winner gets \$1000. On line voting ran from November 1 - November 15th. Could vote once/day. not restricting voters or votes. Had 4 projects submitted: comfort packs, volunteer lunch
- CKRM radio mention for the donation of teleconferencing equipment to **Saskatchewan Foster Family Association**. Darrell spoke at the press conference held at the legislature along with the Minister of Social Services. CTV, CBC, Global and some radio stations were there. The equipment is needed to run an online training program for foster families. Without the equipment, training takes 2 years to be a foster family. Now, the training can be done within 5 months online. The value of equipment mentioned at the time of donation was \$35,000.
- **National Project: First Book Canada** – approx 18,000 books, 9 pallets with about 2400/pallet were sent out across the province. Nine clubs participated.
- **Comfort Kits** - over \$13,000 cash collected, over \$40,000 in kind donations and 1070 backpacks. President Ron Styles and some executives did some of the deliveries/presentations in Regina. Ron was greatly appreciative of the project & enjoyed how it went, he clarified it was the SaskTel Pioneers & not SaskTel who spearheaded this, he apologized for media misinterpretation. See pages 23 and 26 for more details.

Presented cheque for \$3,970 to **Telemiracle** on behalf of SaskTel Pioneers: Yorkton - \$250; Melfort - \$200; Bridge City - \$500; HAD Allen—\$1,000; Prairie Council—\$1500; DirectWest - \$520; Making the presentation is Dione Wall and Kacey Vooght from Bridge City Club, Saskatoon. Swift Current donated \$250 .. This Was not included in above grand total.



SASKTEL PIONEERS ARE A VERY ACTIVE GROUP

IF YOU HAVE SOME 'EXTRA TIME' TO SHARE YOUR SKILLS .. IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE APPRECIATED.

>>>> Also is an opportunity to socialize <<<<

SOME PROJECTS THAT SASKTEL PIONEERS ARE INVOLVED IN:

(Check with your local club and see if they are participating in these projects)

- **HUG-A-BEARS**—Donated to emergency vehicles to give to children in crisis situations.
Regina Workshops are held once a month—Wednesday 9 a.m. Contact: Mary Wilhelm 545-5110
- **HEART PILLOWS**—Donated to open heart surgery patients.
Saskatoon coordinator is Brenda Iwasuik and for Regina Contact:: Andrea Hasz at 306 789-3700
- **TURBANS**—Donated to cancer patients—for Regina contact Jacki Huynink at 306 545-3827
- **QUILTING**— Regina workshops are held every couple of weeks—6:30 p.m. Call Jolene Norleen at 306 949-7607
- **CARD NIGHTS**—Regina holds them once a month—every 3rd Friday 7 p.m. Contact Brenda Glaspey
- **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**—Regina holds them on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (except Apr, Jul, Aug) —306 777-8450
- **COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOLS**—Refurbished computers donated to schools—Keith Grill at 306 777-3435. Saskatoon contact is Barry Rutherford at 306 931-5625.
- **SALVAGE**—Prepares and sells used SaskTel office equipment and computers to the general public. Regina—Contact: Jolene Norleen/ Barry Zerr at 306 777-3431. Saskatoon—Dan Blum Salvage – Dan Blum 306-931-5564

See the Pioneer Calendar for scheduled workshops at www.sasktel pioneers.com under "get involved" tab.



Yorkton Club...

Contact Club President: John McMurdo (786-3440)
Email: john.mcmurdo@sasktel.com

President—John McMurdo
 Secretary - Sheila Johnson
 VP - Social - Adeline Markham/Sheila Johnson

Past President - Bob Hume
 Communication—Charlotte Ross

VP Jean Bryski
 Treasurer - Wendy Hume

152 Members—1973.25 Volunteer Hours as of December 2016—19% active (29 volunteers)

Volunteers can now email Yorkton.pioneers@sasktel.sk.ca to register their hours

- Big project coming up to coincide with Canada Day celebrations – proceeds will be used to enhance our park (which is 10 years old.—located beside city hall & great source of pride for us). Permanent signage is being considered.
- Collecting soap & shampoo partner with SHINE
- Comfort packs—spending \$1000 for supplies & members also donating items
- Packed & delivered 70 comfort kits to Salvation Army, Shelwin House and Safe Haven
- Continue with the shelters program
- Delivered 84 Giving Books at grade 3 classes in Sturgis, Preeceville and Canora,
- Donated \$200 to the Legion for Pioneer week
- Donated \$250 to Telemiracle
- Partnered with SaskTel to hand out goodies at pumpkin walk - sponsored by Co-op
- SaskTel Pioneers hosted the Annual Santa Party for 20 Special Needs Children. The Yorkton Terriers partnered with us. Many compliments from parents on how excited the kids were
- Setting up workshops for fidget blankets (buttons, zippers etc. attached) and possibly making some receiving blankets
- Sold laptop for \$100
- Went to PATHS on Nov 3 for Pioneer week
- Yorkton skate club is looking for volunteers selling tickets and flowers and handing out programs

Media mention - picture in Yorkton Newsweek for Santa party, pictures, mention in the paper for volunteering Sunrise Health Region; Yorkton newspaper & Four Town Journal mentions for First Books Canada; Facebook mention for Special Needs kids Christmas party; Mention in district paper for First Books Canada, Giving Books mentions are on face book

Life Member Report . . .

1st VP —Carol Sagin —306 525-8383
2nd VP— Jean Bryski— 306 782-7114

NB—Hugh Martin
 Melfort—Carol Engstrom
 Weyburn/Estevan—Paul Wilson

Saskatoon—Barry Rutherford
 PA—Jacqui Wiesner
 SC—Dennis Riach

Regina—
 Yorkton—Gladys Moore
 Moose Jaw—Vacant

Email: gwama1@yahoo.ca
 Email: jbryski@sasktel.net



Our Life Members have been very involved with volunteering in the community. Some of the projects have been: School Backpacks filled and delivered, First Book Canada, Flower bed project at Regina Nursing Home, Christmas Store for inner city schools all organized and operated by Pioneers, Volunteer Income Tax Clinics, assisting Meals on Wheels, Christmas Angels, and delivering computer flash drives to schools and more ... This work has brought much happiness to so many individuals and in so many communities. Great work to all Pioneers!

Upon review of volunteers hours for 2016 , the Life Members alone contributed over 16,725 volunteer hours.
Thank you, thank you for your many extra efforts.

As your Life Member reps on the Chapter—we welcome your comments, suggestions and questions you may have.
 We welcome your feedback to things you would like us to work with in this role.

Directwest . .

Contact Club President: Shirley Wolfe— 777-0344
Email: shirley.wolfe@directwest.com

President - Shirley Wolfe
Treasurer - Val Dodman
VP Ways & Means—Michelle Roberts
VP Marketing—Joel Sopp

Past President— Sharon Finnik
VP Membership —Amanda Kreklewich
VP Community Service - Allan Milham
VP Social & Fellowship—Britney Brodt

Secretary—Ashley Raddysh
VP Participation - Tim Dickson
Environment—Anita Fuchs

83 members— 1846 Volunteer Hours as of December 2016 — 51% Active (42 active volunteers)

- Held hotdog fundraiser - raised \$320
- Held bake sale for Telemiracle – donated \$520
- Chili & soup day coming up
- Coronation Park School asked us to help with their Christmas luncheon.
See page 28 for more details
- Participated with wish angels
- Participated with Sophia house – provided PJ's
- Set up Santa store for Albert school to collect toys and gently used items
- Held dinner at Coronation Park School - donated \$1000



**Coronation Park
School luncheon**



Volunteer luncheon is the day the company gets together to wrap the pj's for Sophia House, make the angel ornaments for the Christmas cards, decorate the office,

Prairie Council . .

Contact Club President: Sheila Solvason—777-1518
Email: Sheila.solvason@sasktel.com

President - Sheila Solvason
Past President - vacant
HAD Allen Life Member Club - Del Jones
VP Ways & Means - Crystal Isaac
Members at Large—Laureen McWilliams
VP Youth—Vacant
VP Membership—Vacant

Secretary & Profile - Trina Klein
VP Sports - Bev Cyca
VP Member Engagement, Fellowship & Communications - Tiffany Eide
VP Community Outreach & Collections—Laurel Werner
VP Community Service - Haydee Iglesias (Special) & Sandy Elliott (Routine)
Salvage - Jolene Norleen (777-3431)
Treasurer - Andrew McKay
VP Education - John Winter
Computers for Schools—Keith Grill

Monthly Club Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 3:00 p.m. at Head Office

851 Members— 3947 Volunteer Hours as of December 2016—48% Active (408 Volunteers)

- Communication board going up on 2nd floor into the mall
- Donated \$1500 to Telemiracle
- Donated \$300 to teacher's appreciation week for community school
- Donated \$500 to Coldest Night of the Year
- Donated \$2000 to Z99 radiothon
- Donated \$1825 to Regina Regional Science Fair (entry fee to Canada Wide Science Fair)
- Dress for success clothing collection
- Fundraiser - paint night for the club
- Regina Humane Society cupcake sale
- Sponsored charity hockey game between RCMP & SaskTel employees. We paid for ice time (\$300). For every \$100,000 collected a Habitat for Humanity house is built.
- Will be participating with the Stars Lottery again—manning the house and selling tickets



The 3 in the middle are Yaseen Khan (suit jacket), John Winter, Salman Khan (black & orange). The guys at each end are Titan players

Picture from Titans SSC Family Gala.

We sponsor the Titans cricket team and they display our banner at any events and all games, plus we have our logo on their uniforms.



Del Jones, John Winter and his daughter Sasha being interviewed by Lorrie from Z99.



Bridge City Club . . .

Contact Club President: Dione Wall—381-4277
Email: dione.wall@sasktel.com

President—Dione Wall
 Vice President—Mark Grambo
 Vp Publicity—Anita Derksen
 VP Community—Michelle Hankewich
 VP Membership/Participation—Dorianne Urquhart

Past President—Val Lukash
 VP Fellowship—vacant
 VP Education - Kacey Vooght
 VP Environment - Dwayne Iwasuik
 Life Member Rep—Debby Gorlick

Secretary - Pam Shillington
 Treasurer - Wanda Voss
 Ways & Means—vacant
 VP Salvage—Dan Blum

Our Club meetings are held every 2nd Thursday at 11:00 a.m.
Computers for School (and salvage) is operated from the Sutherland Warehouse in Saskatoon
210 103rd Street E. 306 931-5625 Email - npac@sasktel.net

1016 Members—9385 Volunteer Hours as of December 2016—13% Active (135 Volunteers)

- Donated \$4200 to ED Feehan. This donation was to help with travel expenses for students who want to take extra curricular activities but can't get to & from activities due to where they live. See Page 29
- Donated \$1000 (bronze sponsor) to St. Nicholas for playground equipment
- Held a fellowship dinner
- RAK day— handed out mittens
- Prepared meal for 100 at Ronald McDonald House
- Donated \$500 to Telemiracle
- Donated computer to St. Mary school
- Donated \$500 to the Angel Gown initiative
- Donated \$1000 to the Dundurn Outdoor Learning space
- Families to Forest – 300 kids from 12 schools & their family went through Enchanted Forest. Due to new bus line used (city buses were in contract negotiation), they did not allow kids under 3 which limits some families from attending. Some pictures posted on our website. Good feedback.
- Collected gifts and delivered wish angels - successful project again
- Financial donation to North Park Wilson school. They are painting a tile mural, an across Canada project in recognition of Canada's 150 birthday next year. So far, there are 50 murals across Canada, covering 40 football fields. Mural will be put up at school.
- Completed Dundurn project - Dwayne built & delivered 5 picnic tables for a get together area

Media mentions—Thank you note from Ronald McDonald house in Saskatoon for the meal that was prepared for them and mention in their newsletter for donating spark bikes, Pioneers name is now on a public sign outside the school; mention in Star Phoenix for video conferencing equipment we donated; many thank you cards for wish angels from Howard Coad kids; thank you letters from mother & son who attended Family to Forest event.



**WILL BE HOSTING THE STARS
 HOME LOTTERY AGAIN THIS
 UPCOMING MAY/JUNE—
 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.**

Dione Wall and Kacey Vooght
 making presentation at
 Telemiracle



Prince Albert . . .

Contact Club President: Michael Vancoughnett—953-6544
Email: Michael.vandoughnett@sasktel.com

President—Michael Vancoughnett
Treasurer - Janessa Herbert
Communication—Michelle Ostrowski
Membership—Maureen Pepper

Past President - vacant
Life Member Rep - Jamie Tilford
Computers for Schools—Les Nemish

Secretary - Mark Johnson
VP Social—Jordan Weatherbee
VP Fellowship—Shauna Uhlik

Club Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of each month in the PA Conference Room (Basement) at noon.
Fellowship held on the 3rd Thursday of every month in the basement Pioneer Room.

205 Members—1057 Volunteer Hours as of December 2016—15% active (31 Volunteers)

- **Coldest Night of the Year** Walk Athlon for the Homeless. This was held on Feb 25th 2017 as was right across Canada. Our Prince Albert SaskTel Pioneer club was represented by 10 Walkers—who walked 5 km and we fundraised \$ 2002. which goes directly to Prince Albert Community Meals.



Pink Day held on Feb 22nd. - sponsored this great event by subsidizing half of the cost for the SaskTel Pink Day bullying T-shirts for everyone who participated.

Christmas Angels. - Purchase over 40 Christmas gifts for the residents at The Herb Bassett home on December 12th 2016. which goes directly to Prince Albert Community Meals.



Prince Albert Comfort Packs. Project - Delivered 45 *Comfort Packs* to the PA Women's Shelter and the YWCA (our House), for a total of 90. Two amazing organizations that work directly with individuals who may be homeless or living unstable situations. Packs are filled with Hygiene products, a water bottle and blanket.



Baby Layettes -Prince Albert Pioneers volunteer to buy , make and deliver these to one of our Partners, Prince Albert Family Futures. Family Futures "provides ongoing and crisis support services to pregnant women and families with young children to enhance their health and well-being." The PA local Pioneer club has been providing baby layettes for Family Futures for over 17 years. Each layette consists of a hand knit or crochet newborn baby cap and booties, newborn diapers, bib, socks, washcloth, q-tips, baby wipes, and diaper cream wrapped in a hand sewn receiving blanket. In 2016 we donated about \$ 1,600.00 towards this great project resulting in well over 200 baby layettes.



Mitten Drive— Donated just over \$500.00 of Mitts and Toques to the Prince Albert Catholic School Division. Many elementary school kids in Prince Albert to school without Mitts. They will distribute them to the schools and students with the most Need. !



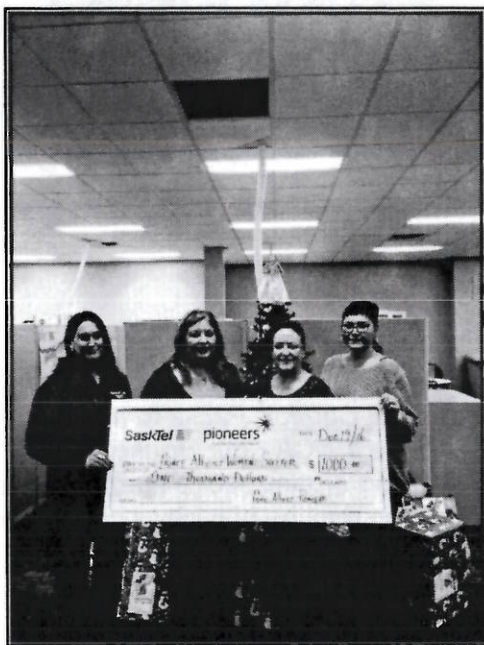
Prince Albert Outreach project – Donated over 50 Hygiene Kits (include a toothbrush, toothpaste, a bar of soap, comb, shampoo, conditioner and lotion).



Plant a Tree. – Partnered with over 500 Grade 5 students from over 10 schools to plant over 10,000 new seedlings to help care for our local forest. Diseases and a parasitic plant called Dwarf Mistletoe are killing off some of the trees in the local forest, so the trees the kids are planting more resilient trees, such as white spruce.

Prince Albert Shelter for Women Project.

– Donated \$1000 to support this program. The PA Womens shelter is an emergency shelter for women and children in crisis. The PA SaskTel Pioneers donate funds raised through employee payroll contributions as well as fundraising throughout the year.



Hug a Bear Project. – Donated hundreds of Teddy Bears to Victoria Hospital , La Ronge Ambulance and Tisdale Ambulance. The bears give children something safe to hold on to when everything seems so scary.

North Battleford . . .

Contact Club President: Dan Nesdoly 441-0118
Email: dan.nesdoly@sasktel.com

President—Dan Nesdoly
Secretary & Treasurer — Brent Degenstein
VP Salvage—Sharon Bogdan

Past President – Brent Degenstein
VP Social - Marion Cashmore
VP Computer Sales & Salvage—Lloyd Edmunds (445-3985)

VP Membership - Marilyn Eckel
LM Rep—Hugh Martin

nbpioneers@sasktel.net

134 Members—989 Volunteer Hours as of December 2016—25% active (33 volunteers)

Ladies meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month and the Men meet every Wednesday for coffee.

- Donated backpacks to schools
- Held breakfast with Santa
- Held Pioneer Christmas function
- Volunteered at curling rink - running concession



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Swift Current . . .

Contact Club President: 306-778-9877
Email: rhonda.wollbaum@sasktel.com

President - Vacant
Secretary - Rhonda Wollbaum
Treasurer—Tanya Bouvier-Mortensen

Past President - vacant
Life Member Rep—Dennis Riach
Salvage—Frank Dickie and Eliaja Lafontaine

Meetings held on the 2nd Tuesday of the Month (except for July and August)
Activity Center—1800 Sidney St. W—Phone: 773-6035

102 Members—1261 Volunteer Hours as of December 2016—31% Active (32 Volunteers)

- Fresh Start Soup Kitchen - helped prepare, serve & clean up their supper in April
- Guest speaker at last club meeting - Chairman of the Board of Directors Dorie House. A new home was completed this fall for homeless teens - 8 bedroom home – ages 12-18. They have to be in school or working. Seven can stay for 90 days at a time. They are looking for assistance so we will investigate what their needs are.
- Provided food to Toast club
- Donated \$250 to Telemiracle – approximately 40 people participated
- Donated 276 more books to playschools & Friendship center
- Volunteered at December blood donor clinic

Media mentions - thank you cards for First Books Canada from Evergreen Early Learning Centre in Cabri, Wymark Colony School & an email from Family Resource Centre

Cheque presentation to the SCCHS Toast Club. Left is Tanya Bouvier-Mortensen on behalf of the Pioneers and Scott Mayall, Principal of SCCHS.

**SecurTek . . .**

Contact Club President: vacant
Email: Brittany.nagy@securTex.sk.ca

President— vacant
VP - Finance—vacant
Participation—vacant
VP Membership—Shayla Hydamacka

Past President—Brittany Nagy
Advisor—Suzette Tochar-Yaremko
Community Service—Amber Chepil

Secretary - vacant
Publicity—vacant

71 members—995 Volunteer Hours as of December 31, 2016—35% active (25 volunteers)

>>>> NO REPORT SUBMITTED <<<<<

H.A.D. ALLEN Life Member Club . . . President Del Jones — 543-7360 **Email: dw.jones@sasktel.net**

President—Del Jones
 Secretary - Judi Livingstone
 VP Participation—Wayne Rutten
 Member at large—Alex Yakichuk
 VP Community Services/Volunteer Coordinator—Marilyn Lorence

Past President - Wayne Rutten
 VP Publicity/Communications—Jan Fehr
 TPAC Manager—Judi Livingstone
 Computers for Schools—Keith Grill

Treasurer - Lyle Fluter
 VP Social—Carol Sagin
 Salvage—Jolene Norleen

1122 Life Members—12593 Volunteer Hours as of December —15% (168 Volunteers)

- Held Monthly birthday party
- Annual Spring Dinner was held in April. Recipient of H.A.D. Allen Life Member Award was Meals on Wheels program .
- Participating in the community Volunteer Income Tax Program- about 100 returns a day. This includes people through the Regina Open Door Society
- Spring Dinner scheduled for Wednesday April 19, 2017. H.A.D. Allen award will be presented to Meals on Wheels Group.
- Held planning session, focus on health & seniors. Committee to spend \$4,700 on projects
- Investigating to do a 150-year anniversary project at the Regina Senior's Center
- Z99 radiothon
- Donated \$1000 to Telemiracle
- Donated \$1000 to food bank - Mosaic matched food bank donation
- Donated \$1535 for school backpacks
- Donated \$200 to Alzheimer's coffee break
- Donated \$500 to Mental Health
- Donated \$5000 to MS Christmas carol radio program
- Donated \$5000 to STARS at their volunteer appreciation night and donated money earned for working
- Donated \$300 to ALS annual walk
- Gift wrapping for McDermid school
- Gold sponsor for MS Christmas card radio program
- Held volunteer appreciation brunch Oct 26 for Pioneer week
- Held century club teas for SSM
- Held Christmas party on December 2nd.
- Held volunteer appreciation brunch
- Sewing projects: cancer turbans, finishing pedi dolls, comfort kit projects, heart pillows, walker bags, mitts, 12 quilts in progress for cancer clinic
- Meals on wheels program
- Held garage sale for Santa Maria Nursing home and Raised \$1653 . Money went towards Recreation.
- Volunteered at Union Christmas party
- Purchase Table of 8 for SSM Celebrating seniors banquet 8 and made presentations

WANTED - Volunteers to man Stars lottery show home and sell tickets

Media mentions—Star Phoenix & Leader Post for SSM Seniors banquet, it is also on Access TV. At the awards presentation, a slide show was playing & the SaskTel Pioneer logo was on screen every 8 min or so, also presented award at the banquet
 Shirley - 40 thank you cards from Coronation Park School; HAD Allen LM Club received Certificate of Appreciation from North Central Family Center. Computers for School & Salvage donated supplies for new GED program. Mention in Saskatchewan Grey Matters magazine for SSM sponsorship



Regina Computers for Schools and Salvage lease is expiring 2017 and will be moved to the TPAC.



2106 1st Avenue,
 Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3Y2
 TPAC Manager—Judi Livingstone
 Phone: 777-8450 for bookings (cell 306 526-2695)
 Email: tpac.pioneers@sasktel.net
 TPAC Hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday—8 am to Noon. (Sept—May)



Contact Judi at 777-8450 if you know of anyone that is sick, in the hospital or lost a loved one.

Melfort Club . . .

Contact Club President: Ted Magis- 752-3024
Email: tamagis@sasktel.net

President - Ted Magis
Past President—Doreen Parenteau
Life Member Rep - Lynne Floyd

VP Education - Kathy Fidyk
VP Membership- Claude Bourgeois
Members at Large—Karen Skwark , Russ Floyd and Kelly Bonk

Treasurer—Maureen Wood
Secretary—Diane Bonk

66 members—1638 Volunteer Hours as of December 2016—35% Active (23 volunteers)

- Sold 50/50 tickets and programs at Mustang Hockey games throughout the season – lots of media mentions
- Participating in Income Tax Project - good response & cooperation with Salvation Army using space
- Handed out Salvation Army Christmas hampers
- Donated \$200 to Telemiracle
- Held Hug a Bear workshop – followed by fellowship
- Delivering Meals on Wheels for a week in August & November
- Wish walk
- Planted flowers and cleaned up around the water tower

**Weyburn Club . . .**

Contact Club President: Belinda Kradovill 848-3392
Email: belinda.kradovill@sasktel.com

President—Belinda Kradovill
Projects—Willie Kradovill

Secretary - Vacant
Member at Large—Paul Wilson and Dale Huff

Treasurer - vacant

119 Members—9 Volunteer Hours as of December 2016—8% Active (9 volunteers)

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

**Moose Jaw Club . .**

Contact Club President: Kristian Sjoberg 690-9391
Email: kristian.sjoberg@sasktel.com

President - Kristian Sjoberg
VP Education— Iden Tolley
VP Community - Michelle Wiley

Past President - Karena Warren
Secretary - Daneil Stenko
VP Fellowship & Social —Hoy Chey-Hill
Email: mjpioneer.news@sasktel.net

Treasurer —Scott Schuler
Environment—vacant
VP—Ryan Dionne

139 Members—141 Volunteer Hours as of December 2016—12 Active (16 volunteers)

- Working on community garden project future

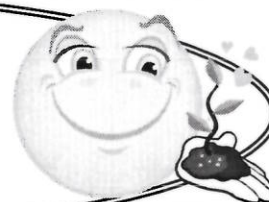


- **Farewell and thank you for years of service for Ominica Street employees upon closure**



Moose Jaw will be hosting the Saskatchewan Special Olympics—Summer Games. June 16 to 18. They are looking for volunteers or groups of volunteers to help with their event. It might be serving food or judging events. Please identify yourself as a SaskTel Pioneer, that would be great. To sign up to volunteer: <http://www.specialolympics.ca/saskatchewan/news-events/provincial-games>.

Volunteer Hours can be submitted online at
[Http://www.sasktel pioneers.com/form_hours_project.htm](http://www.sasktel pioneers.com/form_hours_project.htm)
or Email: sasktel pioneers@sasktel.com





TelCare “Bears” Up

*One Recipient of TelCare Help Adds
Cheer to Children's Hospital Stays*

**Teddy Bears Anonymous, one of 69 recipients of TelCare support in 2016,
provides 2,000 teddy bears**

In Saskatchewan, we have a long history of helping each other out, of watching each other's back. At one time, we were so few in numbers and so widely dispersed that we really felt how vulnerable we were in this huge frontier. And, we knew intuitively that to survive we had to look out for each other.

Today, more of us in Saskatchewan live in densely-populated urban settings where we don't feel as isolated in our day-to-day living. However, anyone who has had a hospital stay knows what an isolating and often unnerving experience that can be. And for a small child it's even more difficult.

Luke and Jan Lawrence, both SaskTel retirees, empathize with the fear and loneliness that little children experience while in hospitals. That's why they started Teddy Bears Anonymous after the passing of Luke's daughter, Erin Lawrence. Since its beginning in December 2008, this registered charity has provided more than 95,000 teddy bears for sick children to nine hospitals throughout Saskatchewan.

“Our charity is 100 percent operated by volunteers,” said Jan. And 100 percent of the donations we receive goes toward the purchase of teddy bears that we get directly from the manufacturer.”

“The teddy bears come in three different colours,” says Luke. “Each teddy bear comes sealed and sterilized. And because each bear is sterile, the children who receive the teddy bears can keep the bears with them throughout their stay in hospital – even into surgery. That kind of comfort and companionship means a lot to a small child.”

Teddy Bears Anonymous was one of 69 organizations across Saskatchewan that received over \$290,000 of support in 2016 from SaskTel TelCare – a benevolent fund originally started in 1950 by SaskTel employees to give a helping hand to people in our communities. Over 1,100 SaskTel employees contribute regularly to SaskTel TelCare through payroll deduction. And, SaskTel makes an additional donation of 50 cents for every employee dollar donated.

“Teddy Bears Anonymous received \$5,000 from TelCare last year,” said Luke. “Because of that we were able to buy an additional 1,250 teddy bears in 2016. We're certainly grateful for this help by SaskTel employees and the company, too.”

It's clear that the Saskatchewan tradition of looking out for each other is still alive and strong.

SaskTel employees may want to consider TelCare as a simple, convenient way to make charitable contributions. It offers a convenient payroll deduction plan with contributions automatically deducted from every second pay cheque. See the SaskTel TelCare link for more information!



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Get Smart!

SaskTel smarHOME Gives Customers Peace of Mind

Randy Palazzo demonstrates SaskTel smarHOME at the Cornwall Centre Store in Regina.



Have you ever left your home for an evening or a trip only to wonder whether the front door was locked or the curling iron was left on?

Thankfully, SaskTel is now offering peace of mind that will help our customers leave those types of worries behind! "SaskTel has found a great opportunity to capitalize on our broadband network, customer relationships, employee skillsets, and SecurTek to deliver a competitive home automation service called SaskTel smarHOME," said Randy Palazzo, Marketing Manager – Strategy. "This will further integrate SaskTel into our customers' homes."

SaskTel smarHOME provides customers with an easy to use automated home security service that monitors their home against break and entry as well as smoke detection. From there, additional environmental features are available to monitor carbon monoxide and water leakage detection.

"Where things get really exciting and innovative is with the addition of home automation services," said Randy. "SaskTel smarHOME provides a leading edge mobile application that can enable users to interact with their home from anywhere in the world where they have access to a data connection."

SaskTel smarHOME provides a lot of great options that can enable the remote opening of locks, changing your thermostat, opening/closing your garage door, turning on/off lights and power and much more. Add to that video options that enable you to see who's at your door with a doorbell video camera or who's in your home with motion sensor cameras and your house is fully covered.

The smarHOME service is currently being offered in Regina only so that all internal processes are in place to ensure the best customer experience. However, plans are underway to explore delivering the service across the province. Randy can see the day when SaskTel smarHOME is prevalent in our province.

"SaskTel smarHOME, like any other technology, will have an adoption curve that I believe will eventually see its way into every home," he said. "The potential use cases are endless, although not always obvious."

Senior care is an example Randy points out as a potential use for the service. Using motion sensors with cameras to check in on elderly parents is one way that smarHOME solutions can be used to look after the ones you love.

"This is an exciting new service with lots of possibilities," said Randy. "Additionally, customers subscribing to the service can not only get a \$5/month discount by bundling it with other services, they can also save up to 25% on their home insurance!"





The Perfect Gift

SaskTel's Wish Angels Project Brings Smiles to Children's Faces

Sandy Elliott has been a big part of the Wish Angels project since 2007.

It's beginning to look a lot like the time of year when many of us begin to make a list and check it twice.

We really do spend a great deal of time thinking about the perfect gifts that will surprise and delight our family and friends. But for many children out there, those gifts are something they only hear about in Christmas carols. Fortunately, SaskTel's Wish Angels are making wishes come true.

The Wish Angel project is part of a partnership that the SaskTel Pioneers (Prairie Council Club & HAD Allen Life Member Club) have with Sacred Heart Community School and Kitchener Community School in Regina. Through the project, a Christmas gift is provided for Grades Pre-K to Grade 3 at the schools, including any special needs students.

"For many of these children this is the only Christmas gift that they will receive," said Sandy Elliott, an Administrative Assist in Finance who is the project coordinator. "We cover all students on the list and if there are new students that come before Santa delivers the gifts the Pioneers cover the cost. No student in the goes without a gift."

Every September, Sandy receives a list from the schools with the names of all the children and their wish list of 3 items they would like to receive from Santa. Paper angels are then written up which include the name of the student, the teacher and the grade along with their wish list. The angels are then distributed to coordinators at several Regina SaskTel locations for employees to choose from and purchase one or more of the items for the child.

Employees are encouraged to purchase as many of these angels as they wish. Once all the gifts are purchased, wrapped (the project asks employee to wrap each gift they purchase) and returned, they are then separated into the two schools, boxed and shipped to the schools for Santa's arrival the last week before Christmas.

Sandy, who has been involved in the Wish Angels project since 2007, is always overwhelmed by the participation of her colleagues.

"Participation is always phenomenal," she said. "SaskTel employees have very big hearts and are very giving. People often go the extra mile by purchasing everything on a child's Wish List even though we ask they keep within a budget of \$25-\$30 (currently) for each child."

Employees in Regina can become involved by simply purchasing as many angels as they like. If people wish to participate but do not like to do the shopping, they can either choose an angel, bring it to Sandy with money or just donate some money and she will choose the angel and do the shopping.

Employees can also take part by contacting Sandy to see where help may be required.

"I can always use help write up the angels, shop for extra gifts, sort and pack the gifts," she said. "For me, there's nothing better than the simple gift of giving to those who are less fortunate, especially children. This project makes me feel very warm inside and it emphasizes what I feel is the true meaning of Christmas, which is the spirit of giving."



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RAK is Back!

Random Act of Kindness Day
Returned to Saskatoon

Random acts of kindness were taking place all over Saskatoon on 04 Nov



The sunny streets of Saskatoon were brimming with thoughtful deeds and smiling faces on a recent Friday afternoon.

The positive vibes came in part from the Bridge City SaskTel Pioneers, who once again participated in the Saskatoon Community Foundation promoted 'Random Act of Kindness' (RAK) day on 04 Nov 2016.

"The Pioneers are always happy to participate in projects that bring happiness and comfort into people's lives," said Giselle Howard of the Bridge City Pioneers. "It's days like these that can inspire people to performing acts of kindness more regularly."

RAK Day, which takes place annually on the first Friday in November, is a city wide celebration of kindness promoting a 'pay it forward' movement in the community. It does not involve fundraising or solicitation of any kind. Rather, it's simply meant to be a fun and simple way to encourage unexpected moments of kindness in our community.

"It's no secret how cold Saskatchewan winters can get," said Giselle.

"The role of our crew this year was simply to approach random people in downtown Saskatoon and present them with some warm mitts and gloves."

Pioneer Manager Darrell Liebrecht said days like RAK day fit the volunteer group like – well – a glove!

"It really is a natural fit for us, as we aim to make a contribution to a variety of community needs across the province and make a difference in people's lives," he said.

While RAK Day is over for another year, Giselle urges all of us to try to do something thoughtful for people as often as we can.

"The smiles on the faces of the people that day said it all," she said.

"Nothing feels better than showing your kindness and doing nice for someone!"

something

**No act of kindness,
no matter how small,
is ever wasted.**

- Aesop



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Packing a Lesson

Comfort Pack Challenge Helps in More Ways Than One

Volunteers from Punnichy Community High School help to pack items for the Comfort Pack Challenge.

SaskTel is a company that strives to deliver the best communications solutions to customers. But our commitment to Saskatchewan doesn't end there. As a responsible corporate citizen, SaskTel is constantly seeking opportunities to give back to the communities we serve.

This year's Comfort Pack Challenge is just the latest example of this.

The challenge included a star-studded cast of employees, VPs and our President and CEO Ron Styles who were split up into four teams. The challenge was to collect items (such as blankets, scarves, towels, shampoos, band-aids and tooth paste, etc) and build backpacks to donate to Saskatchewan organizations that work directly with individuals who may be homeless or living unstable situations. Cash donations were also accepted with \$1 equaling one item.

SaskTel employees responded in a big way, with thousands of items donated for the cause. And in the spirit of giving, came an opportunity to do even more.

Around the time SaskTel employees were putting the items and the comfort packs together, Pioneer Manager Darrell Liebrecht received a call from Patrick Nikulak, who is the Career and Work Teacher at Punnichy Community High School.

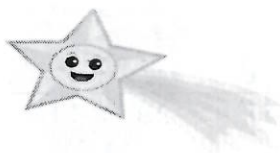
Students in Patrick's class are required to do a certain amount of volunteer work as part of their program, and helping out with the packing of the back backs for the comfort challenge was just the ticket.

"We came across the SaskTel Pioneers as a volunteer organization for which we could make a contribution," said Patrick. "Darrell required some help to complete this project, so we drove in and were happy to help out!"

Patrick brought seven Grade 10 students to SaskTel's Head Office on the morning of 02 Nov 2016. For a few hours, they added to the efforts of the many SaskTel employees who had spent several days sorting and packing the items.

"We were happy to help them fulfill their requirements for school, and appreciated their help at the same time," said Darrell. "It's great to see a project like this give back in several ways. Not only did employees do a tremendous job in donating thousands of items, but the program also gave these students a valuable lesson in volunteering."

And for those at SaskTel who are awaiting the results of the Comfort Pack Challenge, The winning Team was Team 2—Inbound Sales—raising \$3,000 and through their director's connection to a hotel—they got \$3,000 of items at hotel cost (double the amount for the price).



Congratulations!



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Seeing The Big Picture

Pioneer donation of video conferencing equipment will be used to help streamline the training process for Foster parents.



When SaskTel's Kevin Harris heard that SaskTel was upgrading its video conferencing platform and donating the old equipment to the SaskTel Pioneers, he saw a big opportunity for helping foster kids.

Kevin sought out Darrell Liebrecht and the SaskTel Pioneers to let them know he had a good use for the old video conferencing platform. His plan? Donate the equipment to the Saskatchewan Foster Families Association (SFFA) so that they could help revamp Saskatchewan's foster parent training program.

Kevin is a foster parent and also happens to be the Chair of the SFFA's Board of Directors. So, he knows first hand that it can be difficult to recruit and train foster parents. But, he thought that with the assistance of some new technology, the training process could be streamlined, bringing new foster parents into the system much faster.

The SFFA had been looking at purchasing a new video conferencing platform to do just that. But, with new systems costing up to \$30,000 the money would have needed to come directly from the SFFA's other programs.

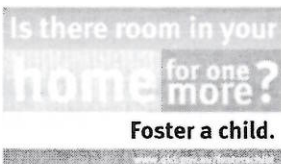
Fortunately, Darrell loved the idea. "It really was a no brainer," Darrell said. "Normally we would salvage this type of equipment or put it up for resale, but if we can donate it to a good cause that will put it to work that's a perfect fit for us."

Speeding things up and being more efficient are key goals for the SFFA as it all boils down to "getting children in homes quicker," said Kevin. When there are more foster spaces available, children spend less time waiting to transition into a foster home. "The quicker we can get people trained, the less disruption there is for the kids," said Kevin.

Each foster parent requires 30 hours of training before they can be considered ready to take in a child. In the past, this training was all done face-to-face. However, travelling to and from training sessions is just one extra hurdle for those volunteering to be foster parents. Because of the face-to-face requirement, the average foster parent would take a year to complete the training.

In order to make things easier, the SFFA has developed a hybrid training system that sees potential foster parents take their training through a mix of webinars, teleconferencing and in-person sessions. Conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Social Services, foster care training now involves much less travel. Potential foster parents can visit their local branch office of the Ministry of Social Services and conduct much of their training in video conference with the SFFA's head office in Saskatoon.

Overall, this new training system has cut the time it takes to complete the necessary training down to an average of six months.



The SaskTel Pioneers' donation gave the SFFA a new tool that allows them to help recruit and train foster parents in a new way. "The training program is something we think we can take right across Canada," said Kevin. "It's that much of a game changer."

The program is already making waves. Provincial governments outside Saskatchewan have shown a strong interest in the SFFA program and are looking at how they may be able to benefit from implementing something similar.



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Once Upon A Chimney

Children and Elves experience the gifts of "wonder," "awe,"

Remember what it felt like to be a kid at Christmas? Remember impatiently waiting through the night for Christmas morning to arrive? Though you're no longer a kid, you likely remember the excitement in anticipation of Santa's silent visit during the night leaving presents for the early dawn risers in his wake. It was a magical time.

For one group of SaskTel volunteers, that sense of magic and play are still fresh. On Tuesday, 06 Dec 2016, SaskTel in conjunction with the SaskTel Pioneers hosted the 28th annual Santa's Face-to-Face Event for Children with Disabilities at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Regina. This year, 20 children from schools in Regina were invited to visit with Santa Claus in person.

The event provides children who have special needs with a safe, non-threatening environment where they can enjoy a personal visit with Santa Claus and the undivided attention of a dedicated elf. "We focus entirely on the children's well-being and enjoyment by providing a secure, accessible environment with individual attention for every child," says Hope McCheyne, the Chief Elf.

As the children arrived in the hotel lobby, the elves greeted them and led them to the "fun" room where they gave them their gift bags. Puzzles, colouring books, and squishy rainbow caterpillars peppered the floor surface in no time flat.

A while later, the elves took the children up for a short visit with Mrs. Claus (retiree Phyllis Pearson) before seeing Santa himself. Santa (Jim Goldie, another retiree) met all the children individually. Santa checked his "Naughty/Nice" book – and, of course, all the children's names were in the "nice" column. After a sing-a-long to "Jingle Bells," Santa said goodbye and gave each of the children a Hug-A-Bear.



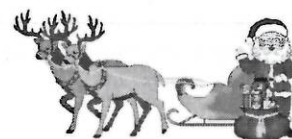
The rest of the morning was filled with music and singing (thanks to our talented elf, Burt Laird) and other activities. The Street CultureKidz showed up to paint some young enthusiastic faces – various animals and action heroes were a common sight in the fun room along with helium balloons and several Lego city building projects that were deconstructed even faster than they were put together.

Children, magic, the spirit of giving and the chance to be a bit of a kid again is what motivates our volunteers to make this special event possible. And, of course, many thanks to the hotel and its staff for showing their generous spirit by providing the event rooms and morning snacks for the children. A morning of fun, magic and giving is the best gift ever.



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Truly Stunning!

SaskTel Employees Come Through for People in Need

SaskTel President & CEO Ron Styles and VP - Corporate & Government Relations Darcee MacFarlane help to deliver backpacks full of essential items to Carmichael Outreach in Regina



Jennifer McLeod was one of the people who dreamed up SaskTel's recent Comfort Pack challenge. But even she couldn't have imagined the response the project received from SaskTel employees.

"We were blown away by the response!" said Jennifer, who is a HR Manager - Organizational. "We truly had no idea what to expect but I would safely say that it went beyond anyone's expectations!" While things are getting back to normal now, if you've been anywhere near the 2nd floor of SaskTel Head Office lately, you'll understand the reason for Jennifer's excitement.



That was where all the action took place, as employees assembled 1070 backpacks full of invaluable personal items. As part of the challenge, 80 boxes of blankets and sleeping bags were also filled, along with 22 boxes of additional personal items. Over \$13,000 in monetary donations were also raised towards the cause.

On 29 Nov 2016 (which is known as "Giving Tuesday"), the process began to deliver the items to Saskatchewan organizations that deal directly with those who are homeless or living in unstable situations. Donated to 22 organizations across 10 major centers.

One of those organizations was the **Carmichael Outreach in Regina.**

"We are a small and busy organization," said Carmichael Outreach Executive Director Cora Gajari. "It's easy to forget that there are others in the community who are also concerned about the people we work so hard to help." "So when so much effort goes into a delivery like the one we got today, it warms the heart and reminds you that there are people in the community that really do care."

Cora said the collected items will go to people who really need them and struggle to meet their basic needs every day. This is an organization driven to end homelessness in Regina.

"Even the backpacks alone will be helpful, since people literally don't have anywhere to put their stuff," she said.

The Comfort Pack challenge was the latest of many efforts in which our employees give back to the communities in which we work. They were collected and put together by SaskTel employees and SaskTel Pioneer volunteers.



"As the holiday season approaches, this is a shining example of Sask-Tel culture at its best," said Jennifer. "When we initially discussed this project with (Pioneer Manager) Darrell Liebrecht, we really wanted something that allowed for every single employee to participate. In typical SaskTel style, the results were truly stunning!"

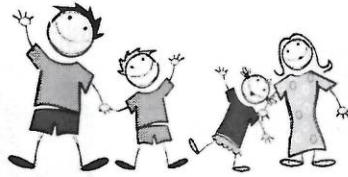
"A big thank you to all who contributed and helped out!"



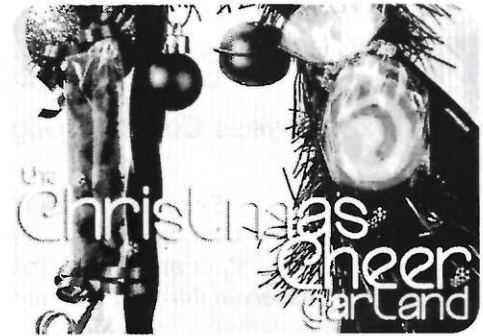
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CHRISTMAS CHEER

One small meal makes such a difference



Merry
Christmas



DirectWest PIONEERS INCENTIVE FOR 2016 Give to the community

With the crisp snow crunching under our boots, and the bright sun shining down on us, Amanda and I walked up to the front doors of Coronation Park School and were instantly greeted by the laughter of children.

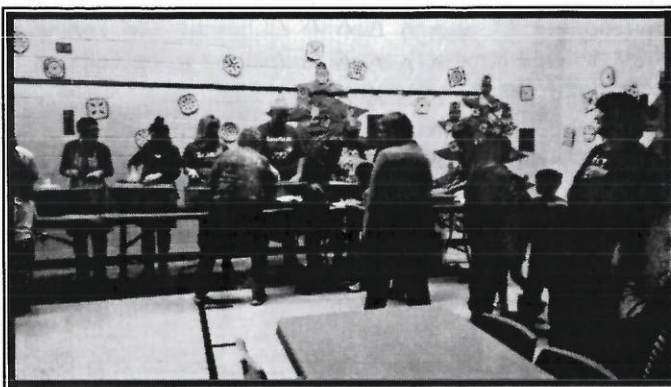
We walked into the gymnasium and the wonderful aroma of an amazing turkey dinner flooded our senses. The excited chatter of the volunteers filled the room as they prepared for the first group of children to arrive. We were cautioned that not all the children would know what a turkey dinner was and may not have seen some of the foods presented. It took me a few moments for that to really sink in. How could someone not know what a Christmas Dinner was or how cranberry sauce tastes or the warmth of mashed potatoes and gravy in your mouth? We found out that for some of the children, it was their cultural background was the reason they had never heard of or tasted a Christmas Turkey Dinner. But then Amanda and I heard a story about one of the children who brought their own lunch kit to the gym.

He sat down with his classmates and politely refused the Christmas Dinner and said he had a lunch to eat. Once he opened his lunch kit, the teachers heart fell. Do you know what he had in his lunch kit? 6 mini chocolate bars left over from Halloween and some popcorn. That broke my heart. I couldn't even imagine sending my sons to school with that quality of "meal" or allowing them to make their own lunch without checking it. However, after some gentle nudging, his teacher convinced him to try out a plate of Christmas Dinner and I'm sure we saw him come back 2 or 3 times.

When we left the school, I was reflecting on how good it felt to give someone
the one gift that they could never take from me: my time.

If you want to know why Amanda, myself, and others volunteer with our DirectWest Pioneers, then you only have to look at the pile of Thank You cards and notes of gratitude we brought back from the children of Coronation Park School. The children repeatedly thanked DirectWest for our generous donation that paid for the meal and for the time given to someone who truly deserves it. We don't volunteer for praise and recognition, but simply for the knowledge that we've tried to leave the world a bit better than we found it.

If you want to know more about becoming active with the DirectWest Pioneers, just ask Amanda, myself, or any of the other Board Members. The more, the merrier.

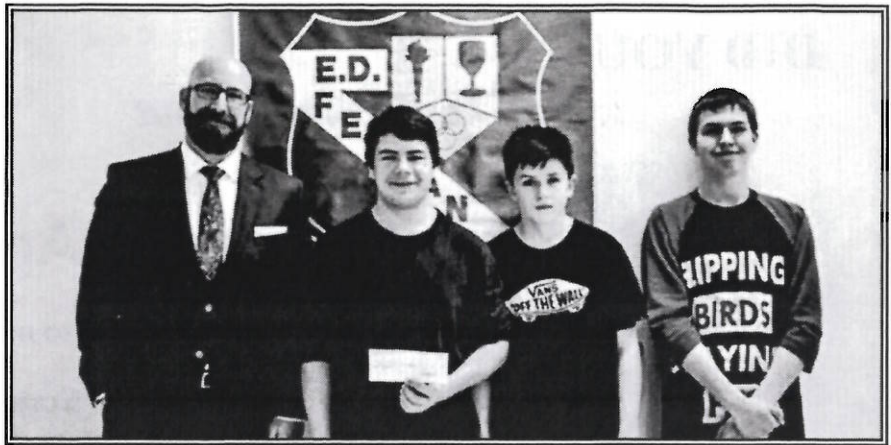


This article is written by Joel Sopp

Being Included

Pioneers Help Ensure No Students Are Left Out

Mark Grambo of SaskTel Pioneers presents cheque to E.D. Feehan Catholic High School students (left to right) Tyrese S., Jordan M., and Kenzie J.



We often hear phrases like “building community” and “community spirit.” What do they really mean? For many, they evoke the idea that we, as individuals, are included in situations, events, or activities with other people. But, what happens when someone encounters barriers to being included in community? To people in these situations, community can be more of a nice sounding catchword than a real experience.

One person who really takes that message to heart is Brandon Stroh, the principal of E.D. Feehan Catholic High School in Saskatoon. “Our school is a very diverse community with more than a third of our students identifying as First Nations and over a quarter whose first language is not English,” says Brandon.



“We’re lucky to have this kind of diversity in our school.”

And, while the school prides itself on its eclectic cultural mix, along with this diversity comes some adversity. “Unfortunately, many of our families struggle with poverty and the social and health issues associated with poverty,” says Brandon.

Sadly, this presents barriers to full involvement in activities for some students. Non-curricular student activities like athletics, the powwow dancing club, and student leadership activities are funded through student fees. And, so are many things associated with these activities such as transportation to events, uniforms, and equipment.

“Many of our students are from families who are unable to pay those fees,” says Brandon. “This makes it harder for those students to be able to participate in extracurricular activities.” And, that can adversely affect students’ engagement in school.

The good news is that, starting three years ago, SaskTel Pioneers Bridge City Club has been providing financial support to E.D. Feehan School for student transportation to and from extracurricular activities.

“The Pioneers have made it possible for our students to have access to safe transportation to and from extracurricular activities,” says Brandon.

The students agree! “You can join anything when you don’t have to worry how you are going to get there and home,” says Jordan M. “Sometimes our games are all the way across the city,” says Kenshien N. “I could never get there on time with the bus.”

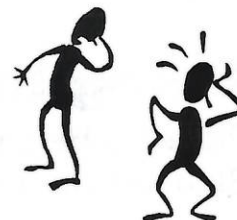
Mark Grambo, a SaskTel Sales Manager and vice president of SaskTel Pioneers’ Bridge City Club, knows the difference that this kind of support can make in the community. “The Pioneers strongly feel that helping to remove barriers to participation for students at E.D. Feehan fits right in with our goals,” says Mark.

Having a partner like the SaskTel Pioneers makes a big difference for us,” says Brandon. “Because of their help, more students are engaged in extracurricular activities. The kids feel like they’re a part of the school community. As a result, they’re more engaged in the classroom and their marks improve. SaskTel Pioneers is an organization that’s invested in our community. Our kids deserve better opportunities and the Pioneers is helping to make that happen.” E.D. Feehan is one place where community spirit is more than just a catchword.

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DID YOU . . .

..... *ever think about*

Great Ideas for Around Home



Flip a toaster on its side to make grill cheese. (GENIUS!)

Water straight from the tap becomes cloudy when frozen. To make ice cubes crystal clear, allow a kettle of boiled water to cool slightly and use this to fill your ice cube trays.



Create a thrifty watering can by punching holes in the top of a used milk bottle.

To prevent potatoes budding, add an apple in the bag.

To tell if eggs are fresh, immerse them in a bowl of water. Fresh eggs will lie on the bottom, while stale eggs will float to the surface.



Add half a teaspoon of baking soda to the water when hard-boiling eggs to make the shells incredibly easy to peel



WD40 can be used to remove crayon marks from any surface!

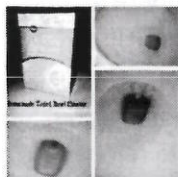
To clean a wooden chopping board, sprinkle on a handful of Kosher salt and rub with half a lemon. Rinse with clean water and dry to ensure it is clean and germ-free.



Use ice-cubes to lift out indentations made by furniture on your carpets

To prevent your eyes watering while chopping onions, wipe the chopping board with white vinegar (which won't affect the taste of the onions).

Store bed sheets inside their pillowcases for easy storage and access.



Drop a couple of denture cleaning tablets into the toilet bowl at night to clean off stubborn stains.

Use chalk to remove grease stains from clothes. Simply rub white chalk on the affected area and wash as normal; the chalk will absorb the grease and be washed away in the cycle.

Use cupcake cases to cover drinks glasses in the summer and prevent flies from dropping in.

