

LUSELAND CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

The Town of Luseland was alive with excitement from July 1st to 4th, as friends and relatives of past and present residents, along with many other visitors, all came together to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Luseland.

Thursday, July 1st was the 22nd annual celebration of Canada's birthday with the raising of the flag, singing of "Oh Canada", and the release of many colorful balloons to start the day. The KofC and CWL operated a Pancake Breakfast. The Pioneer Club served birthday cake and coffee. The three day mixed slo-pitch tournament began at the fairgrounds, with various minor ball games as well. The kids were kept busy with the merry-go-round, kiddie train, sand pile, face painting, balloon animals, and the Library board craft of cake decorating. The concession booth (operated by the committee) and beer gardens (operated by the Wildlife, along with many other volunteers) were open throughout the day. There was supper and a performance by Jerry Huck at the hall. The Luseland Guides celebrated 100 years of Guiding and invited everyone to come and sing along at their campfire. It was a beautiful evening and the day ended with a fantastic display of fireworks. The breathtaking spectacle lasted 24 minutes with many in attendance declaring them the best they had ever seen. This event would not have been possible without the donations of many businesses, corporations, individuals, and Canadian Heritage.

On Friday, the fairground events continued, and even the rain did not dampen anyone's spirit. The day began with a Continental breakfast organized by the Community Development Committee. Vern Reese, antique appraisal expert, was at the Theatre during the day and many were entertained by the many stories and descriptions that he had to offer. The committee organized an Afternoon Tea at the Luseland Salvador Hall with the Luseland Ensemble providing a performance of songs throughout the century. Individuals were invited to display their personal memorabilia collected from the past 100 years. The children were entertained with an Afternoon Adventure: Walk back to 1910 with Sam Luse. There were many crafts, stories, games, etc. to help recall what life would have been like 100 years ago. The Theatre operated a movie for the teens. The Royal Bank celebrated their 100 year anniversary with an Open House. A Chautauqua, featuring many talented local residents, opened the sold out performance of Brad Johner. The entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Saturday was a beautiful day with plenty of sunshine. The CWL served a Continental Breakfast before the parade commenced at 11:00. Every block of Grand Avenue was jam-packed with people who enjoyed the parade of over 100 entries, which included many floats, dignitaries, vehicles, horses, and our very own Luseland School marching band. A portion of street by the Museum was blocked off to display the many entries of the Show and Shine. The children were entertained by a magic show, sponsored by the Arts Council, and a 'bouncy tent' which was sponsored by the Royal Bank. The Luseland Bible Camp held 'hospital bed' races, a dunk tank, and 'slip n slides' at the fairgrounds. The Museum had been open through the weekend but offered homemade ice cream to everyone on Saturday. A town-wide Open House saw many people visiting the Lutheran, United, Alliance, and Catholic Churches, as well as the Luseland School, Viterra Elevator, and Prairie West Terminal. Symmetree Orchard offered tours and many local artists displayed their talents in various studios and store windows throughout town. The Lutheran Church congregation celebrated their 100th anniversary with a supper at the hall. The huge tent at the fairgrounds, sponsored by the Luseland Credit Union, helped to provide shelter for the 700 plus people who attended the dance and enjoyed the music of "Longshot". The Credit Union provided lunch as well.

The Fellowship Service on Sunday at the hall was a wonderful way to end the weekend with a chance to join in song, reminisce, share a meal, and say farewell until we meet again to our family and friends who shared our centennial celebrations.

There were a number of projects created to commemorate Luseland's Centennial through grant monies received from Canadian Heritage. Thanks to the many volunteers, the local talent, and the grant money from Canadian Heritage which made them possible. The banners on the light standards throughout town, the gazebo in the Legion Park, and the beautiful mural created by Jared Fischer on the side of the arena, will remain to remind us of our wonderful community and its continuing vitality.

An amazing amount of willing volunteers were needed to make these celebrations the success it was. A huge thank you goes out to them for their unselfish willingness to play such an important part of our great community. A special acknowledgement must go to those individuals on the relatively-small committee, who worked tirelessly for the 16 months to put everything together. Thanks to Marj Thrun, Donna Fowler, Brian Honeker, Jason Thrun, Vanessa Thrun, Shannon Cuthbert, Arden Body, Dwayne Kembel, Shirley Chenier, Jean Halliday, Bob Prieston, and Deven Reiber. You deserve the appreciation of our community and a much needed break.

Our community showed tremendous spirit by supporting the sold out Dodge truck raffle. Various groups in town received 10% of the profits realized, with the remainder going to support the arena. Thanks to Jim Pattison group, Associated Grocers, and Kerr's Grand Grocery for making it all possible. The winner of the truck was Ken Boerrichter of Reward.

Congratulations to the winners of the Saskatchewan Roughrider raffle. The winner of the Rider 100 print was Doug Walz, the game tickets were won by Mike Bartsch, and the 100 Years of Rider book winner was Gerri Walz.

The mixed slo pitch "A" event was won by Chad Walz team of The Beer Hounds who defeated Dean Heintz and The Rack. The B event was won by Darrel Kraft's team "Krafty & Co." who defeated Conrad Gartner's team of Schnix Mix in the final. The "C" event was captured by Landon Zimmer's team who defeated Kim Gottfried's Side Slammer team in the final.

The Luseland July 1st committee has been allocating an amount of money over the last few years in anticipation of the Centennial celebrations. This was used to ensure that no group or individual was required to incur any expenses. The entire celebration was funded through July 1st funds, grant monies, donations from individuals and businesses, and any profits realized from activities held during the weekend. After all expenses have been accounted for, the Committee has been able to provide some funding to the following groups to help with their continued success in our community. Some monies have also been allocated to a number of committee projects, such as upgrading at the fairgrounds and landscaping around the gazebo.

Luseland Despatch

Luseland School Playground

Luseland Arts Council

Luseland School Band

Luseland Fire Department

Luseland Museum

Luseland Farmer's Market

Luseland Playschool

Luseland Theatre Group